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HAVE YOU BEEN WASHED IN THE BLOOD OF JESUS?

"And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood there is no remission." (Hebrews 9:22)

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

"For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins." (Matthew 26:28)

"...Unto Him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in His own blood..." (Revelations 1:5)

"And now why tarriest thou? Arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord." (Acts 22:16)

"Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into His death?" (Romans 6:3)

It should be very clear from these scriptures that there is an inseparable connection between the blood of Christ, His death, and baptism! It is when a person is baptized into the death of Christ, wherein His blood was shed, that the blood of Jesus washes away a person's sins. **AND NOT BEFORE!** This is why baptism is necessary for salvation; without it a person remains in his or her sins. **HAVE YOU TRULY HAD YOUR SINS WASHED AWAY BY THE BLOOD OF JESUS CHRIST BY BEING BAPTIZED INTO HIS DEATH?** If not, then why tarriest thou?

ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S BIBLE QUESTIONS:

The name of the man in the Old Testament who had a son who was very strong was Manoah. His son's name was Samson and the secret of his strength was in his long hair. Delilah deceived Samson into making known this secret to her. (Judges 15-16)

Romans 13 is the chapter that speaks of the civil government's authority to carry out the death penalty. Jesus recognized this authority when Pilate said he had the authority to put Jesus to death and Jesus responded by saying ***"Thou couldst have no authority at all against me, except it were given thee from above..."*** (John 19:10-11)

QUESTIONS FOR THIS MONTH:

What two prophets of God in the Old Testament both wished that they had never been born? (Why did they think this way?)

What book in the New Testament speaks of a runaway slave who becomes a Christian? (What is the slave's name and who converted him to Christ?)

SALT AND LIGHT!

In Matthew 5:13-14 Jesus says that His followers are the ***"salt of the earth"*** and the ***"light of the world."*** Salt and light are both influencing agents. Salt influences the way food tastes and light influences the amount of darkness that is found in a room. Jesus is simply teaching us that as Christians we are to be a good influence on those people that we come in contact with. It is possible however for us, as Christians not to live the way that we are supposed to live and thus become like the ***"salt that is good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men."*** And when we do not live as we ought to live, then our lights are not shining brightly and we show no one the way to Jesus Christ. Furthermore, we deprive God of the glory that he so richly deserves.

Let us answer this important question: **"What kind of influence are we having on other people such as our spouses, our children, and our neighbors?"** Is it possible that we will lead someone to Christ through our example? Are we having the impact on our children like Lois and Eunice had on Timothy? (2 Timothy 1:5-6) This is certainly food for thought. This is something that we should be mindful of each and every day of our lives!

WHY I WANT TO GO TO HEAVEN?

First and foremost I want to go to Heaven because ***“that is where God is at!”*** I want to thank the Father for ***“loving me, and giving His only son Jesus to die for my sins!”*** (John 3:16) I want to thank Jesus for ***“loving me so much that He would suffer and die for me!”*** (John 15:13) And I want to thank the Holy Spirit for ***“loving me and giving the world the word of God so that I could learn how to be saved!”*** (Romans 1:16)

Secondly, I want to go to Heaven because it will be ***“the most beautiful place that a person could ever be. There will be no sickness, no sorrow, no more pain, no more tears, and no more death!”*** (Revelations 21:1-4) It will be a place of ***“great joy.”*** (Matthew 25:21) It is a place of ***“glory, honor, and immortality, eternal life.”*** (Romans 2:7)

Thirdly, I want to go to Heaven because I will be able to ***“meet all of God’s faithful children that I have read about all my life in the Bible!”*** (Hebrews 11) It would be interesting to talk to Daniel or to Noah or even to Mary the mother of Jesus. I want to be with these people who set such wonderful examples for me to follow in my effort to please God.

And fourthly, I want to be ***“reunited with my brothers and sisters in Christ that I had such wonderful fellowship with here on earth!”*** We will be able to continue in that fellowship forever in Heaven. (1 John 1:3-4)

And fifthly, I want to go to Heaven to be ***“reunited with my loved ones who died in the Lord!”*** (1st Samuel 12:23/1st Thessalonians 4:13-18) Think of it brethren; seeing those people who were such an important part of our lives here on earth and being able to see them again and never having to say goodbye! What a wonderful day that will be!

And last, but not least, I want to go to Heaven ***“because I do not want to go Hell! It is indeed the most horrible place that one could ever imagine; a place of eternal punishment and pain.”*** (Matthew 25:46/2 Thessalonians 1:7-9)

Let us be thankful unto God that through the ***“gift of His only begotten Son Jesus, we are able to have the forgiveness of sins and the hope of eternal life!”*** (Romans 6:23/1 Peter 1:3-5)

Have you ever really thought about why you want to go to Heaven? It should be those reasons that help to keep us faithful to our God and faithful to our calling as children of God!