

## **Introduction**

This month, we will be focusing on the Cross, the foundation of our belief system.

**Leviticus 17:11** For the life of a creature is in the blood, and I have given it to you to make atonement for yourselves on the altar; it is the blood that makes atonement for one's life.

When Adam and Eve fell, God covered them with skin, skin of lamb, i.e. lamb to be slaughtered and blood shed. That's the beginning of blood covenant. Blood makes atonement for sins. Cain and Abel were taught to bring offerings to God. Only Abel obeyed and brought offerings from his flock.

Noah was asked to bring 2 each of animals that were unclean and seven each of animals that were clean. The clean animals are for sacrificial use.

At Mt Moriah where God revealed Himself to Abraham, He was known as Jehovah Jireh. He would provide the sacrifice.

Before the children of Israel left Egypt, blood was applied to the door post for protection. At Mount Sinai, blood was sprinkled on the Israelites. In the tabernacle, the priest would sprinkle blood on the mercy seat. When Jesus died, the veil was torn apart and we now have access to the presence of God, doing so by the Blood.

### **1. Jesus is our Passover Lamb.**

#### **Exodus 12:12-13**

<sup>12</sup>For I will pass through the land of Egypt on that night, and will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I *am* the LORD. <sup>13</sup>Now the blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you *are*. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you; and the plague shall not be on you to destroy *you* when I strike the land of Egypt.

The Passover Lamb in **Exodus 12** for Israel was a type of Jesus as the Passover Lamb for the entire world.

#### **John 1:29, 36**

<sup>29</sup>The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!

<sup>36</sup>And looking at Jesus as He walked, he said, "Behold the Lamb of God!"

In the entire Old Testament, the blood shed via sheep and goats was temporal. The blood shed by Jesus was permanent. John said, He is the Lamb of God.

**Matthew 1:21** And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins."

It was prophesied to Mary that the baby would be called Jesus, to save people from sins, consequences and death. Jesus got to be killed for the sin of man. As in **1 Peter 1:19**, Jesus was likened to a lamb without blemish and without spot.

## 2. The Lamb of God had to be killed and blood shed for the forgiveness of sins.

**Ephesians 1:7** In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace

Why did Jesus have to die? God is righteous. No human being can accuse God of being unjust. He cannot break His laws and because He loves us and wants to rescue us, Jesus came to die so as to pay the consequences of sin, of the whole mankind, past, present and future. Why? Hebrews says in **Hebrews 9:22** that without shedding of blood, there is no remission. This points to the Holy Communion.

## The Lord's Supper

### 1. The Bread is the Body of Christ

#### **1Corinthians 11:23-26**

<sup>23</sup> For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread; <sup>24</sup> and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me."<sup>25</sup> In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

How do we apply the truth of the Holy Communion for victory day by day? God invites us to overcome. To the seven churches, He wants us to overcome. To do so, we must understand the divine exchange. What are the benefits and grace available to live the victorious life?

It was written in an article, "My Upmost for His Highest, that the central event in history is the Cross, the Lamb of God. Jesus came to die deliberately. The Cross was Jesus' purpose in coming. God becoming man would have no meaning without the cross. The purpose of the incarnation is redemption, taking sins away. The Cross is the central event in time and whole of eternity.

The bread: it tells us it's the body of Christ. He says, 'This is My body.' He didn't say, "This represents My body.' This is a spiritual transaction that takes place when we, by faith, take it. It is not a memory otherwise it is a waste of time.

#### **1 John 4:2-3**

<sup>2</sup> By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, <sup>3</sup> and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the *spirit* of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world.

The spirit of antichrist denies that Jesus came in the flesh and died on the Cross. Why? This is so as the devil wants to sow confusion and doubts. If Jesus didn't die, our faith will be in vain.

## 2. Understand the purpose for the bodily death of the Lord Jesus.

### A. He died for our salvation

**Hebrews 10:10** By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

#### **1 Corinthians 15:2-4**

<sup>2</sup> by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. <sup>3</sup> For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, <sup>4</sup> and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures,

**1 Corinthians 15:2-4** is the summary of the gospel. The wages of sin is death. On the Cross, the wrath of God exhausted on Him. He bore our sins. He died and rose again. We need to believe He died for our sins.

#### **Romans 10:9-10**

<sup>9</sup> that 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. <sup>10</sup> For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Our faith cannot be rested on the wisdom of man.

### B. He died to include us in His Body – the Body of Christ.

#### **1 Corinthians 12:12-13**

<sup>12</sup> For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also *is* Christ. <sup>13</sup> For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.

We were baptized, immersed, included into the universal Body of Christ. Here we gather as a local church but only those who have believed and received Him as Saviour are part of the Body. All of us should have this confidence that we are part of His Body.

**Romans 12:5** so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another.

We are related, one in the same family.

### C. He died to give us the life-giving Spirit

**1 Corinthians 15:45** “The first man Adam became a living being.” The last Adam (Jesus) became a life-giving spirit.

#### **Ezekiel 36:26-27**

<sup>26</sup> I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. <sup>27</sup> I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them.

We will be given a new spirit, meaning we are born again. When we have the Holy Spirit, we have everything. He dwells with us and becomes our along-sider. He is the Spirit of power and enables us to walk in victory, overcoming bondage and addiction. He is also the Spirit of love and enables us to have harmonious relationships, helping us to forgive. He gives us the spirit of a sound mind and grants us wisdom when we need it. He will give us instructions, writing the law upon our hearts and minds. He will guide us for every suggestion we need.

#### **D. He died so that we may have communion with Him and with one another.**

**1 Corinthians 10:16b** ... The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ?

**2 Corinthians 13:14** The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.

Communion is the fellowship with the Holy Spirit. It's so important to be belonging to a cell group, to encourage one another. When there is fellowship, there is spiritual life flowing.

