

By His Blood

by Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian Church

Revelations 1:5, "And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood."

Christianity has been called a bloody religion by some people around the world. I don't know about the different religions around the world, or how they think that a person should serve God, and how they think they would get to heaven. They don't understand why under the Old Testament there were animal sacrifices and then when we talk about the blood of Jesus, it seems to confuse them even more. I don't know if they think that they can make it by their works, or something else, but I'm thankful for Jesus and the blood He shed for me.

The truth of the matter is this - Jesus is the Savior of the world, the only Savior. **Acts 4: 12**, "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." If anyone has a hope of heaven he must come to Jesus and believe and obey Him. These reli-

gions that teach hate are led by man's ideas and help Satan to spread death and deception. Jesus teaches love and forgiveness and if we follow Him then we strive to practice this.

Praying a certain number of times in a day, chanting something at prescribed times, and doing certain religious deeds, won't get a person to heaven. Not for Christians, or for any other of the religions of the world. It takes faith in the Lord and obedience to His word. Some may wonder why the blood of Jesus is so important.

There are those who feel that they are pleasing to God simply by doing what they consider to be good works. They think that they don't do bad things so they must be doing good so they are pleased with themselves and figure that the Lord must be too. **Romans 10:3**, "For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God." To be saved from our sins we must let go of our ideas and trust the Lord. Only when we believe him and do as he commands can we be forgiven.

When we trust Him and obey what He tells us to do we are cleansed through faith by the blood he shed on the cross. **Romans 5:8-9**, "But God commendeth

his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him." Under the law it always required an animal that was perfect to be given as a sacrifice. To redeem us from our sins required a perfect sacrifice and Jesus was the only one without sin, making him the only one that could be the savior of mankind.

What we have either done, or not done, can't save us from our sins and make us acceptable unto God. Sure those who want to live for the Lord want and try to do what is right, but we know that it is what Jesus did that brought us salvation. I'm thankful for the love that God has for us in sending Jesus to redeem us from our sins. Christians are thankful for the Lord going to the cross and giving His life for us. Without His blood there would be no hope for any of us, no matter how good we tried to be.

We that are saved are not ashamed of the blood of Jesus, but extremely grateful that he loved us enough to die on the cross that we might live. A bloody religion they say, well it took the blood of the Lamb of God to save us. I'm glad that he loved us enough to go to the cross, without his sacrifice there could be no salvation.

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OTHNIEL, LEADING THE WARRIORS OF JUDAH, IS INTENT ON TAKING THE CITY OF KIR-JATH-SE-PHER, THE LAST STRONGHOLD OF THE GIANTS...

BUT THE WALLS ARE TOO HIGH - THE GIANTS WILL KILL US AS WE CLIMB THEM!

THE LORD HATH NOT LED US THIS FAR ONLY TO TURN AWAY FROM US NOW!

OTHNIEL! HOW LONG WILT THOU KEEP US HERE BEFORE ATTACKING? THE SUN BEATS FIERCELY ON THE MEN AND WEAKENS THEM!

THAT IS OUR ANSWER!

THE SUN IN THE SKIES SHALL BE OUR ALLY!

THOU STAND FORWARD - AND THOU! AND ALL MEN WITH BRAZEN SHIELDS!

AND NOW OTHNIEL GATHERS HIS MEN IN LONG RANKS AND, AS HE PASSES BEFORE THEM, HE PICKS OUT CERTAIN MEN!

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