



THE
BLOOD
of JESUS
CHRIST

JACK MICHAEL

The Blood of Jesus Christ

By

Jack Michael

Scripture quotations in this book, unless otherwise indicated, are taken from: "The New King James Version. Copyright © 1979, 1980, 1982, Thomas Nelson Inc., Publishers."

Scripture quotations marked (NIV) are taken from the Holy Bible, New International Version, copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, International Bible Society. Used by permission of Zondervan Bible Publishers.

Scripture quotations marked (KJV) are taken from the King James Version of the Bible.

The Blood of Jesus Christ

Copyright © 2018 by Jack Michael

Printed in the United States of America. All rights reserved under International Copyright Law. Contents and/or cover may not be reproduced in whole or in part in any form without the express written consent of the publisher.

Table of Contents

- Chapter One - Through the Blood.....Page 5
- Chapter Two - The Life is in the Blood.....Page 11
- Chapter Three- Distinguishing between Atonement
& Redemption.....Page 17
- Chapter Four - The Blood that Purified Heaven
.....Page 23
- Chapter Five - Better Sacrifices.....Page 29
- Chapter Six - The Blood that keeps on Cleansing
.....Page 35
- Chapter Seven - Made Holy by the Blood of Jesus
.....Page 41
- Chapter Eight - The Power of Forgiveness
.....Page 47
- Chapter Nine - Saved from Wrath.....Page 55

Special Instructions, and Information

This book is protected by International Copyright Law. However, I hereby give permission for the following uses of the material contained in this book...

- 1) Bible Teachers may copy the chapters in this book in order to distribute them to students, or pupils whom they are teaching.
- 2) Likewise, such teachers may translate the chapters into other languages for the same purpose.
- 3) The chapters may not be copied, translated, or reproduced in any form for the purpose of resale.

Throughout this book, there are words or phrases enclosed in parentheses within quoted portions of Scripture. Although these words and phrases are not an actual part of the Scriptures, they are in fact, explanations or emphases derived from scriptural word studies.

Special thanks to Francisco Afanador for the cover design. The idea of the design is parchment upon wood, and symbolically represents the parchment Pilate placed on the cross above the head of Jesus when he was crucified (see Matthew 27:37 and John 19:19).

Chapter One

Through the Blood

*“In Him (in the Lord Jesus Christ) we have redemption **THROUGH HIS BLOOD**, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace.” (Ephesians 1:7).*

“And according to the law (the Old Testament Law) almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood (also in New Testament Redemption) there is no remission” (or, no forgiveness of sins). (Hebrews 9:22).

Throughout my life, I have come across many people who call themselves by the name of Christ. Yet, strangely, there are also many differing views as to exactly what is required to become a genuine, born again Christian.

Some people place a great emphasis on Water Baptism, and insist that you must be baptized by a certain formula, or you are not saved. Well, there is no doubt that baptism is important. The Lord Jesus commanded us to be baptized, and we should be obedient to his command (see Matthew 28:19-20).

Others place a great emphasis on Communion (also called The Lord's Supper), and definitely consider themselves to be a Christian after receiving their first Communion. Well, Communion is important; the Lord Jesus emphasized that we should practice this ordinance of The Church in remembrance of him (see 1 Corinthians 11:23-26).

There are others who place a great emphasis on Church Membership, and believe themselves to be a Christian, because they belong to a particular church. Well, Church Membership is wonderful; it's great to be connected with like-minded people. The Bible tells us not to neglect gathering together with other believers (see Hebrews 10:25).

Then, there are folks who believe themselves to be Christians, because they do not belong to the Jewish Synagogue, the Muslim Mosque, the Hindu Temple, or the Buddhist Temple. Well, it's good they can differentiate between religions!

There are people who give generous gifts to charities, often in the name of a church; sometimes in the name of Christ himself, and therefore, think of themselves as a good Christian. Well, it's good to give generously to churches, or ministries, or other charities that help people in need. It's even good to give to disaster relief efforts!

Yet, all of these practices – even though they are important – are **SECONDARY** to the necessity to trust in the sacrifice of the Lord Jesus Christ, and his blood, which was shed for the remission of our sins. In fact, the only way you can obtain Salvation, and truly become a genuine, born again Christian is **THROUGH THE BLOOD** of Jesus Christ.

You could be baptized as commanded by the Scriptures, or by every formula imposed by man, and still not be saved. You could travel to Israel, and be baptized in the Jordan River, in the exact spot where John the Baptist baptized Jesus, and still not be a born again Christian.

Author's Notes:

No doubt, some would point out that 1 Peter 3:21 says baptism saves us. In fact, that verse actually says an **ANTITYPE** of baptism saves us:

"There is also an antitype which now saves us – baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ."

An antitype is something that resembles another; in this case, something that resembles water baptism. Accordingly, it is not an outward washing that saves us, but rather, an inward washing by the blood of Jesus:

"...to Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood." (from Revelation 1:5).

As I have previously said: Communion is also important. Yet, you could travel to the Vatican, and receive Communion directly from the hand of the Pope himself, and still not be a genuine, born again Christian.

You could be a member in good standing of the most prestigious church in your city, or your state, or your country, or indeed, the whole world, and still not be a genuine Christian.

You could give millions of dollars to the work of the Lord, or to other worthwhile charities. You could support every disaster relief effort with lavish gifts of charity, and many people would be helped, and would be thankful to you.

You could give so generously that a plaque with your name engraved on it could be hung upon the wall in a prominent place so that all could see. And, you could do all of these good works in the name of Jesus Christ, but that still would not truly make you a Christian.

You could live a moral life, which appears to be righteous from the observations of others. You could strive to repent of all the sins of your entire life – whether known or unknown – but even a pure life would not make you a born again Christian.

Once again, all of these previously mentioned good works – no matter how important they may seem – are **SECONDARY** to trusting in the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, and his shed blood for the remission of your sins.

There must be a time in your life when you clearly make a strong decision to trust in the shed blood of the Lord Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Only **THROUGH THE BLOOD** of Jesus can you obtain Salvation (a position of righteousness, or right-standing before God).

John the Baptist referred to Jesus as:

*“...**THE LAMB OF GOD** who takes away the sin of the world.”* (from John 1:29).

If we could be saved by any means, other than **THROUGH THE BLOOD**, that identity of Jesus as the sacrificial Lamb of God would be meaningless.

Indeed, if we could become a Christian by any means, other than **THROUGH THE BLOOD**, then Jesus wasted his time suffering at the hands of cruel men, and dying upon a Roman cross!

*“...To Him who loved us and **WASHED US FROM OUR SINS IN HIS OWN BLOOD.**”* (from Revelation 1:5).

Now, just in case you are a little bit deceived, please understand that no one is above sin:

*“For **ALL HAVE SINNED** and fall short of the glory of God.” (Romans 3:23).*

To solve the sin problem: You must be **BORN AGAIN**. You must have a spiritual birth, not just a physical birth (more about this later). The only way to have a spiritual birth is through the blood of Jesus:

*“Knowing that you were not redeemed (you were not ransomed from sin) with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your **AIMLESS CONDUCT** received by tradition from your fathers (your efforts, that miss the mark required by God), but with **THE PRECIOUS BLOOD OF CHRIST**, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot. He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you who through Him believe in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.” (1 Peter 1:18-21).*

Notice that the above Scriptures identify the blood of Jesus as **PRECIOUS**. That word means: *“Valuable, Costly, Honored, and Esteemed.”* God will not accept anything less than our dependence upon, and trust in, the shed blood of the Lord Jesus Christ for our Salvation.

