Topic: The Blood of the Lamb

Bible Reading: Revelation 5:1-13

Introduction

Blood is the red liquid that circulates in the heart, arteries, capillaries and veins of humans and other vertebrate animals, carrying nourishment and oxygen to all parts of the body and bringing carbon dioxide or waste products from the tissues of the body. It can also be described as the red fluid in the body that contains white and red blood cells, platelets, proteins and other elements. The blood is transported throughout the body by the circulatory system and it functions in two directions namely the arterial and venous.

The Bible stated that "And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being" Genesis 2:7. Since 'The breath of life' is spiritual and invisible, the blood is the physical indication of the breath of life. It is the blood that signifies 'The breath of life.' It was demonstrated by the story of Abel and Cain. After Cain murdered Abel, God said "What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood cries out to Me from the ground. So now you are cursed from the earth, which opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand" Genesis 4:10-11. God cursed Cain for killing his brother, so do not shed innocent blood if you don't want to be cursed. 'Breath of life' is the property of God; life which is the blood belongs to God, so do not take the life that you cannot create. Do not shed the blood of the innocent else you will not go unpunished.

Remember that "Whoever sheds man's blood, by man his blood shall be shed; for in the image of God He made man" Genesis 9:6. Since God created humans to be like Himself, He will punish whoever takes a human life (unlawfully) by death. For this reason, "You shall not pollute the land where you are; for blood defiles the land, and no atonement can be made for the land, for the blood that is shed on it, except by the blood of him who shed it"

Numbers 35:33. Keep bloodshed/murder out of your land! Keep your community/nation pure, and never pollute wherever you live with blood.

Shedding of blood and eating of blood are not acceptable to God, because the life is in the blood, so do not eat any meat/flesh with its blood. The scripture says "But you shall not eat flesh with its life, that is, its blood" Genesis 9:4.

Therefore, you must not consume any of the animals' blood, but you must pour it on the ground just like water. It is the command of the Lord that you must not eat the blood of any animal, but let the blood drain out on the ground. As it is written "Only you shall not eat the blood; you shall pour it on the earth like water"

Deuteronomy 12:16. Henceforth, do not consume blood in the guise of medication, edible things or drinks because it is against the directives of the Lord.

When Saul misbehaved and disobeyed the instructions of the Lord, God took the throne of Israel from him and appointed David as the King of Israel 18 amuel 13:13-14. King Saul's action made God to remove him and replaced him with David to rule in Israel. Then God made this statement "I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after My own heart, who will do all My will" Acts 13:22. Despite the fact that God referred to David as 'A man after My own heart' He was denied the privilege to build a house for God. David was forbidden to build a house for the name of God because he had killed too many people in battle.

God did not consider that David was a soldier, and he shed many blood in self-defense as a warrior, but He refused to allow David to build a temple to honor His name. The Bible says "But God said to me, 'You shall not build a house for My name because you have been a man of war and have shed blood" 1 Chronicle 28:3. God sent Nathan to David saying "You have shed much blood and have made great wars; you shall not build a house for My name, because you have shed much blood on the earth in My sight" 1 Chronicles 22:8. If David who is called the 'Man after My own heart' was disqualified from building a temple for the Lord because he had killed too many people in battle, then you will realize the degree of hatred which God has for bloodshed. For this reason, it is better to avoid bloodshed even if it is for self-defense so that God will not deny you certain opportunities.

Characteristics of the Blood

The blood has several qualities, but we shall only discuss some of them because of time constraint.

<u>Deliverance and salvation purposes:</u> God instructed the people of Israel living in the Land of Goshen in Egypt to kill unblemished male, a year-old sheep or goat per household, and put some of the blood of the animals on the two doorposts, and on the lintel of the house where they will eat the animal/Passover <u>Exodus 12:5-7.</u> The purpose of the blood on their doorposts was to serve as a sign, marking the houses where they are staying for the Passover so that when the Lord sees the blood, He will pass over them, and the plague of death of first-born will neither touch them nor come into their abode, when the Lord strike and punish the land of Egypt <u>Exodus 12:12-13.</u> The blood on the door post is for salvation purposes because God used it to save the lives of the people of Israel while the Egyptians perished.

For consecration and covenant purposes: The Bible says "Moses took half the blood and put it in basins, and half the blood he sprinkled on the altar. Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read in the hearing of the people. And they said, 'All that the Lord has said we will do, and be obedient'. And Moses took the blood, sprinkled it on the people, and said 'This is the blood of covenant which the Lord has made with you according to all these words'" Exodus 24:6-8. Moses used the blood to consecrate the altar and to seal the covenant of God with the people of Israel.

<u>Sanctification and dedication:</u> God said to Moses "And you shall take some of the blood that is on the altar, and some of the anointing oil, and sprinkled it on Aaron and on his garments, on his sons and on the garments of his sons with him, and he and his garments shall be hallowed, and his sons and his sons; garments with him" <u>Exodus 29:21.</u> It is evident that blood was used to sanctify Aaron, his sons and their garments. "Then Moses took some of the anointing oil and some of the blood which was on the altar, and sprinkled it on Aaron, on his garments, on his sons, and on the garments of his sons with him: and he consecrated Aaron, his garments, his sons, and the garments of his sons with him" <u>Leviticus 8:30.</u>

Atonement purposes: Before the coming of Jesus Christ into this world, God gave us the privilege to use the blood of animals to sacrifice in place of our own blood since life is in the blood. The life of every living thing is in the blood, and that is why the Lord commanded that all blood be poured out on the altar to take away people's sins. It is only the blood which is the life that take away sins as it is written "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" Leviticus 17:11. Do not forget that blood is not for your consumptions but you have been given the blood to be used to sacrifice on the altar to purify you and make you right with the Lord. Remember, it is the blood given in exchange for a life that make purification possible.

Commandments concerning Blood

Do not eat blood: God commanded the people of Israel never to use the blood of birds or animals for food wherever they live. Which means, Christians must not consume any blood whatsoever, whether the blood of birds or animals according to the scripture which says, "Moreover you shall not eat any blood in any of your dwellings, whether of bird or beast" Leviticus 7:26. Therefore, the consumption of blood in any form is forbidden by the Lord God your Creator. "Therefore, I said to the children of Israel 'No one among you shall eat blood, nor shall any stranger who dwells among you eat blood.' Whatever man of the children of Israel, or the strangers who dwell among you, who hunts and catches any animal or bird that may be eaten, he shall pour out its blood and cover it with dust" Leviticus 17:12-13. Pay attention to this warning, do not eat blood but drain the blood of any animal/bird before eating and cover it with dirt/soil. You must never eat life with the meat/flesh. The Bible says "Only be sure that you do not eat the blood, for the blood is the life; you may not eat the life with the meat" **Deuteronomy 12:23.** Harken to the voice of your Creator and cease consuming blood. "This shall be a perpetual statue throughout your generations in all your dwellings: you shall eat neither fat nor blood" Leviticus 3:17. This law will never change, and it is a rule to be kept forever by believers wherever they live; they and their descendants must never eat fat or blood, not even in the privacy of their homes. It is a permanent law to be observed from generation to generation.

