

The Blood of Sprinkling

“For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh: How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?” - Hebrews 9:13-14

In the Old Testament, animal blood was sprinkled by priests to forgive the sin of a person who was aware of something that he did to transgress God’s word. Such a person *“of his own voluntary will”* (Lev 1:3) brought an unblemished animal to the door of the tabernacle before the Lord. Once there, in the presence of a priest, the penitent person placed his hands on the head of the animal, confessed his sin and killed the animal. The priest then sprinkled the blood on the altar and on the person (Exodus 24:8), thus making atonement for the person, forgiving his sin before God (Lev 4:26). It was not the voice or action of the priest that forgave sins but the faith of the person, given by God, in the atoning blood of Christ to come. Also, there was no compulsion placed on a person to seek forgiveness other than by the revelation of God through His word that caused a person to understand that he had sinned against God and, therefore, that caused him to seek forgiveness in the first place. Thus, such a person willingly came to the door of the tabernacle to be forgiven. If he did otherwise or went elsewhere, God would not accept his sacrifice (Lev 17:3-4).

In the New Testament, people are still to voluntarily come to the tabernacle and confess their sins to a priest. Today, these priests are believers as all believers are part of *“... a royal priesthood...”* (1 Peter 2:9) and the tabernacle is also a believer, *“Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?”* (1 Corinthians 3:16). Thus, when Apostle John instructs that *“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness”* (1 John 1:9) and when James says, *“Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed”* (James 5:16), we see agreement between the Old and New Testaments in where to confess our sins and in who forgives them. Because Jesus lives in the flesh, it is as if Jesus Himself proclaims forgiveness, *“he that heareth you heareth me...”* (Luke 10:16), when one of His believers proclaims the gospel message *“...be of good cheer; thy sins be forgiven thee”* (Matthew 9:2). Elsewhere, Scripture again counsels us to *“...lay aside every weight, and the sin*

which doth so easily beset us...” (Hebrews 12:1). The authority to proclaim this message of reconciliation came from Jesus who gave the keys of the kingdom of heaven to all believers to verbally sprinkle the blood of Christ on those who voluntarily confess their sins, *“Whose soever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; and whose soever sins ye retain, they are retained”* (John 20:23).

Throughout the Bible, God has used the Word to reveal sin and He has used blood to wash it away. All this He does through His believers. Those who can gladly receive this word of reconciliation are baptized with the Holy Ghost and with fire *“...baptized every one... in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost”* (Acts 2:38). Sadly, many reject this doctrine to remain bound to their sin.

Because all of us are sinners, it is just as vital today as it was in the Old Testament that our sins are forgiven by God through one of His priests on earth. Therefore, *“Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water”* (Hebrews 10:22).

God’s Peace,
Charles Korhonen

May 6	Ken Storm	Holy Communion
May 12	Church Cleaning	9am
May 13	Charles Korhonen	
May 18	Dave Lappi Arnie Nordahl	7pm
May 19	Arnie Nordahl Herb Jarvi	7pm
May 20	Arnie Nordahl Bruce Estola	11am
May 20	Arnie Nordahl Jesse Mattson	2pm
May 23	Semi Annual Meeting	7pm
May 27	Nathan Ruonavaara	

Church Cleaning:
May Congregation

Winter Schedule

Sunday School/Adult Bible Study 9:45am Church at 11am
Bible Study at 7pm on Wednesday.

Online Broadcasts

From our webpage: <http://www.tapiolachurch.org/> you will see the mixlr live audio – we will be 'on the air' during our church services. Previous sermons will be archived and available on the web.

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