Chapter Two

The Life is in the Blood

*“For **THE LIFE OF THE FLESH IS IN THE BLOOD**, and I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood that makes atonement for the soul.” (Leviticus 17:11).*

In the early part of 1970, I was sitting on a helicopter landing pad near Da Nang – in what was at that time: South Vietnam. As a 2nd Lieutenant, Infantry Platoon Commander in the United States Marine Corps, I was serving my country in the Vietnam War.

On that day, I had come back to Division Headquarters on an administrative matter, and having completed that assignment, I was awaiting helicopter transportation to rejoin my platoon on the front lines (or, **IN THE BUSH**, as we called it).

Another young Marine was also there waiting for transportation to rejoin his platoon. I asked why he had come back to the rear area?

He began to explain that he had been severely wounded on the battlefield, and for several months had been recovering in the Naval Hospital. I asked him to describe his ordeal. Marines can talk to one another about such matters.

I had some understanding of the situation, because during the time I commanded 1st Platoon, Mike Company, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, seven Marines in my platoon were wounded.

As we talked, the young Marine described his ordeal. After being wounded, as he was lying on the battlefield - bleeding profusely - waiting for a Medevac (Medical Evacuation Helicopter), he could literally feel **LIFE LEAVING HIM**.

When the Medevac arrived, Navy Corpsmen hooked him up to a blood transfusion, and he could literally feel **LIFE COMING BACK INTO HIM**. Indeed, the life is in the blood!

Similarly, Leviticus 17:11 (at the beginning of this chapter) is also speaking of physical blood. In the Old Testament (or, Old Covenant), God established a system of animal sacrifices by which Israel could temporarily make an atonement for sins (or, provide a covering for sins), until the sacrifice of Jesus Christ for the remission (or, dismissal) of sins!

Even when Jesus Christ died upon the cross, and willingly shed his blood for our Redemption, it was physical blood that he shed. Yet, the blood that Jesus shed also has a **SPIRITUAL APPLICATION**, which often transcends the comprehension of many people in this world.

As there is life in the blood **PHYSICALLY**; so also, there is life in the blood **SPIRITUALLY**.

Once I was talking to a new Christian, who was saved out of a very liberal church. She said her former church believed in many of the teachings of Jesus. They eagerly accepted, and proclaimed his words about loving your neighbor, forgiving one another, and engaging in good works.

However, when it came to the blood of Jesus, that's where they drew the line. As someone in her former church said: "**WE ARE NOT INTERESTED IN A BLOODY RELIGION.**"

Unfortunately, unless one trusts in the blood of Jesus for the remission of their sins, all their good works will come to nothing. Just as surely as there is no physical life without the blood; so also, there is **NO SPIRITUAL LIFE** without the blood of Jesus, which he shed upon the cross for the forgiveness of our sins. (see applicable scriptures, next page →)

*“Not by works of righteousness (or, good deeds) which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the **WASHING OF REGENERATION** and renewing of the Holy Spirit.” (Titus 3:5).*

*“...To Him who loved us and **WASHED US FROM OUR SINS IN HIS OWN BLOOD.**” (from Revelation 1:5).*

During his earthly ministry, Jesus explained this mystery:

*“Then Jesus said to them: Most assuredly, I say to you, unless you **EAT THE FLESH** of the Son of Man and **DRINK HIS BLOOD**, you have no life in you. Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day.” (John 6:53-54).*

Obviously, the Lord was not suggesting that cannibalism was one of the tenets of the Christian faith. Yet, at this time, many of those listening to him could not make a distinction between: **The life is in the blood PHYSICALLY**, as compared with: **The life is in the blood SPIRITUALLY**:

“Therefore many of His disciples, when they heard this, said: This is a hard saying; who can understand it?” (John 6:60).

So, Jesus further explained about the spiritual application (or, the spiritual meaning) of his words ➤

*“It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. **THE WORDS THAT I SPEAK TO YOU ARE SPIRIT** (words that have a spiritual application), and **THEY ARE LIFE**” (words that provide spiritual life). (John 6:63).*

Jesus was proclaiming that his body would be broken, and his blood would be shed. Yet, at this time, many of the people just could not understand his teaching. Therefore, the Bible says:

“From that time many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more.” (John 6:66).

“Then Jesus said to the twelve (his original twelve disciples): Do you also want to go away? But Simon Peter answered Him: Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.” (John 6:67-68).

Author's Notes:

There is an important lesson to be learned here. Sometimes, if we do not understand the words of Jesus, or other words from the Bible, we need to be reminded that God alone has the words of life.

Even when we are struggling to comprehend God's workings in our lives, or struggling to understand other biblical matters, we should look for answers only from the one who alone has the words of life:

*“If any of you lacks wisdom, he should **ASK GOD**, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him.” (James 1:5 NIV).*

These days, too many churches are teaching what I will call: **EASY BELIEVISM**. The people are asked to pray simple little prayers, like: *“Jesus, I need you; please come and help me.”*

If we analyzed some of those little prayers, we would likely discover that people are praying for frivolous things like: *“Jesus, I need more money; please help me win the lottery!”*

Do not misunderstand me. I certainly believe God is available to help us with all the problems in our lives, even the small ones. However, first and foremost, we should seek Salvation from the Lord. Salvation is about **SOLVING THE SIN PROBLEM** in our lives, so that we may stand before the Lord, having been clothed with his righteousness!

Unless a person trusts in the shed blood of the Lord Jesus Christ, there is no remission of sins:

*“In Him **WE HAVE REDEMPTION THROUGH HIS BLOOD**, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace.”* (Ephesians 1:7).

Just as surely as **PHYSICAL LIFE** is in the blood; so also, **SPIRITUAL LIFE** is in the blood of Jesus Christ. In fact, there is no spiritual life apart from the blood of Jesus!

Chapter Three

Distinguishing between Atonement & Redemption

In the Old Testament Law of Moses, the Lord established a system of animal sacrifices in order to **MAKE ATONEMENT** for the sins of his people.

This pardoning of sin was only a temporary measure prior to the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ. 1 Chronicles 6:49 reveals the following:

*“But Aaron and his sons offered sacrifices on the altar of burnt offering, and on the altar of incense, for all the work of the Most Holy Place, and **TO MAKE ATONEMENT FOR ISRAEL**, according to all that Moses the servant of God had commanded.”*

This word, **ATONEMENT** (or, similar Hebrew words used in other applications), can be found in the Old Testament more than 100 times. However, the word **ATONEMENT** does not appear in the New Testament at all.

About now, some of you Bible students may be thinking: *"I remember seeing that word in the New Testament!"* Yes, the word Atonement does appear once in the New Testament, specifically in the **King James Version**. Listen from Romans 5:10-11:

*"For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life. And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the **ATONEMENT**."*

However, the word, Atonement, as it appears in the above verses is a mistranslation! The accurate word is **RECONCILIATION**, and it is the same Greek word that appears in 2 Corinthians 5:18:

*"Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of **RECONCILIATION**."*

Author's Notes:

Do not misunderstand what I just said. I did not say there were errors in the Word of God. I said there was a **MISTRANSLATION** in the King James Version.

The original manuscripts of the Bible - as penned by the Prophets and Apostles - were infallible. However, in Romans 5:11, the translators of the King James Version used an incorrect word.