The punishment for blood consumption: You were forbidden from eating blood, else, you will no longer belong to the people of God. Since the life of every creature is its blood, then you must not consume the blood of any creature, else you will be cut off from the assembly/congregation of the people of God. It is written "For it is the life of all flesh. Its blood sustains its life. Therefore, I said to the children of Israel, 'You shall not eat the blood of any flesh, for the life of all flesh is its blood. Whoever eats it shall be cut off" Leviticus 17:14. Never forget whoever eat or drink blood will be cut off from the community of the saints. The Lord will turn against anyone who consumes blood; He will oppose the person and eliminate such person from His people according to the Bible passage which says "And whatever man of the house of Israel, or of the strangers who dwell among you, who eats any blood, I will set My face against that person who eats blood, and will cut him off from among His people" Leviticus 17:10. Whether you are a believer or not, do not consume blood so that you will not be banished from the people of God. Be warned, since the Lord prohibited the consumption of blood in any manner; do not break this law, else, you will no longer be considered as one of God's people. The scripture says "Whoever eats any blood, that person shall be cut off from his people" Leviticus 7:27. For this reason, do not consume blood.

Women are unclean during their impurity: When a woman has her monthly period, she remains unclean for seven day. Anyone who touches her must sanctify himself/herself and remain unclean until evening. Whenever a woman has her regular flow of blood (menstruation), the impurity of her monthly period will last seven days and anyone who touches her will be unclean till evening Leviticus 15:19. Women must realize that they are unclean during their menstrual period. Any woman who has a flow of blood outside her regular monthly period is unclean until it stops, just as she is during her monthly period. If a woman has a flow of blood for many days that is unrelated to her menstrual period or not during the time of her menstruation, or if her impure discharge continues, she shall be as she is in the days of her normal menstrual impurity; she is unclean Leviticus 15:25. Our mothers must take note of this important information so as not to defile the sacred/consecrated things or locations in the Church of God.

We shall examine the Bible passages which stated how our Creator abhors the shedding of innocent blood.

God abhors bloodshed

As previously discussed, blood consumption is forbidden so also is bloodshed which God hates with passion. The Lord God detests bloodshed, and anyone with bloodstained hand can never have a secure relationship with God unless such person repents quickly. **Bloodshed is a grievous offense in the presence of God**, therefore whoever shed blood must genuinely seek Him through fasting and prayer, else such person might miss the kingdom of heaven. 'In a nut shell,' unless one is clear of the guilt of bloodshed, it is impossible to have eternal life.

God desire mercy not sacrifice: Oppression and injustice is prevalent in the world today, and they usually lead to untimely death or bloodshed which God hates. These oppressors usually think they can bribe God. So, after their heinous actions, like embezzlement of the nation's fund, fraud, denial of rights and justice etc., then they will go to the churches to donate money or make sacrifices. These people lack knowledge because if God is hungry, He will neither tell such people nor ask such people for food, and moreover, the world and everything in it belongs to Him. God don't eat the meat of bulls or drink the blood of goats. His food is thanksgiving from a pure heart. Therefore, make thankfulness your sacrifice to God because the only sacrifice He wants is for you to be thankful and pay your vow **Psalm 50:12-14.** It is written "To what purpose is the multitude of your sacrifice to Me?' says the Lord. 'I have had enough of burnt offerings of rams and the fat of fed cattle. I do not delight in the blood of bulls, or of lambs or goats" Isaiah 1:11. Your sacrifices mean nothing to God without repentance. He does not have pleasure in your offerings of rams and choice cattle; unless you stop the bloodshed, and without obedience, your offering is not acceptable to Him. For this reason, God desire and delight in steadfast loyalty and faithfulness in the covenant relationship rather than sacrifice, and the knowledge of God and acquaintance with Him, more than burnt offerings. "For I desire mercy not sacrifice, and the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings" Hosea 6:6, Matthew 9:13.

God appointed watchmen: God in His infinite wisdom knew that we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places Ephesians 6:12. Since our Creator knew that we are not contending with humans or physical opponents but against the wicked spiritual forces in the heavenly places and cosmic powers of this dark age. Therefore, He appointed the prophets, pastors, priests, and men of God as watchmen to warn us of any impending danger. Those who heed their warnings and take appropriate steps to rectify the situation are the Children of the kingdom of God, while those who refuse to harken or yield to their warnings are the children of hell.

The duty of the watchmen is to hear messages from the Lord and deliver them to warn the nations of the world. The watchmen were appointed to hear what God says, and warn the inhabitants of the world for Him. If God announce that some wicked people are going to die and the watchmen failed to tell them to change their ways so that they can save their lives, then they will die in their sins and God will hold the watchmen responsible for their deaths. Whenever God pronounce a death sentence on wicked people and the watchmen did not warn them to turn from their sinful way, they will die in their guilt, but God will hold the watchmen responsible for their blood. Nevertheless, if the watchmen warn the wicked to repent and they do not repent, they will die in their sins, but the watchmen have saved their lives by their action. On the other hand, if the watchmen warn the wicked to turn from their sinful ways, but they are adamant, then they die in their guilt and their blood will be upon themselves but the watchmen will be innocent of their blood Ezekiel 33:7-9. There are many authentic watchmen in the world today, but the celebrities, the wealthy and the influential people always look down on them. They always ignore the messages from God sent by the watchmen, because of their educational background, financial status and post/position in the community/nation. These people must realize that unless they heed the warnings of the watchmen, they will die in their sin/guilt and their blood will be upon them.

