Sermon Notes for February 7, 2016

Why Talk About the Blood?

Hebrews 9:15-28

Introduction

“There is a fountain filled with blood,
Drawn from Immanuel’s veins;
And sinners plunged beneath that flood,
Lose all their guilty stains.” William Cowper

I. Why do the scriptures talk about the blood of Christ?

There are two reasons:

Blood teaches us that sin is costly. Sin brings death.

“You are free to eat from any tree in the garden, but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die.” Genesis 2:16-17

Adam and Eve experience the consequences of their sin.

- Alienation from God.
- Alienation from one another.
- Alienation from self.

Blood teaches us that the price of redemption is high.

“No man can redeem the life of another or give to God a ransom for him – the ransom for a life is costly, no payment is ever enough – that he should live on forever and not see decay.” Psalm 49:7-9

“Without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.” Hebrews 9:22

What is required is the death of one who was free from sin who would willingly die in our place.

II. Christ is the mediator of a new covenant.

A mediator is someone who brings reconciliation between two parties – in this case, between a holy God and sinful man.

Christ is perfectly qualified to be our mediator.

“For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all men – the testimony given in its proper time.” I Timothy 2:5-6
“But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God’s wrath through him! For if, while we were God’s enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!” Romans 5:8-10

The old covenant was temporary. An animal sacrifice could never take the place of a man who is made in the image of God. Only a perfect man could, one who was without sin.

III. Christ initiates the new covenant.

Christ inaugurated the new covenant when he died on the cross.

A covenant is like a will in two ways.

The person who writes the will sets the terms.

God makes the rules. We don’t.

- Sin – Romans 3:23
- Death – Romans 6:23
- Judgment – Hebrews 9:27
- Salvation – John 14:6

A will doesn’t take effect until there is a death.

Christ needed to die to initiate the new covenant and all of its blessings.

When we take communion, we are agreeing to the terms of the new covenant. Hebrews 9:20

It is the richest will that has ever been written. We are co-heirs with Christ of all that is to come.

Salvation is all of God and all of grace.

Christ will come again to bring salvation, in all of its fullness, to those who are waiting for him. Hebrews 9:28

Conclusion

Why do we talk about the blood of Christ?

- Sin is costly.
- The price of redemption is high.
- The blood of Christ is precious.

It is the only thing that can wash away our sin and make us clean.