Why is the word, **ATONEMENT**, not found in the New Testament?

This word literally means: **“TO COVER,”** and it is first found in the book of Genesis, where God gives Noah instructions about building the ark:

*“Make yourself an ark of gopherwood; make rooms in the ark, and **COVER IT** inside and outside with pitch.”* (Genesis 6:14).

Under the Law of Moses, animal sacrifices were offered **TO COVER**, or to make atonement for the sins of the people. However, the blood of those animal sacrifices could not **TAKE AWAY SINS**; they were only a temporary covering of sin until the perfect sacrifice of Jesus:

“For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins.” (Hebrews 10:4).

*“And every priest stands ministering daily and offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, **WHICH CAN NEVER TAKE AWAY SINS**. But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God, from that time waiting till His enemies are made His footstool. For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified.”* (Hebrews 10:11-14).

I realize the word, **ATONEMENT**, has been extensively used within Christianity. In one of the old, well-known Gospel hymns: "**VICTORY IN JESUS**," we sing these words: ♪ *I heard about his groaning, of his precious blood atoning.* ♪

Regardless – precisely speaking – the blood of Jesus Christ does not atone for (or, cover) our sins. The blood of Jesus actually takes our sins away! The blood of Jesus is not a temporary solution; it is a permanent solution! From John 1:29, listen to a clear distinction:

*"The next day John (the Baptist) saw Jesus coming toward him, and said: Behold! The Lamb of God who **TAKES AWAY THE SIN OF THE WORLD!**"*

Listen also to the following Scriptures, which confirm the blood of Jesus as a permanent solution, and verify that his blood **TAKES AWAY** our sins, not just covers them:

*"Not that He should offer Himself often, as the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood of another (the blood of animal sacrifices) – He then would have had to suffer often since the foundation of the world; but now, once at the end of the ages, He has appeared to **PUT AWAY SIN** by the sacrifice of Himself." (Hebrews 9:25-26).*

In these last days, we are seeing an End Times Restoration of Israel, and a revival of God's original Chosen People. This is a New Covenant revival of Redemption. There will never be a return to Old Covenant atonement. Listen to Romans 11:25-27:

*"For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: The Deliverer will come out of Zion, and He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob; for this is My covenant with them (referring to the New Covenant), when **I TAKE AWAY THEIR SINS.**"*

Through the shed blood of Jesus – instead of atonement – we now have **REDEMPTION**:

*"In Him we have **REDEMPTION THROUGH HIS BLOOD**, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace." (Ephesians 1:7).*

Author's Notes:

The old-time Pentecostal people would sometimes ponder the question: *"Do you believe there is healing in the Atonement?"*

Well, I certainly believe there **WAS** healing in the Atonement. Now, I definitely believe there **IS** healing in the Redemption.

We have a better covenant; a **COVENANT OF REDEMPTION** based upon the blood of Jesus, rather than a covenant of atonement based upon the blood of animals:

*“But now He (the Lord Jesus) has obtained a more excellent ministry, inasmuch as He is also Mediator of a **BETTER COVENANT**, which was established on **BETTER PROMISES**.”* (Hebrews 8:6).

Under this New Covenant, our sins are not covered; they are **TAKEN AWAY!**

Author's Notes:

In this chapter, I have emphasized the weakness of the blood of animal sacrifices, as compared with the blood of Jesus. Listen to another futile belief...

Muslims believe they can earn Heaven by shedding their own blood. They believe the only sure way to get to Heaven is by dying in a Jihad: A so-called holy war against infidels, or non-Muslims.

In other words, Muslims believe that by sacrificing their own life - they are paying for their own sins - with the shedding of their own blood,

However, the truth is: **ALL OF THE SACRIFICIAL BLOOD** - other than the blood of Jesus - shed by human beings throughout the history of the world, cannot wash away even one small sin. It requires the blood of Jesus Christ to wash away our sins.

Chapter Four

The Blood that Purified Heaven

“Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father’s house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.” (John 14:1-3).

Once I was at a local coffee bar, writing on my laptop computer. The subject – about which I was writing – involved the above Scriptures. Suddenly, the Holy Spirit spoke to me, so **STRONGLY** and **FORCEFULLY**, that I was literally shaken inside! I tried to continue with my writing, but even my hands were shaking. I shut down my computer and went home. For several hours thereafter, I could still feel the effects of that encounter.

Following are the words, which the Spirit of the Lord Jesus Christ spoke to me that day...

***"I DID NOT SAY I WAS GOING BACK TO HEAVEN
TO BUILD YOU A MANSION!"***

Instantly, I remembered what Jesus actually said: *"In My Father's house **ARE** many mansions..."* When Jesus spoke these words to his disciples, the mansions were already there!

Author's Notes:

What exactly is a MANSION? Having grown up in church, I have heard it emphasized that Jesus was not going to build us just a simple little cabin by the roadside, but we were going to have a beautiful, majestic mansion in which to live.

Having grown up in the South (the southern part of the USA), we envisioned the Great House on a pre-Civil War Southern Plantation, with its large rooms, high ceilings, and grand staircases.

But, is Heaven really going to be a place where the landscape is covered with millions upon millions of ornate mansions? Further research reveals that mansion simply means: **A DWELLING PLACE** (or, place of abode).

Also, this word can be translated as: **A STAYING**, or **AN ABIDING**, as opposed to **A DEPARTING**. Listen to John 14:23 as an example:

*"Jesus answered and said unto him: If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make **OUR ABODE** (or, our mansions) **WITH HIM**." (KJV).*

OK, let's get back to our subject. I have heard many sermons in my lifetime about how Jesus, the master carpenter, is up there in Heaven building us a mansion, and when those mansions are finished, he will be back to get us.

Remember, however, that Jesus said: *"In My Father's house **ARE** many mansions..."* He did not say: *"In my Father's house there will eventually be many mansions, once I have the opportunity to get back up there, and start building them!"*

So, on that day at the coffee bar, after hearing those strong words from the Holy Spirit, my next, obvious question was: *"Lord Jesus, what did you mean when you said: I go to **PREPARE** a place for you?"*

This time, the Lord simply impressed upon me to utilize my various Bible Study Helps, and research the word, **PREPARE**. I discovered that the word does not mean: To Build, to Construct, or to Erect. It simply means: **TO MAKE READY**.

Imagine that you had a guest room in your house, but it had not been used for some time. Upon learning that you will soon have guests, you would not rush home, and build another house. You would simply **MAKE READY** the guest room that was already there!

Author's Notes:

Again, let's direct our attention to those mansions, which were already there. Contrary to what I have heard preached, please notice that Jesus said: "*In My Father's house are **MANY** mansions...*" He did not say: Each of us, individually, would have our own personal mansion.

Why would we need our own mansion? Why would we need to be alone? Why would we want to be alone? In fact, one of the joys of Heaven is not being alone:

"After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, saying: Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!" (Revelation 7:9-10).

Perhaps these mansions are not individual dwelling places after all? Maybe they are gathering places where we will **HEAR**, or **SHARE** the wonderful works of God. In fact, Jesus said: *"...many will come from east and west, and sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven."* (from Matthew 8:11).

Regardless, one thing is certain: Jesus will be the main attraction in Heaven, not mansions!