The bloody cities of the world: The crime rate is increasing throughout the world because people do not listen to the watchmen, and bloodshed is

occurring all over the world at an alarming rate. Therefore, the Lord is coming from heaven to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their wickedness, sin, injustice and wrongdoing. The earth will disclose the innocent blood shed upon her and will no longer cover her slain or conceal her guilt. It is a fact; the Lord is coming from His heavenly dwelling place to punish the people of the world for their shortcomings. The murders that were secretly committed (through hired assassins and secret executions) on earth will be revealed, and the ground which drank the blood will no longer hide those who have been killed **Isaiah** 26:21. The bloodshed is widespread throughout the world to the extent that many of the metropolitan cities across the globe are like the Biblical city of Gilead. Some of the metropolitan cities are cities of evildoers that are tracked by bloody footprints. They are cities of wrongdoers that are polluted with blood. Nowadays, most of the metropolitan cities can be described as cities of troublemakers that have some inhabitants whose hands are stained with blood Hosea 6:8. People who live in most of these cities are accepting bribes in order to shed blood, they are taking interest rate and percentage of increase; they are gaining from their neighbors by oppression and extortion due to their greediness, and they have forgotten everything about God and His teachings Ezekiel 22:12. Since these cities are filled with hired murderers, loan racketeers and extortioners, and their inhabitants never think about the Lord their Creator; therefore, God will give them a bloodbath since they show no distaste for blood. As it is written, "Therefore, as I live, says the Lord God, 'I will prepare you for blood, and blood shall pursue you; since you have not hated blood, therefore blood shall pursue you" Ezekiel 35:6. Since these cities cannot bear to live without bloodshed, then God will hand them over to bloodshed and bloodshed will pursue them. Therefore, woe to the cities of bloodshed, says the Lord God; I myself will make the pile of kindling large. God will punish the bloody cities, He will make a huge bonfire to accelerate their destruction since they refuse to repent Ezekiel 24:9. Woe to the bloodguilt cities and the cities of murderers are doomed says the Bible.

The wicked people in the world: The wicked people do not have conscience; their hands are stained with blood and their fingers with crime. Their lips always speak lies, their tongues usually mutter malice and their mouths utter wicked things. The scripture says "For your hands are defiled with blood, and your fingers with iniquity; your lips have spoken lies, your tongue has muttered

perversity" Isaiah 59:3. Inasmuch as the wicked are guilty of lying, violence and bloodshed/murder, and their mouth spew corruption, it means they are always in a hurry to do wrong or murder innocent victims. All they think about is sin; they usually leave ruin and wretchedness wherever they go. As it is written "Their feet run to evil, and they make haste to shed innocent blood, their thoughts are thoughts of iniquity; wasting and destruction are in their paths" Isaiah 59:7. Now that you know the thoughts of the wicked are sinister, and their paths lead to havoc and misery, then you will realize that the wicked lack the knowledge of God. That is why cursing, dishonesty, murder, robbery, unfaithfulness and adultery are rampant in their habitation; they commit one act of bloodshed after another as if it is 'going out of fashion.' The Bible says "By swearing and lying, killing and stealing and committing adultery, they break all restraint, with bloodshed upon bloodshed" Hosea 4:2. Therefore, God will shake His fist in anger at their violent crimes, at the ill-gotten gain that they have acquired and at the bloodshed which is among them according to the scripture which says "Behold, therefore, I beat My fists at the dishonesty profit which you have made, and at the bloodshed which has been in your midst" Ezekiel 22:13.God will certainly punished them because of their dishonest gain and bloodshed.

Consequences of bloodshed: Woe to the people who build their city/nation with/through bloodshed, and their community through iniquity. The people who build their homes through blood-money and their business through exploitation will be doomed. Cursed is anyone who founded his/her home/house on crime and built it up by bloodshed/murder Habakkuk 2:12. Do not forget that any city built with wages of bloodshed and corruption will not know peace and God will punish such city for the bloodshed. Any land that is polluted with bloodshed/murder and the worship of idols will have the fury of God as her portion. The Bible says "Therefore I poured out My fury on them for the blood they had shed on the land, and for their idols with which they had defiled it" Ezekiel 36:18. For this reason, no matter how much the people pray, God will not listen because they have shed blood and they fail to repent. It is written, "When you spread out your hands, I will hide My eyes from you; even though you make many prayers, I will not hear. Your hands are full of blood" Isaiah 1:15. If you want God to listen to your prayers and give you favorable answers, depart from bloodshed.

The beloved will be relieved: God will never leave or forsake the beloved, and He will never put them in a situation whereby the unbeliever will ask them that 'Where is their God?' But He will make known among the unbelievers, His vengeance for the spilled blood of His beloved. The scripture says "Why should the nations say, 'Where is their God?' Let there be known among the nations in our sight the avenging of the blood of Your servants which has been shed" Psalm 79:10. God will never leave the chance for the unbelievers to scoff at the beloved or ridicule their faith. In fact, He will give them appropriate punishment for shedding the blood of His beloved. God will remember His beloved and avenge their blood that was unjustly shed. He will never forget their cries of affliction and abuse. Our God will never forget those who are suffering; He will listen to their cries and deliver them; however, He will never fail to punish the guilty people who are oppressing them. The Bible says "When He avenges blood, He remembers them; He does not forget the cry of the humble" **Psalm 9:12.** Be rest assured that God never ignore the cries of the beloved who are suffering but He will redeem their souls from deceit, oppression and violence, and their blood will be precious and costly in His sight. Since God cares when any of His beloved is hurt, therefore, He will rescue them from fraud, maltreatment and extortion. As it is written "He will redeem their life from oppression and violence; and precious shall be their blood in His sight" Psalm 72:14. Since the lives of His beloved are important to Him, God will save them from their cruel people who are trying to hurt them. And He will make those who are oppressing them to consume themselves in mutually destructive wars, by eating their own flesh and they will be drunk with their own blood like sweet wine; then all the world will realize that God is the Savior, the Redeemer and Mighty One of Jacob who rescues His beloved. God will make the oppressors of His beloved to kill each other; they will dine on their own flesh and get drunk from their own blood. Then the world will know that He is the Lord who save and set free His beloved. they will realize that the powerful God of Israel has rescued His beloved Isaiah 49:26. Therefore, do not touch the beloved of God if you do not want His fury.

We need to make to understand that Jesus Christ our Lord is the Lamb of God. We will also examine some passages in the Bible to support and confirm this fact.

Jesus Christ the Lamb of God

Jesus Christ the Lamb of God came into this world to fulfill the laws and establish the covenant of God His Father. He came to give mankind hope and life by setting the captives of the mighty forces of the darkness free. The Lamb came to destroy the perfected and finished works of the devil. Therefore, we that were chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father by the sanctifying work of the Spirit to be obedient to Jesus Christ our Lord, and to be sprinkled with His blood: may grace, blessing and peace together with the sense of spiritual well-being be yours in increasing abundance, as you walk closely with God 1 Peter 1:2. So, for those of us who were elected and purified by the blood of the Lamb, we must not misuse this privilege so that grace and peace will be ours in full measure.

The scripture stated that Jesus Christ was the true and genuine Light that came into the world to enlighten everyone. He was the perfect and steadfast Light who illuminated the world and gave light to the inhabitants of the world. He was in the world and though the world was created through Him, yet the world did not recognize Him. When Christ came into this world, the world neither knew nor identified Him as their Creator, even though God made this world through Him, He came to His own people and they did not receive Him but rejected Him. To those who believed Him and accepted Him, Jesus Christ gave them the power and the privilege to become the children of God. The people who were born, not of the blood which is natural conception (bloodline) or of the will of the flesh which is physical impulse or of the will of man which is through a natural/biological father, but of God, which is a divine and supernatural birth. Such people are born of God; they are spiritually transformed, renewed and sanctified John 1:9-13. Those that Christ gave the authority and the right to become the children of God are the people that are reborn, not with physical birth resulting from human passion or plan, but a birth that comes from God.

