

Oh the Blood of Jesus!

(Why did Jesus have to die?)

Text: Hebrews 9:15-22

Main Idea: The death of Christ was necessary to inaugurate the New Covenant in keeping with God's standard for forgiveness!

1. So that He would qualify as the _____ of the New Covenant providing redemption for believers (& justification for God) under the _____ Covenant. (v. 15, Rom 3:24-26, Eph 4:8-9)
2. So that the _____ of God's blessing of eternal life could be released to Israel & all believers. (v. 16-17)
3. So that the standard covenantal _____ would be fulfilled. (v. 18-21)
 - Covenants are always _____ with blood. (v. 18)
 - The _____ Covenant was ratified with blood. (v. 19-21, Ex 24:1-8)
4. So that cleansing _____ could genuinely be available. (v. 22, Lev 17:11)

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Application Questions:

1. For Israel, it was nonsensical for their so-called Messiah to die. And yet the writer of Hebrews argues in 9:15-22 that He had to die. Can you list the four reasons why Jesus had to die?
2. Go back and read Exodus 24:1-8. How was the Old Covenant ratified? What did Moses do after he read the conditions of the covenant with Israel?
3. Since only Jesus' death was sufficient enough to forgive sins, what was the purpose of all the death and blood of bulls and goats? How did the fulfillment of all these OT regulations become an expression of faith for OT saints?
4. How were OT saints saved? When they died, how could God "justify" them when there was no actual sacrifice sufficient to forgive them? (Rom 3:25-26, Rev 13:8, 1 Pet 1:18-20)
5. There is a little confusion of terms in v. 16-17. The NASB, & KJV use the word "covenant" whereas the ESV & NIV clarifies the argument by using the word "will." The confusion arises because the word covenant is also used in v. 15 & 18. Do you see a difference in these words? What is a "will" or "testament?" When does the inheritance of a person's will get distributed?
6. What does this passage teach us about how costly our forgiveness is? Do you take your forgiveness for granted? How does one get forgiveness? Is becoming religious, tithing, baptism, & moral reformation good enough to obtain God's forgiveness? (See v. 22)
7. Why was the temptation of Christ by Satan in the wilderness (Matthew 4) such a big deal? Why was Jesus so harsh with Peter in Matthew 16:21-23 when Peter rebuked Jesus? What does Jesus say His blood is in Matthew 26:28?

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