Once again, let's get back to my encounter with the Holy Spirit. My next obvious question was: "*Lord Jesus, what did you mean by **MAKING READY** the mansions, which were already there?"*

The Spirit of the Lord directed me to Hebrews 9:21-24. Listen, as I expound upon those verses:

*“Then likewise he (referring to Moses) sprinkled with blood both the tabernacle (the Old Testament Tabernacle) and all the vessels of the ministry. And according to the law almost all things are **PURIFIED WITH BLOOD**, and without shedding of blood (in New Testament Redemption) there is no remission (no forgiveness of sins). Therefore it was necessary that **THE COPIES** of the things in the heavens (the earthly tabernacle, or temple) should be purified with these (animal sacrifices), but **THE HEAVENLY THINGS THEMSELVES** (purified) **WITH BETTER SACRIFICES THAN THESE**. For Christ has not entered the holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us.”*

After his resurrection, Jesus ascended back into Heaven **WITH HIS BLOOD**, and **PURIFIED** (made ready) the mansions that were already there; and thus, he completed God’s Plan of Redemption. For confirmation, listen to Hebrews 9:11-12:

*“But Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation. Not with the blood of goats and calves, but **WITH HIS OWN BLOOD** He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption.”*

Why was it necessary for Jesus to **PURIFY** the heavenly things? I believe it was because Heaven had been polluted by Lucifer's rebellion. Revelation 12:7-9 reveals the following:

“And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer. So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.”

So, why didn't God purify Heaven about five seconds after Lucifer was gone? Because, only one cleansing agent qualified to purify Heaven: **THE BLOOD OF JESUS CHRIST**; the same cleansing agent, which also purifies us! Listen to Titus 2:14:

*“Who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and **PURIFY** for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.”*

Now, because Jesus shed his blood for us, and then offered his blood in Heaven, Hebrews 10:19 tells us we have confidence to approach God:

*“Therefore we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by **THE BLOOD OF JESUS.**” (NIV).*

Chapter Five

Better Sacrifices

*“Therefore it was necessary that **THE COPIES OF THE THINGS IN THE HEAVENS** (the earthly tabernacle, or temple) *should be purified with these* (animal sacrifices), *but the **HEAVENLY THINGS** themselves* (must be purified) *with **BETTER SACRIFICES** than these.”* (Hebrews 9:23).*

I asked the Lord why the above verse uses the plural word: **SACRIFICES**? After all, as it pertains to the sacrifice of Jesus, Hebrews 10:14 says:

*“Because by **ONE SACRIFICE** he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy.”* (NIV).

I was reminded that under the New Covenant there was indeed only one sacrifice for our sins, but during his sufferings, the Lord Jesus offered himself again and again!

Of course, his death upon the cross was the **ULTIMATE SACRIFICE**, but let us not forget that our Savior shed his blood in many places...

The Shedding of Jesus' Blood – Point # 1

Very possibly, on the night he was betrayed, Jesus shed his blood in the Garden of Gethsemane:

“And being in agony, He prayed more earnestly. Then His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground.” (Luke 22:44).

The Shedding of Jesus' Blood – Point # 2

Certainly, Jesus shed his blood in the house of Caiaphas, the High Priest, when he was unjustly interrogated, and beaten by the Jewish Religious Leaders:

“Now the men who held Jesus mocked Him and beat Him. And having blindfolded Him, they struck Him on the face and asked Him, saying: Prophecy! Who is the one who struck You?” (Luke 22:63-64).

The Shedding of Jesus' Blood – Point # 3

Definitely, our Savior shed his blood in the Praetorium, after the Jewish Religious Leaders delivered him to Pontus Pilate:

“So then Pilate took Jesus and scourged Him. And the soldiers twisted a crown of thorns and put it on His head, and they put on Him a purple robe. Then they said: Hail, King of the Jews! And they struck Him with their hands.” (John 19:1-3).

The Shedding of Jesus' Blood – Point # 4

I have no doubt that Jesus shed his blood on the so-called Via Dolorosa (the way of sorrows), as he carried the cross up to Golgotha (see John 19:17).

The Shedding of Jesus' Blood – Point # 5

Of course, the Lord Jesus shed his blood upon the cross. One revealing Scripture says:

“But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out.”
(John 19:34).

The Shedding of Jesus' Blood – Point # 6

And, obviously, Jesus shed his blood upon his grave clothes.

Author's Notes:

I once inquired of a good friend, a highly respected co-laborer in the Gospel, Dr. Charles Flynn (affectionately known as Prophet Chuck).

I asked: *“Prophet Chuck, do you believe the Shroud of Turin is authentic?”*

He answered: *“Absolutely not,”* and then further explained: *“After his resurrection, before ascending back into Heaven, Jesus retrieved **ALL OF HIS BLOOD**, with which he entered the Most Holy Place in Heaven, and offered his blood to complete the plan of redemption.”*

(Author's Notes continue, next page [↗](#))

Some glad morning, when this life is over, when we are all seated at the feet of Jesus, I believe we will discover that Prophet Chuck was right. I do not believe Jesus wasted even one drop of his blood.

I later learned that the Shroud of Turin is indeed a fake. We have biblical proof. You see, the Shroud is just one piece, whereas the Bible reveals that the burial clothes of Jesus consisted of more than one piece:

"Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb; and he saw the linen cloths lying there, and the handkerchief that had been around His head, not lying with the linen cloths, but folded together in a place by itself." (John 20:6-7).

At any time during his sufferings, Jesus could have called for angels to deliver him, but again and again, he chose to lay down his life, and shed his blood for our redemption:

"Do you think I cannot call on my Father, and he will at once put at my disposal more than twelve legions of angels?" (Matthew 26:53 NIV).

These days, there is great excitement about End Times Prophecy. A popular teaching pertains to rebuilding the Old Testament, Jewish Temple in Jerusalem. However, I should emphasize that there is no conclusive proof in the Bible that a Jewish Temple will be rebuilt.

Regardless, even if the temple is rebuilt, and even if animal sacrifices are once again offered to the exact letter of the Old Testament Law, the Lord would never again accept the blood of animals as an atonement for sins!

The blood of the Lord Jesus Christ has been shed for the remission of our sins. The blood of the New Covenant has replaced the blood of the Old Covenant. Jesus Christ has purified Heaven with his blood, and he has purified us with his blood. Be assured that God is not going to go from substance, backwards into shadow:

*“For Christ has not entered the holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us; not that He should offer Himself often, as the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood of another – He then would have had to suffer often since the foundation of the world; but now, once at the end of the ages, He has appeared **TO PUT AWAY SIN** by the sacrifice of Himself.” (Hebrews 9:24-26).*

These days in the body of Christ, it has also become popular to rediscover one’s **SPIRITUAL JEWISH ROOTS**. As an example, Christians are studying the Old Testament Feasts of the Lord (also known as God’s appointed times – see Leviticus, chapter 23).

In their study of the Old Testament Feasts of the Lord, Christians are learning that Jesus fulfilled the first four feasts: The Feast of Passover, The Feast of Unleavened Bread, The Feast of Firstfruits, and The Feast of Weeks (or, Pentecost).

And, if the Lord fulfilled the first four feasts during his earthly ministry, certainly he will fulfill the other three feasts when he returns: The Feast of Trumpets, **THE DAY OF ATONEMENT**, and The Feast of Tabernacles.