<u>The Lamb of God:</u> John the Baptist looked at Jesus Christ as He walked by and declared that "Behold the Lamb of God" <u>John 1:36.</u> John further confessed that Jesus Christ is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world <u>John 1:29.</u> From the testimony of John, it is evident that Jesus Christ is the Lamb of God

who carried away and erased the sins of the world. This fact was also corroborated by the Bible passage which says "He was clothed with a robe dipped in the blood, and His name is called Word of God" Revelation 19:13.

Jesus Christ was the Lamb of God who was killed for the sins of the world.

Without shedding of blood there is no forgiveness: Before Jesus Christ came into this world, people are using the animals to sacrifice for their sins according to the Law that God gave to Moses. When Jesus Christ came into this world, He said, God His Father does not want animal sacrifices or sin offerings anymore because God has prepared His body to be sacrificed for remission of sins. Since God neither had pleasure nor is pleased with animal sacrifices and sin offerings which are temporary solution, nevertheless, He used the animals to signify the coming of His Son who will sacrifice Himself to save humanity. This event happened according to the design of God and in order to fulfill the scripture. As it is written "Then I said, 'Behold I have come—in the volume of the book it is written of Me—To do Your will, O God" Hebrews 10:5-7, Psalm 40:8. Jesus Christ the Lamb of God came to this world to use His blood as atonement for mankind because according to the law, almost everything must be purified to cleansed with blood, and without shedding of blood, there is no forgiveness. This means if blood is not shed, people will neither be released from their sins and its guilt nor will they be granted cancellation of the merited punishment for their sins Hebrew 9:22.

The Book of Revelation testified to this fact by stating the events at the end of age. John the apostle saw in the right hand of God the Father who sat on the throne a scroll written inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals. Then He saw a strong angel announcing with a loud voice "Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?" And no one in heaven, or on earth or under the earth or in the realm of the dead, or Hades was able to open the scroll or take a look at its contents. But one of the elders said to him, "Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals." Then, "John looked, and behold in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as though it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent out into the earth. Then He came and took the scroll out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne" Revelation 5:1-7. Only Jesus

Christ the Lamb of God is worth, and have the authority and virtue to open the scroll. He is the only being except His heavenly Father, who deserves to break its seals because He died so that we His creations can live. Christ is the only being who is entitled and morally fit to break the seals because His blood was shed to redeem and reconcile mankind to His heavenly Father.

Lamb of God is the mediator of the New Covenant: Before Jesus Christ the Lamb of God came into this world, Moses told the people of Israel according to the directives of God to take a year old, unblemished lamb per family and kill the Passover Lamb. Then put the blood of the lamb on the lintel and the doorposts of the house where they will eat the Passover, and not to go out of the house until the morning of the next day because the Lord will pass through the land of Egypt and kill the firstborn of the Egyptians and their animals; and when the Lord sees the blood mark on the house, He will pass over and will not allow the destroyer to come into the house to strike them Exodus 12:21-23. God used the lamb's blood that was killed to save the people of Israel. It is to signify that Christ the Lamb of God will give salvation to the entire world. Since the blood of bulls and goats are powerless and incapable of taking the sins of people away; as it is written "For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins" Hebrews 10:4. Therefore, do not deceive yourself, only the blood of the Lamb of God can wash/take away your sins. For this reason, Jesus Christ became the Mediator of a new covenant uniting God and man; and to the sprinkled blood which speaks of mercy and grace. A better, noble and more gracious message than the blood of Abel which cried out for vengeance Hebrews 12:24. Do not forget that the blood of the Lamb promises much better things and speaks of forgiveness instead of crying out for vengeance like the blood of Abel.

The first covenant was faulty

The first covenant was dedicated with blood of animals, after Moses proclaimed to the people all the commandments as set forth in the law. Then he took the blood of the animals, mixed it with water and sprinkled it on the book of the law and the people saying, "This is the blood of the covenant which God commanded you." Then he sprinkled the tabernacle and all the vessels with blood <u>Hebrews</u> <u>9:18-21.</u> We need to know that the bodies of those animals, whose blood is

brought into the sanctuary by the high priest for sins, are burned outside the camp. Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant also suffered and died outside the city gate in order to purify and consecrate the people who believe in Him, through the shedding of His own blood, and set them apart as holy for God Hebrews 13:11-12.

It must be noted that if nothing is wrong with the first covenant, there would have been no need for a second one. The Bible says "For if the first covenant had been faultless, then no place would have been sought for a second" Hebrews 8:7. The first covenant which was the sacrificing of the animals and using their blood for atonement was faulty. Therefore, God sent His Son to die, so that His blood which is better than that of bulls and goats will be used for remission of sins. For this reason, Jesus Christ is the Mediator and Negotiator of a new covenant that is uniting God and man so that those who have been called by God will receive the fulfillment of the promised everlasting inheritance; since Christ died to set them free from the penalty of the sin, they had committed under the first covenant. The scripture says "And for this reason He is the Mediator of the new covenant, by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions under the first covenant, that those who are called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance" Hebrews 9:15. It is the blood of Jesus Christ that served as payment which redeems the elect/beloved from the sins they have committed under the obsolete first covenant and fulfill the promise of the perpetual inheritance.

The Lamb is the Covenant of God to mankind

God is not a man, that He should lie, nor a son of man, that He should repent. Has He said, and will He not do? Or has the spoken, and will he not make it good?" Numbers 23:19. God will never betray His covenant, it is people who usually betray the covenant of God. God will set free the people held in captivity by the darkness because of His covenant. For the sake of His covenant with His people which was sealed with blood, He will release His people from spiritual slavery and rescue them from terrestrial power. As it is written "As for you also, because of the blood of your covenant, I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit" Zechariah 9:11. It is for this reason that Isaiah prophesied about Jesus the Lamb of God saying "The Spirit of the Lord"

God is upon Me, because the Lord has anointed Me to preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound" <u>Isaiah 61:1.</u> The Lamb of God is the only covenant that is abundantly able to set the captives of the mighty free with His blood.

God made another perpetual covenant with mankind through the Holy communion by spiritually feeding on the body of the Lamb and drinking His blood. After the last supper with His disciples, Jesus took the cup and said "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me" 1 Corinthians 11:25. Therefore, whenever you are participating in Holy Communion, you are carrying out the command of Christ. The cup we bless at the Lord's table signifies that we are sharing in the blood of Christ and the bread we break signifies that we are sharing in the body of Christ 1 Corinthians 10:16. Participation in Holy communion means you are united with Christ and have fellowship with Him. Therefore, take note that the flesh/body of Christ is spiritual food and His blood is spiritual drink that give eternal life because anyone who eats His flesh/body and drinks His blood abides and remains in Christ, and He will dwell in such person John 6:55-56. Now, you know what to do for Christ to live in you and for you to live forever in Him.

