

have you eaten the passover lamb

"when I see the blood, I will pass over you."

christianity has often been referred to as a "bloody religion," and in truth, without the blood there would be no christianity. so often salvation is looked upon as a simple repentance (being sorry) and turning away from sin. that's where one so easily get trapped in "our" works, not His. scripture says, "without shedding of blood there is no remission." heb 9:22

i have struggled with the "once saved, always saved" for a long time. there are just too many warnings in scripture. "they went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us." 1 john 2:19 how in the world is anyone to know if they are among the "us" or not? especially when we all fail in so many ways.

it makes one ask, "what's the difference when sin can often be detected in the lives of both?" the only difference is the blood. it's applied on one and not the other. not because of "worthiness" or because one was more desirable more than another. it is the humility that admits, "i cannot, but He can." then the humility that asks Him to.

so how can one be assured they are "in Christ" and not of the world? that is the million dollar question; when a million dollars really meant something. they cannot merely acquiesce with head knowledge or understanding. it must be by heart knowledge and recognition of one's unworthiness. and yes, while the

turning away from sin may be gradual, only His cleansing blood can seal us. it is then, and only then, we can be assured of the forgiveness of "all" our sin - past, present and future.

current day gospel tends to negate the blood and concentrate on cleaning up when in fact, there can be no washing without the blood. truly the "cleaning" continues with "the washing of water by the word," but only the blood can cover the sin for our final redemption.

i reached home and sought my room, and there upon my knees i saw my past life. i had been a christian, an officer in the church, a sunday-school superintendent, but had never definitely yielded my life to God.

yet as i thought of the darling plans which might be baffled, of the cherished hopes to be surrendered, and the chosen profession which i might be called upon to abandon - i was afraid.

i did not see the better things God had for me, so my soul was shrinking back; and then for the last time, with a swift rush of convicting power, came to my innermost heart that searching message:

"my child, you can trust the Man that died for you. if you cannot trust Him whom can you trust?"

that settled it for me, for in a flash i saw that the Man who so loved me as to die for me could be absolutely trusted with all the concerns of the life He

had saved.

the old covenant has passed away. now there is a new covenant, but it is still made by blood. "this cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you." luke 22:20 webster's defines covenant as "a mutual agreement of two or more persons or parties." Jesus has agreed on His part. have you?

i have heard it said. "i'd much rather face Jesus with a poor start and a great ending than with a great start and a poor ending." i am in complete agreement, but neither ending matters unless one is covered by the blood of Jesus. i don't know how your walk may have begun or is even now journeying, but please be sure you finish right. it's not our righteousness, but His. it's not our blood, but His!

it's only when the blood flows from head to heart one is really saved. then one can be assured they are saved from past, present and future sins. even haven been assured of that, one should keep current accounts with God; full of humility and a ready heart to confess and repent. "a broken and contrite heart you, God, will not despise." psa 51:17

my belief is free-will still prevails. one can walk away from this blood covenant. "and because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. but he who endures to the end shall be saved." matt 24:12-13 they end up denying the Lord who bought them, and yes, bringing swift destruction on themselves. "it is impossible for those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift,

who have shared in the Holy Spirit, who have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the coming age and who have fallen away, to be brought back to repentance." heb 6:4

so is it possible to become "anathema" or not? sin certainly will not preclude us or none would be saved. will works or lack of works? we don't fall into "works," but a life producing only "thorns and thistles is worthless and is in danger of being cursed." heb 6:8 we don't want the Master Gardener to return to His vineyard and find no produce or fruit. indeed they may be saved "as through fire," a line i would not want to tread.

"even though we speak like this, dear friends, we are convinced of better things in your case – the things that have to do with salvation... we want each of you to show this same diligence to the very end, so that what you hope for may be fully realized." heb 6:9,11 count on the blood and let the Holy Spirit do His work for, "it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose." phil 2:13

the gospel is not john 3:16. it may tell us of God's amazing love but a sacrifice was still needed. we have a new covenant, but still a blood covenant. "having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him." rom 5:9 we acknowledge that every time we take communion in remembrance of the last supper. "this is My body given for you ... this cup is the new covenant in My blood." luke 22:19-20 so - have you eaten the passover lamb? if so, then He has become part of you, nourishing your bones and marrow. "fear

not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom." luke 12:32