However, when Jesus returns, and fulfills the Day of Atonement - in reality - it will not be a day of atonement (a covering of sins by the blood of animals). Instead, it will be a day of **REDEMPTION**. God's original Chosen People will experience a remission of their sins because of the **BLOOD OF JESUS**:

*"And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: The Deliverer will come out of Zion, and He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob; for this is My covenant with them (referring to the New Covenant), when I **TAKE AWAY THEIR SINS.**" (Romans 11:26-27).*

Only the blood of Jesus can **TAKE AWAY** our sins. Only those **BETTER SACRIFICES** - as Jesus Christ offered himself again and again on his way to the cross - can take our sins away!

Chapter Six

The Blood that Keeps on Cleansing

*"If we say that we have **FELLOWSHIP** with Him (fellowship with God) and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have **FELLOWSHIP** with one another (fellowship between us and God), and **THE BLOOD OF JESUS CHRIST** His Son cleanses us from all sin." (1 John 1:6-7).*

The subject of the above verses is Fellowship with God. We could also accurately say it this way: **MAINTAINING FELLOWSHIP** with God.

Author's Notes:

The Scriptures upon which this chapter is based (1 John 1:5-10 - 1 John 2:2) are not written to unbelievers, instructing them on how to get saved. They are written to born again Christians, telling them how to maintain fellowship with God.

1 John 2:1 confirms this matter, because these Scriptures are addressed to: **"MY LITTLE CHILDREN..."**

Fellowship could be defined as: *“Communion with God,”* or more simply put: *“Keeping the lines of communication **OPEN** between us and God.”*

Even after we accept Jesus Christ as Savior, and are cleansed by his blood, forgiven of our sins, and become born again Christians, it does not take long to recognize that we still commit sin.

If some super-spiritual Christian says they no longer commit sin, then for sure, you know of one sin they are committing: **LYING**:

“If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.” (1 John 1:8).

So, how do we maintain fellowship with God? From our Foundational Scriptures (previous page ←), let us consider two questions, and then also answer those questions from the Scriptures...

QUESTION # 1 - How do believers maintain fellowship with God? **ANSWER** - By walking in the light as He is in the light.

QUESTION #2 - So, how do we walk in the light, rather than walk in darkness? **ANSWER** - By regularly and honestly confessing our sins to God, and receiving his forgiveness:

(See applicable Scriptures ↗)

*“If we confess our sins, He is **FAITHFUL** (God always forgives) and **JUST** (it is justice) to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” (1 John 1:9).*

Looking again at our Foundational Scriptures (beginning of this chapter), please notice what happens when we walk in the light as He is in the light, and maintain fellowship with God by confessing our sins, and receiving his forgiveness...

“...THE BLOOD OF JESUS CHRIST, HIS SON, CLEANSSES US FROM ALL SIN.”

The washing away of our sins by the blood of Jesus did not happen just once; when we accepted Christ as Savior. His blood continues to cleanse us every time we confess our sins!

Author's Notes:

Listen to a very important clarification: Walking in darkness (which is a failure to confess our sins to God) results in the **BREAKING OF FELLOWSHIP** with God, but not the **BREAKING OF RELEATIONSHIP**.

When we commit sin - after we are saved - it does not destroy our **RELATIONSHIP** with God. We are still God's children; God is still our Heavenly Father. There is no need to get saved again, as some have falsely insisted. The committing of sin - after we have accepted Jesus as our Savior - just breaks our **FELLOWSHIP** with God.

Here is a problem, which has been accurately emphasized by many ministers of the Gospel: When Christians commit sin, all too often, they run away from God, rather than run to him!

We could say it another way: When Christians commit sin, they often turn away from God, rather than turn to him.

They feel guilty, and get under condemnation. "After all," they reason: "If I truly am a Christian, then I should not be committing these sins."

So, they stop going to church; stop praying, and stop reading their Bible. They start acting like Adam and Eve, who tried to hide from God after they sinned (see Genesis 3:8). They think God doesn't like them anymore, and wants them out of his sight!

Exactly the opposite is true. Listen to the Word of God:

*"My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have **AN ADVOCATE WITH THE FATHER** (someone who defends us before God, the Father), *Jesus Christ the righteous. And He Himself is the **PROPITIATION** (the means by which God is appeased) for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world."* (1 John 2:1-2).*

Also, God's children (especially new believers) are sometimes put under guilt by other Christians, who tell them they are using the grace of God as a license to sin. God does warn us about such people, but listen carefully to this warning:

*"...certain men whose condemnation was written about long ago have secretly slipped in among you. They are godless men, who change the grace of our God into a license for immorality and **DENY JESUS CHRIST** our only Sovereign and Lord." (Jude 4 NIV).*

This Scripture is not referring to those who are genuine Christians, but to godless people, who pretend to know God, but actually deny Jesus.

Do not allow the blood of Jesus – by which you were originally saved – to become of no effect after you are saved. When you sin, **RUN TO GOD**, do not run away from him! When you sin, **TURN TO GOD**, do not turn away from him! According to 1 John 1:9, God is faithful and **JUST** to forgive us. It is justice because Jesus Christ has already shed his blood for us.

The grace of God, which was available when we first accepted Jesus, is still available every time we confess our sins to God! The blood of Jesus Christ continues to cleanse us from all sin!

What does it mean to **CONFESS** our sins? This word actually means: *“To speak the same thing as God speaks.”* In other words, to agree with the Word of God (the Bible).

If the Bible says something is sin, then it is sin! When we confess our sins, we need to be totally honest with God. Do not try to justify sin, excuse sin, or explain it away.

Finally, let us conclude with another strong emphasis. When you confess your sins to God, you must receive his forgiveness **BY FAITH**.

Many people, shortly after they accept Christ as their Savior, begin to question, or doubt whether their experience was real. Likely, a wise counselor reminded you: *“You are not saved by feelings, but rather, **BY FAITH**.”*

Similarly - as a born again Christian - when you confess your sins to God to maintain fellowship with him, you still must receive his forgiveness **BY FAITH**, not by feelings!

The blood of Jesus Christ keeps on cleansing us throughout our entire life on this earth. And, if you run to God enough times, he will eventually help you to overcome sin!

Chapter Seven

Made Holy by the Blood of Jesus

“...by one sacrifice (and, by his shed blood, Jesus) has made perfect forever those who are being made holy.”
(taken from Hebrews 10:14 NIV).

Holiness is often misunderstood. Hebrews 12:14 is a Scripture, which I have heard used in an incorrect manner:

*“Pursue peace with all people, and **HOLINESS**, without which no one will see the Lord.”*

Obviously, no one wants to be put into the fearful position of **NOT SEEING THE LORD**. So, various teachings have emerged in The Church as to what is required to be holy? One such teaching involves how someone dresses, or wears their hair. Also included is a frowning upon wearing jewelry, or make-up. Of course, this is almost exclusively directed toward the women.

Often, in such cases, the Scriptures are used to legislate (or, mandate) holiness. One such portion of Scripture is 1 Timothy 2:9-10:

*“In like manner also, that the women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with propriety (inner modestly, rooted in character) and **MODERATION**, not with braided hair or gold or pearls or costly clothing, but, which is proper for women professing godliness, with good works.”*

And so, we have churches where the women dress very modestly, if not dowdy (or, not considered stylish). They wear their hair plain, straight, and long (or, in what I have heard called: A Pentecostal Bun). They dare not wear any make-up, and very little jewelry (or, no jewelry at all). And, such practices are thought to make the women holy.