Do not joke with the blood of new covenant which ratifies the agreement and serves as substitutionary atonement for the forgiveness of our sins. Jesus said "This is My blood of new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins" Matthew 26:28. For this reason, harken to the words of Christ which says "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. Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life and I will raise him up at the last day" John 6:53-54.

We shall continue this teaching by mentioning the importance of the blood of the Lamb, but before we proceed, we need to clarify certain issues that are confusing to many Christians. The scriptures stated that God is against bloodshed, and bloodshed is forbidden by the Lord. The same scripture says that without shedding of blood there is no remission of sin. **What God hates is the shedding**

of the innocent blood, but the shedding of the blood of Christ who is also innocent is according to the foreknowledge and design of God, to serve as the ultimate sacrifice for the remission of our sins because the blood of bulls and goats cannot take our sins away. What God is against is the physical consumption of blood <u>Deuteronomy 15:23.</u> So, those who are participating in the Holy Communion are spiritually drinking the blood of Christ with faith in order to have eternal life. Therefore, they are not breaking the law of God which forbids the physical consumption of blood.

The importance of the Blood of the Lamb

The importance of the blood of the Lamb is numerous, but we will only discuss some because of time constraint. We need to realize that we all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God Romans 3:23, which means, no human is worthy of God's glorious standard. But the blood of the Lamb made it possible for mankind to be united with God their Creator. The covenant of the blood of the Lamb made peace between man and God. The blood of Jesus Christ reconciled us with God.

He was the propitiation/atonement: Jesus Christ the Lamb died to appease His heavenly Father so that humans can regain or win back the favor of God. Since no human is without sin, and no sinner will go unpunished says the Bible Proverbs 11:21 and those who think they are righteous must know that all their righteousness is like filthy rags before God Isaiah 64:6. Therefore, without the intervention of the blood of the Lamb, we will not have the chance and hope of reigning perpetually with our heavenly Father, but instead we will be punished eternally.

The immense love that God has for His prime creation (human beings) made Him to send His Son Jesus Christ to be the atonement by which our sins are forgiven. God sent His Son to pay for our sins with His blood. The Bible says, "In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins" 1 John 4:10. It is the blood of the Lamb that fulfilled God's requirement for justice against sin and placated God's wrath. Therefore, Jesus Christ is the best Shepherd who died for His sheep; as it is written "I am the good Shepherd. The good Shepherd gives His life

for the sheep" <u>John 10:11</u>. For this reason, Jesus Christ came to serve His Creation by giving His life as a ransom for many and paying the price to set them free from the penalty of sin. The scripture says, "Just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many" <u>Matthew 20:28, Mark 10:45</u>. Do not forget the blood of the Lamb which redeemed and liberated you from the punishment of sin.

Remember your former lifestyle, how you were far away from God, but at this moment, you have been brought near your heavenly Father by the blood of the Lamb. Presently, you have been united with Christ Jesus. Once you were far away from God, but now you have been brought close to Him through the blood of Christ Ephesians 2:13. The Messiah's blood bridged the gap between you and your Creator and brought you closer to Him. For this reason, God displayed Him publicly before the eyes of the world as a lifegiving sacrifice of atonement and reconciliation by His blood through faith. This was to demonstrate the righteousness of God which demands punishment for sin because in His forbearance, He passed over the sins previously committed before Jesus crucifixion and ignored them without punishment. God present Jesus as the atonement for sin. People are made right with God when they believe that Jesus sacrificed His life and shed His blood. This propitiation shows that God was being fair when He held back (His deliberate restraint) and did not punish those who sinned in times past Romans 3:25. Do not forget that is it the grace of the blood of the Lamb that made God to be patient and overlooked people's sins. The same Jesus Christ is the propitiation for our sins, the atoning sacrifice that holds back the wrath of God that would otherwise be directed at us because of our sinful nature, lifestyle and worldliness, and not for ours alone, but also for the sins of all believers throughout the whole world. It is written "And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world" 1 John 2:2. Proclaim to the world that the blood of Christ is the means by which our sins are forgiven.

<u>He was sacrificed:</u> Jesus Christ the Lamb of God has been sacrificed for us. He was sacrificed as our Passover Lamb just like how the Israelites of the olden days killed a male, one-year old lamb for the Passover in the land of Egypt, and the Lord used the blood of the lamb on the doorposts to save their lives. Therefore,

get rid of your old lifestyle and misconducts so that the blood of the Lamb will be meaningful in your life 1 Corinthians 5:7. If Christ our Passover was sacrificed for us, then no one has greater love and no one has shown greater affection to mankind than Jesus Christ the Lamb of God who laid down His life for His creation. The scripture says, "Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends" John 15:13. How many people do you think can voluntarily die because of you? If there is none, then it is time for you to walk continually in love and value one another. Practice empathy and compassion, and unselfishly seek the best for others just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us as an offering and sacrifice that pleases God. Since He was slain for you, your life must be controlled by the divine love of God. As it is written "And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma" Ephesians 5:2. Therefore, live a life filled with love and not lusts or emotions, following the example of Christ. It is important for you to appreciate the greatest sacrifice made by Christ so that His blood that was shed will not be in vain.

Boldness was received: Every believer must be bold, inasmuch as they are not doing anything that is against the law. They must not fear, because fear is one of the strategies of the devil which usually makes it impossible for people to achieve their goals. The Bible says, God did not give us the spirit of timidity or cowardice or fear but He has given us a spirit of power and of love and of sound judgment and personal discipline with abilities that result in a calm, well-balanced mind and self-control. It is written that "For God has not given us a spirit of fear but of power and of love and of a sound mind" 2 Timothy 1:7. Therefore, you must neither craven nor cringe. We need to realize that only the wicked people fear and run away when no one chases them, but the righteous are as brave as lions because they are covered by the blood of the **Lamb**. It is written "The wicked flee when no one pursues, but the righteous are as bold as a lion" Proverbs 28:1. If you are not a wicked person, you will neither fear nor be afraid of the unknown, but you will be bold like Peter and John who were brought before the elders, scribes and the high priest. They displayed great boldness because they knew that they have the assurance of the Holy Spirit and the blood of the Lamb Acts 4:13. However, if you lack the confidence and courage during your difficulty period, do not fear, but

pray to God who will grant you the necessary boldness for you to be successful. Emulate the apostles who prayed to God for boldness to speak His messages, when they were threatened by the rulers and the elders. They offered prayer to the Lord saying "Now Lord, look on their threats, and grant to Your servants that with all boldness they may speak Your word" Acts 4:29.