**1 John 1:3** that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.

We also have communion with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. In the newsletter, we have the testimony of Ben. He is suffering from cancer and is being treated in Thailand. His mother belongs to a group and they have something in common. These prayed and provided money for Ben to have the treatment. In the newsletter, we read Ben's thank you note. He testified that he was not alone.

#### **E. He died for our bodily healing**

Healing is in the atonement.

##### **Matthew 8:16-17**

<sup>16</sup> When evening had come, they brought to Him many who were demon-possessed. And He cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all who were sick, <sup>17</sup> that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying: "He Himself took our infirmities and bore our sicknesses."

Matthew said that these might be fulfilled what was spoken by Isaiah. He died for our bodily healing. A sister shared about her experience when she attended Kingdom Invasion. At one point of the conference, she was by herself resting. Then she felt someone cracking her knee cap. It all happened in split seconds. She stood up and she was healed.

### **3. The Cup of wine is the Blood of Christ**

**1 Corinthians 11:25** In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

The cup symbolizes the Blood of Christ.

#### 4. Understand the purpose why blood must be shed.

##### A. His Blood was shed for the atonement/covering of our sins.

**Hebrews 9:22** And according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission.

The blood of the lamb covered, not cleansing the Israelites of their sins. It pointed to the ultimate sacrifice of Jesus.

**1 John 2:2** And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.

Propitiation simply means His blood covers our sin.

##### **Hebrews 10:19-22**

<sup>19</sup> Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, <sup>20</sup> by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh, <sup>21</sup> and having a High Priest over the house of God, <sup>22</sup> let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

This is the basis for us to have access into the Holy of Holies. Blood makes us righteous, meaning we have right standing. The veil is torn. Jesus is our high priest. We are no longer under guilt. The devil will always remind us of faults and sins, the quarrels and misunderstandings, offences and hurts so as to draw us away from God.

##### B. His Blood was shed to cleanse us from every defilement in our spirit and body.

##### **Psalm 51:2, 7, 10**

<sup>2</sup> Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.

<sup>7</sup> Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

<sup>10</sup> Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

The Blood covers and cleanses our sins. When someone sins, there is a sense of being contaminated. Sin defiles our spirit and body, resulting in sicknesses.

**Revelations 1:5** and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood ...

Atonement covers our sins. In the Old Testament, they didn't experience the cleansing. They only experience the propitiation. **1 John 1:9** says we are cleansed when we confess and repent. There is a teaching about hyper grace which says we don't even have to confess our sins. This is fuzzy theology. In the Old Testament, even the high priest got to go in with much preparation, washing his feet with water from the brazen laver before going into the holy place. Our sins are only forgiven if we confess and we will be forgiven as the price has been paid. The process of my cleansing is conditional upon my confession and repentance.

**Hebrews 9:14** 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?

Blood cleanses us from dead works.

### **C. His Blood gives us life**

**Leviticus 17:11** 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.

#### **1 Peter 1:18-19**

<sup>18</sup> knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, <sup>19</sup> but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.

We are redeemed with the power of the endless life.

#### **Colossians 2:12-13**

<sup>12</sup> buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead. <sup>13</sup> And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses ...

### **D. The Blood secures all the blessings of the new covenant.**

In the Old Testament, people suffered curses as consequences when they disobeyed. In the New Testament, we receive His blessings when we come to Him.

**1 Corinthians 11:25** In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pastor Daniel will be travelling and he believes he will be back. It's arrogance if we depend on self but it's faith conviction if we trust God to come through again and again.

**Ephesians 1:3** Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ.

This is the blessing of grace. The source is spiritual. The blessing is appropriated when we come boldly, confidently at the throne of God.

**Hebrews 4:16** Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Mercy is not getting what we deserve. Grace is getting what we don't deserve.

### **E. We overcome the evil one by His Blood.**

**Revelation 12:11** And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death.

Everyday, appropriate the Blood - plead the Blood of Christ. Pastor Daniel related about how a pastor 'drew' a blood line in the air, preventing the demons from disturbing him as he did deliverance.

### **Hebrews 2:14-15**

<sup>14</sup> Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, <sup>15</sup> and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.

Jesus holds the key of Hades and Death. (**Revelation 1:18**) He has come to release those in fear of death, fear of sickness or fear of not having enough.

### **F. The Blood of Christ reconciles all things in heaven and earth.**

**Colossians 1:20** and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross.

Life is in the blood and blood is calling out for revenge. In Manipur, many things are happening. The pastors started a Love Manipur movement. They came together, repented and appropriated the Blood. Only the Blood of Jesus could reconcile. If you come from a family where siblings fight, 9 out of 10 of these families are dysfunctional. One of the ways to approach this is to appropriate the Blood to seal the gap in the generational line.

### **Bottom Line**

#### **Jesus Our Passover Lamb**

### **John 6:53-56**

<sup>53</sup> 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. <sup>54</sup> Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and will raise him up at the last day. <sup>56</sup> He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him.

What Jesus said can be naturally repulsive. He is not talking about eating His human flesh. Here is the Lord inviting us to have Him digested into our lives. Colossians 3 tells us Christ is our life.

### **Summary**

- It is about coming to God, appropriating and securing everything.
- Why are we still in our struggles? It's because we are not eating and drinking of the Lord Jesus. His bodily death provides life, bodily healing. The Blood was shed to cover and cleanse. Life is meant to flow in the spirit, soul and body.
- We overcome the evil one.
- We stand in reconciliation.

End





4. Blood is for covering and cleansing. However, this is not an end in itself. What is it pointing us to? 1Peter 1:18 – 2:9.

5. Ephesians 1:3 says we are blessed with every spiritual blessing. What are some blessings that you are blessed with?