Interestingly, in Genesis, we have the story of Abraham sending his servant to look for a wife for his son, Isaac. When he found Rebekah, he gave her a golden earring (some translations say nose ring) of half a shekel weight, and two bracelets for her hands of ten shekels weight of gold (see Genesis 24:22).

Evidently, the Lord is not totally opposed to jewelry! Did you notice the word, **MODERATION**, in 1 Timothy 2:9-10 (above ↑)?

Some years ago, when I was serving as an assistant pastor, my wife and I were at a shopping mall. I saw two young girls from the church, and I intended to say a friendly hello. However, they saw me, and quickly moved in an opposite direction; while at the same time, furiously trying to wipe the lipstick from their mouths. I was not going to judge them; I was just going to greet them!

Here is the problem. Without proper wisdom and understanding, well-meaning, but misguided elders in the church are deciding who is saved, and who is not saved, based upon how someone looks on the outside!

Therefore, church members unnecessarily fall into the error of trying to earn their salvation, or **KEEP THEIR SALVATION**, based upon how they dress, or wear their hair. The ladies dare not show up in pants (or, slacks), rather than a dress, unless they want to be condemned to Hell. And, should a woman have the audacity to wear shorts, they are labeled as a Jezebel.

Now, with those previous examples in mind, let us consider two things. **FIRST**: God looks at the heart, not the outward appearance (see 1 Samuel 16:7). **SECOND**: Jesus said the truth of the Word of God would make us free (see John 8:31-32).

Here is the truth: You can be made **MODEST** by how you dress or wear your hair, but you cannot be made **HOLY** by such things!

The only way anyone (whether woman, or man) can be made holy is through the sacrifice of Jesus, and his shed blood for the remission of sins:

*“...He (the Lord) sets aside the first (the Old Covenant) to establish the second (the New Covenant). And by that will, we have been **MADE HOLY** through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ (and, his shed blood) once for all.”*
(from Hebrews 10:9-10 NIV).

Where the NIV uses **MADE HOLY** in the above Scriptures, other translations use the word, **SANCTIFIED**. Regardless of the wordage, it comes from the same Greek word, sometimes translated as **HOLY**, or **HOLINESS**, and sometimes translated as **SANCTIFIED**. One of the meanings of the word is: *“To be set apart.”*

Now, in a manner of speaking, someone could be **SET APART** by how they dress, or wear their hair, or in the wearing of jewelry, or make-up. They could be set apart from the world by presenting a modest appearance. However, you cannot be set apart – as in being saved, or made holy – by any outward appearance.

Furthermore, no one has to dress in a certain manner, or maintain a certain outward appearance in order to **KEEP** their salvation! We are saved, and kept by what we believe, not by how we look. The Apostle Paul was once explaining the calling of God upon his life, and he said:

*“...I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to **KEEP** (or, guard) what I have committed to Him until that Day.”* (from 2 Timothy 1:12).

Someone could present an outward image, which is “*Squeaky Clean*,” with modesty to the **MAX**, and still not be saved, unless they trust in the blood of Jesus, which he shed for our Redemption:

*“But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, **NOT BY WORKS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS WHICH WE HAVE DONE**, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the **WASHING OF REGENERATION** (by the **BLOOD OF JESUS**) and renewing of the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior.”* (Titus 3:4-6).

It is the blood of the New Covenant (or, New Testament), shed by the Lord Jesus Christ for the remission of our sins that **SETS US APART**, and **SANCTIFIES US**, and **MAKES US HOLY**.

Now, once God's People have been set apart, sanctified, and made holy by the blood of Jesus, it would be wonderful if they also lived a modest lifestyle, with moderation, that reflects the holiness they received by faith.

But, please understand: It is only through the blood of Jesus Christ that anyone could ever be **SET APART** in such a manner as to be pleasing to God:

*"For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that **NOT OF YOURSELVES** (not by our efforts), it is the gift of God, **NOT OF WORKS**, lest anyone should boast."* (Ephesians 2:8-9).

The Bible does instruct us to live godly lives, and that is important. Yet, holiness – the position of having been sanctified, or set apart – is received by faith, not by appearance, or by conduct.

In conclusion, listen again to Hebrews 12:14: *"Pursue peace with all people, and **HOLINESS**, without which no one will see the Lord."* Now, listen to my personal amplifying of that verse:

*"Pursue peace with all people, and **HOLINESS** – being set apart, sanctified, and made holy by trusting in the blood of Jesus for the remission of our sins – *without which no one will see the Lord.*"*

Chapter Eight

The Power of Forgiveness

*“In Him (Jesus Christ) we have redemption through His blood, **THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS**, according to the riches of His grace.” (Ephesians 1:7).*

As you already know from an earlier chapter, I served my country in the United States Marine Corps. In total, I served 10 years in the Marines, and included in that period of time was a combat tour of duty in the Vietnam War.

Things happen in war that can potentially put someone under guilt and condemnation for the rest of their lives. Although the Vietnam War ended for America in 1975, there are Vietnam Veterans, who still cannot get over the war.

Similarly, there are veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars, who cannot return to a normal life after serving in combat. According to a certain report, the rate of suicide among Iraq and Afghan veterans is the highest in U. S. Military history.

I believe the main reason for this lingering guilt and condemnation is due to the fact that many veterans of war do not know Jesus Christ as their Savior. As a consequence, they do not understand **THE POWER OF FORGIVENESS**, which comes from trusting in the sacrificial blood of Jesus Christ, which was shed for the remission of our sins.

I came back to the world (as we called it) from Vietnam on a U.S. Navy ship. We docked at the naval base in San Diego, and were transported to Camp Pendleton, a Marine Corps Base just up the coast near Oceanside, California.

I was riding in the back of a military truck, which was covered with a canvas top, but the back was open. I was still wearing my camouflaged utilities and jungle boots (combat attire). I sat there in the back of the truck and watched cars zooming by on the Interstate; people rushing to and fro, on their way to, or from, wherever; not having any idea of where I had been, or what I had experienced.

Suddenly, these words came rising up from down inside me. In those days, I did not recognize the words as being from the Lord, but later in life, as I grew spiritually, I understood that the words were from the Holy Spirit. The Lord said to me: *"You are going to be all right."*

In Vietnam, I had observed things, and also participated in things that could have haunted me for the rest of my life, and put me under a strong bondage of guilt and condemnation.

Earlier in life, I had accepted the Lord Jesus as my Savior, but I was not walking closely with the Lord in those days. Yet, there was still a difference in me and other combat veterans. Because of God's Amazing Grace, and enduring mercy, I knew **THE POWER OF FORGIVENESS**.

Over the years, Satan has periodically tried to "dredge up" things from my Marine Corps years, and put guilt and condemnation upon me.

Each time, I quickly remind Satan that I know **THE POWER OF FORGIVENESS** that comes from trusting in the blood of Jesus, which was shed for the remission of my sins. I have frequently had to quote from these familiar Scriptures:

*"...if we walk in the light as He is in the light (if we practice the Truth by confessing our sins, and by faith, receiving God's forgiveness), we have fellowship with one another, and **THE BLOOD OF JESUS CHRIST HIS SON CLEANSSES US FROM ALL SIN** ... If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (from 1 John 1:7, 9).*

I am astounded at the grace and mercy of the Lord. Every morning when I wake up, I discover that those previous Scriptures are still there in the Bible. God did not remove them during the night. In fact, through the Prophet Jeremiah, the Holy Spirit once said:

*“Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions (his pity, and his mercies) never fail. **THEY ARE NEW EVERY MORNING**; great is your faithfulness.”* (Lamentations 3:22-23 NIV).