When Christ died on the cross, His blood that was spilled made the veil of the temple to tear in two from the top to the bottom. This signified that there is no more restrictions and we now have access to come before the presence of God. The Bible testified to this fact by saying "Then, behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from the top to bottom; and the earth quaked, and the rocks were split" Matthew 27:51. Now God's purpose was to use the Church to display His wisdom in its rich variety to all the unseen rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. Now through the Church the multifaceted wisdom of God in all its countless aspects might now be made known to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places according to His eternal purpose which He achieve through Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have the boldness to go into God's presence with all confidence through our faith in Him. Because of Christ and our faith in Him, we can now come boldly and confidently go into God's presence Ephesians 3:10-12. Since we have boldness and access with confidence into the presence of God through faith in Christ. It is time, "Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need" Hebrews 4:16. Remember, whenever we are in need, we must come boldly before the throne of our merciful God. There we will be treated with underserved kindness, and we will find help.

We must realize that we can boldly enter heaven's most Holy Place because of the blood of the Lamb. The blood of Jesus gives us the courage to enter the most holy place. "Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus" Hebrews 10:19. For this reason, do not fling away your fearless confidence in the Lord for it has a glorious and great reward. "Therefore, do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward" Hebrews 10:35.

Those who commonizes or profane the Blood of the Lamb

Nowadays, the evildoers are joining forces against the righteous throughout the world and they are condemning the innocent people to death through injustice. The situation of the wicked ganging up to murder innocent victims is very rampant, whereby they plot against good people and sentence the innocent to death. The Bible corroborated this fact by saying "They gather together against the life of the righteous, and condemn innocent blood" Psalm
94:21. For this reason, you need to constantly pray to God to rescue you from blood guiltiness and deliver you from untimely death through the blood of the Lamb. Tell God to keep you from deadly sin and spare you from the punishment of death. As it is written "Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God, the God of my salvation, and my tongue shall sing aloud of Your righteousness" Psalm 51:14. Therefore, take steps to ensure that innocent people do not lose their lives in your City/State, else you will be guilty of murder. Make sure you always prevent the death of innocent people in your community, so that you will not be held responsible for their death.

I plead with the pastors/priests to take care and be on guard for themselves, and for the whole flock over which Holy Spirit has appointed them as overseers. They must shepherd and feed the Church of God which was bought with the blood of His Son the Lamb. They must neither fail to guide the church nor refuse to tend their congregation according to the scripture which says "Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood" Acts 20:28. Therefore, anyone who commonized the blood of the Lamb will be punished severely, as it is written "Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing and insulted the Spirit of grace?" Hebrews 10:29. Worse punishment awaits anyone who profane the blood of the Lamb which was used for his/her redemption.

Usefulness and benefits of the blood of the Lamb

The blood of the Lamb is important, necessary and essential to mankind. It is very useful in every aspect of human existence. The blood of the Lamb is beneficial to us during this life and the life to come, so we will discuss some of its usefulness and benefits.

We are bought at a price: Jesus Christ died so that we can live, and He suffered because of our sins. Christ used His death and His blood to acquire the possession of our existence and lifespan. He had the right to our souls by paying the price on the cross. You were bought at a price, you were purchased with the precious blood of the Lamb, therefore, you do not belong to yourself but to Him who purchased you. The scripture attested to this fact by saying "For you were bought at a price; therefore, glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's" 1 Corinthians 6:20. Never forget that Jesus purchased you with His blood, He paid the ultimate price on the cross, so do not become slave of humans but consider yourself to be child/friend of Christ. As it is written "You were bought at a price; do not become slaves of men" 1 Corinthians 7:23. The Lamb paid a high price for you with His blood, so, do not be enslaved by the world or its lustful things. Henceforth, start doing things that pleases Christ and acceptable to God.

Forgiveness is received through the blood of the Lamb: The death of Christ pacified His heavenly Father; so, God stopped feeling angry or resentful toward mankind for our lawless deeds and mistakes. Jesus paid the debts on the cross with His blood which canceled our accrued punishments. For this reason, let it be clearly known and understood by believers throughout the world that it is through Christ alone that we can receive forgiveness and removal of sins. The Bible says "Therefore let it be known to you, brethren, that through this Man is preached to you the forgiveness of sins" Acts 13:38. Neither the law of Moses nor reading the Bible alone can set you free from your sins. Therefore, proclaim to the world that unless people believe in the death and the resurrection of Jesus Christ there is no forgiveness of sins. The experience of Paul on the way to Damascus clarify this issue when he met with Jesus Christ who directed him to go and preach the Gospel. Jesus promised to deliver him from the Jews and the Gentiles that he was sent to open their

spiritual eyes, in order for them to turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God; so that they will receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been consecrated, purified, and set apart by faith in Christ Acts 26:17-18. For this reason, Christ alone have the capability to forgive our sins and set us free. In Him alone we have redemption through His blood, resulting in forgiveness of our sins and the cancellation of sins' penalty Colossians 1:14. It is time to realize that, it is by Jesus Christ that we are set free and our sins are forgiven.

The scripture stated that Christ was offered once as a sacrifice for all to bear as a burden, the sins of many. Then He will appear a second time, neither to carry any burden of sin nor deal with sin, but to bring salvation to those who are eagerly and patiently waiting for His return Hebrews 9:28. What is your preparation for the return of Jesus Christ? Are you among those that Jesus Christ is coming to save and take Home? We need to know that where there is absolute remission which means forgiveness and cancellation of the penalty of these sins, then there is no longer any offering to be made to atone for sin. When sins are forgiven, there is no more need to offer sacrifices Hebrew 10:18. Since your sins have been forgiven by Jesus Christ, offering to take away sins is no longer needed and there is no need to offer anymore sacrifices. For this reason, God exalted and raised Jesus Christ to His right-hand side to be Prince, Savior and Preserver in order to give believers the opportunity to repent and forgive their sins. Christ was put in the place of honor at the right-hand of God, as Leader and Deliverer. God did this so that the believers will repent of their sins and be forgiven Acts 5:31.

