

**SPEAKERS**

**October 3 - Ken Storm**  
11:00 a.m., Holy Communion

**\*\*October 8 - Service @ 7:00 p.m.,**  
**Atlantic Mine, Guest Speakers**

**\*\*October 9 - Service @ 6:00 p.m.,**  
**Atlantic Mine, Guest Speakers**

**\*\*October 10**  
**Service @ 10:30 a.m.**  
**-Don Bisila**  
**-David Tumburg**

**Service @ 2:00 p.m.**  
**-Don Bisila**  
**-David Tumburg**

**Service @ 6:00 p.m.**  
**-Don Bisila**  
**-David Lappi**

**October 17 - Ken Storm**

**October 24 - Paul Coponen**

**October 31 - Herb Jarvi**

**\*\*Please join us for special services**  
**October 8<sup>th</sup> through October 10<sup>th</sup>.**  
**Meals will be provided between**  
**services on October 10<sup>th</sup> with coffee**  
**to follow the evening service.**

**\*\*No Sunday School/Adult Bible**  
**Study on October 10<sup>th</sup>**

**\*\*No Potluck Meal this Month**

**CHURCH SCHEDULE**

**Sunday School/Adult Bible Study,**  
10:00 a.m.

**Sunday Service:**  
11:00 a.m.

**Wednesday Bible Study:**  
7:00 p.m.

**The Blood Covenant**

*"And Moses took the blood, and sprinkled it on the people, and said, Behold the blood of the covenant, which the LORD hath made with you concerning all these words" - Exodus 24:8*

Moses used sacrificial blood to dedicate a covenant of God to the Israelites, the same one that God had just verbally given to him on Mount Sinai. He did so by sprinkling the blood of an animal on the altar and on the people and by reading the Word of God to which they said, *"All that the Lord hath said we will do, and be obedient"* (Exodus 24:7). The obedience they pledged was to a series of laws God conveyed to Moses, the Ten Commandments being the most prominent. This was a conditional covenant: if they obeyed, then God would bless them, but if they disobeyed, then God would punish them. Because they disobeyed, they learned that the Law was not given as a moral guide but as a way to reveal sin, which it still does today. Those laws could not save them, but being washed in the blood of an animal did because of the faith in Jesus it engendered, thus pointing to the significance of the sacrificial blood of our text.

The laws given to Moses define what a righteous life looks like. It is one in which a person has to be perfect. But such a life has never happened, except in Jesus: *"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God"* (Romans 3:23). Fortunately, God never intended for man to fulfill His laws but rather for His laws to reveal sin to man: *"Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin"* (Romans 3:20). The law, when used lawfully, *"is not made for a righteous man, but for the...ungodly"* (1 Timothy 1:9). Today, God still uses His laws to reveal His standard of absolute righteousness, which convicts us all of our true guilt, so that we would be found guilty and would seek Him for a way of escape.

The way of escape from sin is not through obedience to the law, as already explained, but through the "blood of the covenant". The five sacrificial offerings described in Leviticus show that first there must be repentance or Godly sorrow in a person followed by his confession to a priest who then sprinkled sacrificial blood to *"make an atonement...for his sin...and it shall be forgiven him"* (Leviticus 5:10). The role of the law in all of this is that the law awakens a person to his sin (and we are all sinners) and encourages that person to seek release from his sin by going to the door of the tabernacle to confess his sin and to receive forgiveness from God as proclaimed by the priest. He went there to confess only the sin that troubled him *"of his own voluntary will"* (Leviticus 1:3) and not merely to confess something according to some church edict.

Ultimately, it is not the blood of animals but that of Jesus that permanently washes away sin: *"For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins"* (Hebrews 10:4). Jesus shed His blood on the cross to obtain *"eternal redemption for us"* (Hebrews 9:12). So then if we, by the power of the Holy Spirit, believe the proclamation, *"Son, be of good cheer; thy sins be forgiven thee"* (Matt 9:2), we need not perish but will have everlasting life in Christ. This faith in the redemptive work of Jesus on the center cross of Calvary is the same saving faith as that of our forefather Abraham who predated the Law of Moses by some four hundred thirty years (Galatians 3:17).

## CONTACT

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Today, anyone who becomes aware of sin, that is aware of anything that transgresses the Word of God, may freely go to the door of the tabernacle and “*he shall confess that he hath sinned in that thing*” (Leviticus 5:5). In the Old Testament, at the door was standing a priest who could absolve that penitent person of his sin in the sight of God by sprinkling “*the blood of the covenant*”. And today we can find that priest in the form of a believing brother or sister within whom dwells the Holy Spirit. God has given all believers the authority to preach repentance and the forgiveness of sins. Thus, you dear sin-burdened traveler can truly “*confess your faults one to another*” (James 5:16) and receive absolution as if from God himself.

*God's Peace,*

Charles Korhonen