The guilt and condemnation that Satan tries to put upon people is not limited to veterans of war. He tries to put guilt trips upon God's People, who have never fought in wars, or never even served in the military.

Early in my ministry, a young lady came to see me for counseling. She was consumed with guilt and condemnation, and was convinced that the Lord could not, or would not forgive her. She would not tell me what sin she had committed, but very possibly the Holy Spirit revealed to me that the sin was **ABORTION**.

I counseled with this young girl many times, but to no avail. She just could not believe that God would forgive her.

A number of times, she telephoned me in the middle of the night, terrified, and convinced she was on her way to Hell. I was growing weary of seeing no results, and also growing weary of being awakened in the wee hours of the morning. I asked the Lord for some special wisdom, or a special word to deal with this matter.

The next time she called in the middle of the night, I told her to go, and get her Bible. When she returned, I told her to turn to 1 John 1:9 (see Scripture, bottom of page 49).

She said to me: *"I am familiar with that Scripture; I do not have to look it up."* I said to her: *"Look it up anyway."* She complained, and explained that she knew that Scripture by heart. I told her to find it anyway. She grumbled, and said: *"OK, I found the Scripture; now what?"*

I emphasized to her: *"Here is your problem; you do not **BELIEVE** that Scripture!"* She was annoyed, and responded with something like: *"I most certainly do; I am a Bible believing Christian!"*

I reemphasized: *"No, you do not **BELIEVE** that verse."* Still annoyed, she said: *"How do you know?"* I replied: *"If you truly believed that Scripture, you would not be calling me in the middle of the night."*

There was dead silence on the phone for a few moments, and finally she said: *“You are right.”*

Even though she could quote that Scripture from memory, she did not know **THE POWER OF FORGIVENESS**. The power comes by faith, by trusting in the shed blood of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of our sins. I told her the solution to her problem was simple: Make a decision to believe 1 John 1:9, and **PRACTICE** it.

Here is the problem many people face in such situations: They cannot get their **CONSCIENCE** clear, or clean. Listen to these words, which pertain to the temporary sacrifices that were offered under the Old Covenant (or, Old Testament):

*“...the gifts and sacrifices being offered (referring to animal sacrifices) were not able to **CLEAR THE CONSCIENCE of the worshiper.**”* (from Hebrews 9:9 NIV).

Just a few verses later, listen to **THE POWER OF FORGIVENESS**, which is available by trusting in the blood of Jesus:

*“How much more shall the **BLOOD OF CHRIST**, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, **CLEANSE YOUR CONSCIENCE** from dead works to serve the living God?”* (Hebrews 9:14).

God's grace abounds with **THE POWER OF FORGIVENESS**. Sometimes, his mercy is difficult to comprehend. In fact, sometimes his forgiveness almost seems unfair!

Even murderers awaiting execution on Death Row - if they repent - can experience **THE POWER OF FORGIVENESS**. If such people will turn away from the sins that put them on Death Row, and turn to Jesus, and trust in his sacrifice, and shed blood, they can be forgiven!

An astonishing Scripture from Romans 11:33 would be appropriate here:

*"Oh, the depth of the riches, both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! **HOW UNSEARCHABLE ARE HIS JUDGMENTS**, and His ways past finding out!"*

This brings us to some important questions: Are you feeling condemned, because of sins of the past? Are you being harassed by demons because of choices you made, which in hind-sight proved to be wrong? Are you being tormented by guilt and condemnation because of your past?

And, those questions lead to other questions: Did Jesus Christ die for nothing? Did he shed his blood for no reason?

As we have learned throughout this book, Jesus died for our sins, and shed his blood for our forgiveness. So, why are you allowing demons to torment you? Why are you allowing guilt and condemnation to rule your life?

We cannot go back in time, and correct the mistakes of the past, but we can take advantage of **THE POWER OF FORGIVENESS**.

Initially, **THE POWER OF FORGIVENESS** is available to all who will accept Jesus Christ as their Savior, and trust in his shed blood for the remission of their sins, and as a result, become a born again Christian.

Then – after you have been saved – when you commit sin, practice 1 John 1:9 (below ↓), **NOT TO GET SAVED AGAIN**, but to maintain fellowship with God, and continue to receive his forgiveness:

“If we confess our sins (if we will openly and honestly admit our sins), He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

By God’s Amazing Grace, you can experience **THE POWER OF FORGIVENESS** when you get saved, and continue to experience **THE POWER OF FORGIVENESS** after you are saved.

Chapter Nine

Saved from Wrath

*“But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since we have now been justified **BY HIS BLOOD**, how much more shall we be **SAVED FROM GOD'S WRATH** through him!”* (Romans 5:8-9 NIV).

Some people get upset when you start talking about the wrath of God. They want to view God as always being good, kind, loving, forgiving, and merciful. And, God is all of those things, but he is also a God of wrath.

So, why is God also a God of wrath? Here is the way most people think: *“I suppose God gets mad at us when we commit sin.”* Well, I believe God hates sin; but listen carefully to the following...

Actually, God gets angry when people reject his **REMEDY FOR SIN**. The above Scriptures say: *“...God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”*

Jesus Christ willingly became a sacrifice for all of mankind. He was cruelly crucified on a Roman Cross, and shed his blood to take away the sins of the whole world, and freely provide for us, a right standing before God, the Father. 1 John 2:2 says:

*“And He Himself is the **PROPITIATION** for our sins, and not for ours only but also **FOR THE WHOLE WORLD.**”*

Please notice the **bold**, CAPITALIZED word in the above Scripture: **PROPITIATION**. That word means Jesus Christ paid for our sins with his own blood, to the extent that God, the Heavenly Father was appeased, and he is no longer angry with those who trust in the blood of Jesus for the cleansing, and forgiveness of their sins.

However, when people reject this great gift of God’s love; then, **YES**, the Lord gets mad:

*“For the wages of sin (what we earn) is death, but **THE GIFT OF GOD** (the Free Gift of God’s grace and mercy) is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Romans 6:23).*

The big question is: Why would anyone reject this great gift from God, which not only provides us with forgiveness of our sins, but also secures for us: Eternal Life?

(See applicable Scripture ➤)

*“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have **EVERLASTING LIFE.**” (John 3:16).*

Now, we come to a **CRISIS**. You must make a **CHOICE**. You can accept God’s **REMEDY FOR SIN**, which is the sacrifice of his only begotten Son, and Jesus will actually pay for your sins, and you will escape the wrath of God.

Or, you can reject God’s remedy for sin, and you will experience the wrath of God, and pay for your own sins:

“The Son of Man (another identity of Jesus) will send out His angels (at the end of this age), and they will gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and those who practice lawlessness, and will cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears to hear, let him hear!” (Matthew 13:41-43).

Let me explain things another way: You must **MAKE PEACE WITH GOD**:

*“Therefore, having been justified by faith (which is accomplished by trusting in the blood of Jesus for the remission of your sins), **WE HAVE PEACE WITH GOD** through our Lord Jesus Christ.” (Romans 5:1).*

In John 3, verses 1-8, Jesus explained things another way. He said: "...*You must be born again.*"

In other words, we must have a **SPIRITUAL BIRTH**, not just a physical birth:

*"For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of **IMPERISHABLE** (thus, a spiritual birth), through the living and enduring word of God." (1 Peter 1:23 NIV).*

So, let's get very specific: How does someone make **PEACE WITH GOD**, and how does someone experience a **SPIRITUAL BIRTH**?