The blood of Christ was used for our purification and sanctification: Holiness is very important to God, so anyone who wants a relationship with God must be dedicated and consecrated to Him. Those who have the desire to be close to God must abstain from lawless deeds and sins. Because holiness is an essential to God, this necessity prompted Him to instruct Moses to tell the people of Israel that they must be holy just like Him the Lord their God. The scripture says "Speak to all the congregation of the children of Israel, and say to them: 'You shall be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy'" Leviticus 19:2. It is your duty to preach to the community of believers to be holy because the Lord their God is holy. And for people to make the distinction and recognize

the difference between holy/sacred and the common/profane, and between the unclean and the clean. As it is written "That you may distinguished between holy and unholy, and between unclean and clean" Leviticus 10:10. Therefore, shun youthful passions and flee from adolescent cravings. Instead, pursue righteousness and always do all that is virtuous and good, including right living that is in conformity with the will of God. Strive for faith, love and peace. Be in harmony and concord with believers and in fellowship with all Christians who worship God from a pure heart 2 Timothy 2:22. For this reason, come close to God and He will come close to you. Admit that you are a sinner and get your soiled hands clean. You need to realize that you have been disloyal to God, and you are a wavering person with divided interests, so purify your heart James 4:8. You need to clean up your life, purify your heart and you must not divide your loyalty between God and the world.

Jesus Christ willingly gave Himself to be crucified on our behalf to redeem us and purchase our freedom from all wickedness, and to purify for Himself a chosen and very special people to be His own possession, who are enthusiastic for doing what is good and totally committed to living a virtuous life which is filled with beneficial deeds Titus 2:14. The Bible testified to this fact by saying "But you are chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you many proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light" 1 Peter 2:9. Make haste to proclaim the wonderful deeds, and display the virtues together with the perfections of God who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light. Consider this scenario "For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh, 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?" Hebrews 9:13-14. Never dishonor the blood of the Lamb that was used to purify you.

The immense love that Jesus Christ has for mankind made Him to set us free from our sins by His blood. Christ love us and He has freed us from our sins by shedding His blood for us. The scripture confirmed this statement by saying Jesus loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood <u>Revelation</u> 1:5. Therefore, continue walking in the light and doing what pleases the Lord so

as to remain purified. As it is written, "But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin" 1 John 1:7. We pray that you will be among the people who are dressed in white robe before the heavenly throne. Those who come out of the great tribulation, who washed their robes in the blood of the Lamb and made them white Revelation 7:13-17. We pray that you will be in the midst of those who will worship before the throne of God, whose tear will be wiped away forever.

The blood of the Lamb gives redemption: Jesus Christ is the Redeemer of the world and only His blood can give redemption to mankind. Anna the prophetess bore witness to Christ the Redeemer by speaking about Him to all those who are looking for redemption in Jerusalem Luke 2:38. Therefore, give glory to God because we are His children. He sent Christ Jesus to save us and to make us wise, acceptable and holy. God made it possible for us to be in Christ Jesus, whom God made our wisdom that revealed His divine plan of salvation, and righteousness that is making us to be upright and putting us in right standing with God. Christ is also our sanctification/consecration that is making us to be pure, holy and setting us apart for God. He is our redemption that is providing our ransom the penalty of sin 1 Corinthians 1:30. Since Christ made us pure, holy and freed us from sin, then "In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace" Ephesians 1:7.

Always remember to honor the blood of Jesus Christ that set you free and grant you forgiveness of sins.

Jesus Christ went once for all into the Most Holy Place to make reconciliation between God and man; not by virtue of the blood of goats and calves, but His own blood, having obtained and secured eternal redemption which freed us from sin forever Hebrews 9:12. Do not fail to spread the message across the globe that Christ secured our redemption forever with His blood. He also redeemed us from the curse pronounced by the law; when He was hung on the cross, He took upon Himself the curse of our wrongdoing. Christ rescued us from the law's curse, when He became a curse in our place. The Bible says "Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written 'Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree')" Galatians 3:13. By becoming a curse for us Christ has

redeemed us with His blood and though He died yet He lives. He is alive and the scripture corroborated this fact by saying "For I know that my Redeemer lives, and He shall stand at last on the earth" **Job 19:25.** So declare to all living things that your Savior and Redeemer is alive.

Brethren, it is inevitable for us to conduct ourselves with reverence of God throughout the time of our temporary residence on earth. We need to remember that we are strangers and sojourners on earth, therefore, we must spend the rest of our lives on earth in fear of God because we are not redeemed from our useless spiritual unproductive way of life and fruitless way of living which we inherited from our forefathers with perishable things like silver or gold. It is time to realize that we are not redeemed from the worthless manner of life handed down by our ancestors by corruptible things of this world but by the blood of the Lamb 1 Peter 1:17-18. So, focus on heavenly things and strive to be among those that are singing a new song, saying "You are worthy to take the scroll, and to open its seals; for You were slain, and have redeemed us to God by Your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation" Revelation 5:9. For this reason, do not defile yourself so that you will accompany the Lamb wherever He goes, and you will be redeemed as firstfruit to God and to the Lamb Revelation 14:4.

The blood of the Lamb justifies: God demonstrated and proved His undying love for us by the fact that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Therefore, since we have been justified, acquitted and declared free of the guilt of sin by the blood of Christ, we will also be saved from the wrath and the condemnation of God through Him Romans 5:8-9. This means that we are being justified, made acceptable to God and granted eternal life as a gift by His grace, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus Romans 3:24. For this reason, we must realize that only those that Christ justified that will be glorified. As it is written "Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified" Romans 8:30. We pray that you will be glorified in Jesus Name. Amen

The blood of the Lamb brought deliverance: Nowadays, many people in the world were held in spiritual slavery throughout their lifetime because of the fear

of death. Only the blood of the Lamb can set free and rescue those who live each day in fear of dying. According to the scripture which says, "And release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage" Hebrew 2:15. Christ alone can dispel your haunting fear of death. Only the blood of Jesus can deliver and liberate you from the spiritual bondage of the darkness. It is written that "The horse is prepared for the day of battle, but deliverance is of the Lord" **Proverbs 21:31.** We can deduce from the passage that no matter how you prepare yourself for the spiritual battle, only God can give you victory/deliverance because it belongs to Him. And this victory is made possible through the blood of the Lamb. Therefore, we must realize that Christ gave Himself up to atone for our sins to save and sanctify us so that He will rescue us from this present wicked age and world order in accordance with the purpose and plan of God. As it is written "Who gave Himself for our sins, that He might deliver us from this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father" Galatians 1:4. Since deliverance belong to God, He alone can deliver you from this sinful and evil world through the blood of the Lamb.

Reconciliation and peace through the blood of the Lamb: The Lamb of God is our bond of unity and harmony. Christ Himself has brought peace to us. He united believers and unbelievers into one people with His own body on the Cross. He broke down the wall of hostility and spiritual antagonism that separated us. He abolished by His crucifixion the enmity caused by the law with its commandments contained in ordinances, in order to create out of the two groups, one new humanity in Himself thereby establishing peace. He reconciled to God both believers and unbelievers in a single body by means of His death on the cross, thereby putting to death the hostility and bringing the feud to an end Ephesians 2:14-16. Do not forget that, it is the blood of Jesus that reconciled both believers and unbelievers to God. The Bible attested to this fact by saying "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" Colossians 1:20. The intervention of Jesus Christ made all things to be reconciled to God through His blood on the cross. Therefore, if our friendship with God was restored by the death of Jesus Christ His Son while we are still His enemies, then it is certain that we will be saved from the consequences and dominion of sin through His resurrection. We must also

rejoice in God because of what He has done through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation with God Romans 5:10-11. Please continue to maintain your wonderful relationship with God and never neglect or ignore the blood of the Lamb.

