

“BLOOD – BAPTISM”

The New Testament teaches **“salvation by the blood of Christ:”** *“Much more then, being now justified by his blood, shall we be saved from the wrath of God,”* Rom. 5:9; *“18 Knowing that ye were redeemed, not with corruptible things, with silver or gold, from your vain manner of life handed down from your fathers; 19 but with precious blood, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot even the blood of Christ,”* I Pet. 1:18-19. Often, those of the Church of Christ are told, *“You do not believe in salvation by the blood of Christ?”* Last week my article was on the subject of **“Washing & Baptism.”** I am sure someone will respond by saying, “See, you believe in salvation by baptism (water) and not by the blood of Christ. May I present the **whole picture?**”

The reason the New Testament presents **“baptism unto the remission of sins,”** Acts 2:38, that is what the Lord taught, Mk. 16:16: *“He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that disbelieveth shall be condemned.”* Jesus taught if a man wanted to be saved, he needed to be **baptized**. Jesus also taught salvation by his **blood**, Matt. 26:28: *“For this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many unto remission of sins,”* In Mk. 16:16 and Matt. 26:28 we have Jesus affirming **“baptism is essential to be saved;** yet he also affirms his **“blood is essential to salvation!”** When we put the two together, we find the “blood of Christ,” **is in “baptism!”** Consider the following material.

“We are buried therefore with him through baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we also might walk in newness of life,” Rom. 6:4. This passage affirms there is a **“newness of life,”** after baptism. I can understand that in baptism one has the remission of sins; and thus, would be walking in **“newness of life”** after baptism. But consider an additional thought about baptism. As the Lord **“died”** and was buried; so we **“die”** and are buried, Rom. 6:4. We were **“buried with”** the Lord and raised **“with”** the Lord, Rom. 6:4-11.

Baptism is a **re-enactment of the death, burial and resurrection of Christ!** The Lord died on the cross, he was buried and then was resurrected from the dead. So, in baptism, we die to sin and are buried, **with** the Lord and raised **with** the Lord. This is why it is stated: *“we walk in newness of life.”* This all happens in baptism. Jesus shed his blood in his death, we are baptized into his death; therefore, coming in association with the bloodshed in his death. This all is associated with baptism in water for the remission of our sins. It is the blood of Christ that produces the remission of sins in our life – through water baptism, Acts 22:16.

There is a consequence to those who believe baptism is not essential to salvation - they have never come in contact with the blood of Christ, and do not have the remission of sins! Can one explain how in **“faith only,”** one comes in contact with the blood of Christ? They have not and do not have the remission of sins!

God has **designated how we can contact the blood of Christ** and that is in water baptism, Rom. 6:3-11. As we come to understand this fact, you have the explanation of I Pet. 3:21, *“but the interrogation of a good conscience toward God.”* This simply means, when I learn the truth and conform to it by obeying it, I have a good conscience toward God; because, I know I have done what he wants me to do and feel I have been right in so doing.

We can never be right **doing** what is wrong and we will always be right **doing** what is right.

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