As I have emphasized throughout this book: Trusting in the blood of Jesus – which he shed for the remission of our sins – is essential to becoming a genuine, born again Christian. Without the blood of Jesus Christ, there is no Salvation!

Yet, there are also other requirements...

To become a Born Again Christian

You must believe in the **NAME** of the Lord Jesus Christ. There are many names, which people follow; names with whom they align themselves. To become a born again Christian, you must believe **ONLY** in the **NAME** of Jesus Christ.

(see applicable Scripture ↗)

*“He who believes in Him (whoever believes in Jesus) is not condemned (and, will not incur God’s wrath), but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in **THE NAME OF THE ONLY BEGOTTEN SON OF GOD.**” (John 3:18).*

Jesus confirmed this matter by declaring that he was the **ONLY** way to God:

“...I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.” (from John 14:6).

And, in Acts 4:12, the Apostle Paul further confirmed that Salvation is available **ONLY** in the **NAME** of Jesus Christ:

*“Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is **NO OTHER NAME** under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”*

To become a Born Again Christian

You must believe Jesus Christ was the **ONLY BEGOTTEN SON OF GOD** (see John 3:18 - above **↑**). Jesus was God Incarnate (or, God coming in the flesh). No other god has come in the flesh, and no other god will come in the flesh. Jesus is the only way. For confirmation, listen to Isaiah 43:10-11:

(see Scriptures, next page **↗**)

"You are My witnesses, says the Lord, and My servant whom I have chosen, that you may know and believe Me, and understand that I am He. Before Me there was no God formed, nor shall there be after Me. I, even I, am the Lord, and besides Me there is no Savior."

Author's Notes:

In some cultures, the people serve multiple false gods. When confronted with the claims of Jesus Christ, they will seemingly, readily accept him.

However, many times, they are not accepting Jesus as the **ONLY** begotten Son of God. They are just adding him to their long list of gods.

This is not genuinely accepting Christ, and those who practice such beliefs are not born again. Remember, Jesus said he was the **ONLY** way to God.

To become a Born Again Christian

You must **REPENT**. Repentance involves a change of mind, and requires a change of direction. Yet, repentance is not complicated. In its simplest form, repentance is **TURNING TO JESUS**, rather than turning away from him.

Or, we could say: Repentance is **TURNING TO THE TRUTH OF GOD'S WORD** (the Bible), and wholeheartedly embracing the sacrifice of the Lord Jesus Christ, and his shed blood; rather than turning away from the truth.

To become a Born Again Christian

You must believe in the Resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. Romans 10:9 says:

*“...if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus, and **BELIEVE IN YOUR HEART THAT GOD HAS RAISED HIM FROM THE DEAD**, you will be saved.”*

God is not dead! Jesus Christ is alive right now, and he is willing to come into your life, and cause a spiritual birth to take place.

To become a Born Again Christian

You must **CONFESS** with your mouth the Lord Jesus (see again, Romans 10:9 – above ↑). In other words, you must acknowledge with the words of your mouth that Jesus Christ is now your Savior, your Lord, and your God.

So, we come to the end of this little book, and to the best of my ability – with God’s help – I have explained the Gospel of Jesus Christ. If you would like to accept God’s love for you, rather than incur his wrath, then, on the following page is a prayer you can pray ↗

Oh, by the way, pray this prayer **OUT LOUD**, and **BOLDLY**. Do not be embarrassed, or ashamed. This is the most important decision of your life!

“Heavenly Father, I am astonished at your love. You sent Jesus Christ – your only begotten Son – into this world to die upon the cross to pay for my sins.

Heavenly Father, I repent from rejecting you, and from rejecting the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, and his shed blood for the remission of my sins. I choose to make peace with you. I choose to accept you, and receive your remedy for my sins.

Heavenly Father, I believe you raised Jesus from the dead. God is not dead; Jesus is alive right now, and by his Holy Spirit, he can come into my life, and cause a spiritual birth to take place.

Lord Jesus Christ, right now, I extend to you an invitation to come into my life, and wash away my sins with your blood, and cause me to experience a spiritual birth, and become a New Creation.

Thank you Lord Jesus. I am now born again, and from this time forth in my life, I confess that you, Jesus Christ, are my Savior, my Lord, and my God.

Amen!

Additional copies of this book
may be obtained from:

Jack Michael Outreach Ministries
P. O. Box 117
Clemmons, NC 27012 USA

This book is not for sale. It is given - free of charge - in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. However, if you would like to give an offering to Jack Michael Outreach Ministries, at the above address, it would be appreciated.

Ministry Teaching Letter

Jack Michael Outreach Ministries publishes a monthly Ministry Teaching Letter.

The teaching letter is brief, straightforward, and easily readable. It is available - free of charge - to all who desire to receive it, in the USA, and in foreign countries; especially to pastors and ministers of the Gospel. For those who desire to receive the Ministry Teaching Letter, **PLEASE REQUEST IT** from the above address.

About the Author

Jack Michael was born in 1944, in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. He grew up in an evangelical church, and prayed to receive Jesus Christ as Savior at an early age.

In 1968, when he graduated from college, Jack entered the United States Marine Corps. During a 10-year stay in the Marines, he served a combat tour of duty in the Vietnam War, and achieved the rank of Captain.

In 1976, due to the influence of other Marine Corps Officers, who were Spirit-filled Christians, Jack was baptized with the Holy Spirit. This strong experience, which was not taught in his childhood church, greatly changed his life, and propelled him into the ministry in November of 1978.

For 14 years, Jack served the Lord in Hawaii, serving in pastoral positions, and also conducting outreach ministry throughout the islands of Hawaii, and to other South Pacific island destinations, including: American Samoa, Fiji, Tonga, The Solomon Islands, and Western Samoa.

In 1992, Jack, and his wife, Barbara, and their two daughters moved back to North Carolina to be closer to aging parents. From his ministry base in North Carolina, he continued ministering to the diverse peoples who inhabit islands, conducting a number of ministry trips to Jamaica.

In 1997, Jack experienced another life changing event. During his first trip to Israel, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob powerfully influenced his heart, and imparted a love for Israel, and a love for God's original Chosen People.

May of 2000 brought the most dramatic change in the history of Jack's ministry. The Spirit of the Lord said to him: ***"I have called you as a Watchman on the Walls to the body of Christ."*** As a Watchman, he is fulfilling the unique calling of: **PREPARING GOD'S PEOPLE FOR THE END TIMES.**

FROM MY OBSERVATIONS

There is quite a lot of **PREACHING OF THE GOSPEL**, and rightly so! However, there is much less **EXPLAINING OF THE GOSPEL**.

The fact is; many unbelievers are turned-off by certain styles of preaching. I am convinced that more people would come to faith in Jesus Christ if only we would **EXPLAIN THE GOSPEL**.

In this short, easy to read book, to the best of my ability — with God's help — I have attempted to **EXPLAIN THE GOSPEL**.

It is my prayer that many people — who read this book — will accept Jesus Christ as their Savior, because they **UNDERSTAND THE GOSPEL**.

Jack Michael Outreach Ministries