For this reason, all things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ. He received us into favor and brought us into harmony with Himself thereby making us acceptable to Him, and gave us the ministry of reconciliation. That is, God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, neither reckoning our sins nor holding people's trespasses against them but canceling them. And He has committed to us the message of reconciliation 2 Corinthians 5:18-19. Are you teaching/preaching the restoration of favor with God? Are you worthy to be emulated? What have you achieved this year in your ministerial work? Are you reconciling people with God as directed? We were sent to speak for Christ, and God is begging you to listen to our message. We speak for Christ and sincerely ask you to make peace with God. We are Christ's ambassadors and God is appealing to you through us. We plead with you on behalf of Christ to lay hold of the divine favor and be reconciled to God 2 Corinthians 5:20. As representatives of Christ, we implore you to come back to God so that the blood of the Lamb will not be in vain.

Adoption is incomplete without the blood of the Lamb: Jesus Christ our Lord made the adoption of mankind to be feasible. It is the blood of the Lamb that made our adoption by God to be possible. The scripture says "But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive adoption as sons" Galatians 4:4-5. Since God sent Christ to buy freedom for us who were slaves to the law, so that He could adopt us as His children, do not misuse this privilege, else it will be withdrawn. The unlimited kindness of God towards us made Him to predestined us to be adopted as His own children through the blood of Jesus Christ in accordance with the purpose of His will, because it pleased Him Ephesians 1:5. Since the kind intention of God together with the good pleasure of His will made Him to adopt us into His family, then do not be afraid but be bold because you did not receive a spirit of slavery to either lead you back again into fear or make you fall into fears. As it is written, "For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear,

but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, 'Abba, Father'" Romans 8:15. Do not trivialize the blood of the Lamb if you want your adoption privilege to be operational.

We overcome by the blood of the Lamb: Be thankful to God because we have the blood of Jesus that empower us to defeat and prevail over the forces of darkness that are trying to destabilize our lives. We need to realize that it is the blood of the Lamb that gives us victory over our spiritual problems and resolve the troubles that are plaguing us. So, we defeat this evil world, and we achieve this victory through our faith together with the blood of the Lamb. As it is written "For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith" 1 John 5:4. Do not be deceived, you only can defeat this sinful world through your faith in Jesus Christ and overcome the terrestrial powers through the blood of the **Lamb**. Therefore, no one can defeat the world without having faith in Jesus Christ and believe in His death and resurrections. The scripture says "Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?" 1 John 5:5. Therefore, "You are of God, little Children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world" 1 John 4:4. You can only overcome the agents of the antichrist through your faith and the blood of the Lamb because He who is in you is mightier than Satan who is in the world.

"These things I spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world" <u>John</u>

16:33. Whatever trial, distress and frustration that you are presently passing through will certainly turn to history. So, cheer up because you will overcome Satan and his agents by the blood of the Lamb. As it is written "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" <u>Revelation 12:11</u>. Are you ready to defeat Satan and have victory over his agents through the blood of the Lamb?

Salvation through the blood of the Lamb: Jesus came to this world to give us deliverance from sins and its consequences. He came to give Salvation to

mankind through His death on the cross. It must be noted that the message of the cross is foolishness and absurd to those who are perishing and on their way to perdition but to us who are being save it is the manifestation of the power of God 1 Corinthians 1:18. Is the message of the cross nonsense to you because of your financial and educational status? Is it illogical to you because of your political ambition/aspiration? Do you reject it because you are spiritually dead? You must know that one of the primary reasons why Christ came to this world was to save the sinners. The Bible testified to this fact by saying "This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am a chief" 1 Timothy 1:15. If Paul confessed that he was the worst sinner, what about you? Do you consider yourself to be one of the sinners that need Christ's assistance? Behold, Jesus Christ is the spiritual door, anyone who enters through Him will be saved and live forever. Such person will go in and out freely, and find pasture plus spiritual security John 10:9. If you are thirsty for Salvation, enter through Christ the Door and you will be saved because God did not send His Son into the world to judge and condemn the world, but that the world might find salvation and be made safe through Him John 3:17. Christ did not come into the world to judge its inhabitants but to be its Savior. Since Jesus came to save the people of this world and not to judge them, then He is not the one who will judge those who neither obey His teachings nor keep them. As it is written "And if anyone hears My word and does not believe, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world" John 12:47. Are you among those who fail to observe the messages of Christ? Change before it is too late.

Isaiah warned that if the people of Israel are as numerous as the sand of the seashore, only a remnant will be saved Romans 9:27. Do you want to be among the minority that will be saved from the Christendom? In order to be saved, you must acknowledge and confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord, and believe in your heart that He died on the cross and God raised Him from the dead. Since God is neither bias nor discriminate, then anyone who openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in His death and resurrection will be saved Romans 10:9. It is for this reason that the Philippian jailer who rescued Paul and Silas was saved. He brought Paul and Silas out of the jail and asked "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" They replied "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved, you and your household" Acts 16:30-31.

Therefore, 'For 'whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved'" Romans 10:13, Acts 2:21. We can now conclude that salvation belongs to Christ and only Jesus has the power to save. There is salvation in no one except Jesus and salvation can only be found or received through Christ alone. The scripture attested to this fact by saying "Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved" Acts 4:12. The name of Jesus is the Master Key that opens salvation and His blood is the unique way to be saved.

Eternal life: The Bible says "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life" John 3:16. Do not take the love of God for granted if you want eternal life. The scripture also confirmed that there is eternal life in Jesus Christ by saying "In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it" John 1:4-5. This means you must believe in the blood of Jesus Christ, else you will walk in spiritual darkness. Despite the fact that eternal life can be received through Christ alone, countless people in the world today, refuse to come to Him for eternal life. Numerous people are not willing to come to Him, they refuse to come to Him because they prefer the devil who cannot give them life John **5:40.** Do not be deceived, Christ know His sheep and His sheep know Him. As it is written "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand" John 10:27-28. Are you among the sheep of Jesus Christ that will receive eternal life? If not, repent immediately.

Finally, "Now may the God of peace who brought up our Lord Jesus from the dead, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you complete in every good work to do His will, working in you what is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen" Hebrews 13:20-21.

The Seal: Revelation 5:12: "Saying with a loud voice: 'Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom, and strength and honor and glory and blessing!"