

BLOOD AND WATER

Text: John 19:31-34

INTRO: The apostle John wrote his account of the gospel & his epistles relatively late in the first century. By then heretics known as Gnostics had arisen to deny the basic facts about the life & death of Jesus. Gnostics insisted that spirit alone is good & that matter is utterly evil. From their viewpoint it was unthinkable that God would come in human flesh, therefore they insisted that either (1) Jesus was not Divine at all, or (2) He was a phantom who only seemed to have human flesh. The writings of John are directed quite pointedly at refuting the theories of Gnosticism & establishing both the Deity of Jesus and the fact that He came in the flesh. READ 1 JOHN 5:6-8.

I. THE WITNESS OF THE BLOOD & THE WATER IN JOHN 19:34.

A. Jesus was not a phantom. A phantom cannot be nailed to a cross. A Phantom cannot bleed, or die.

B. John does not base his claim on hear-say or tradition. He was An eye witness, vs. 35.

C. The H.S. also bears witness to this truth thru prophetic Statements made hundreds of years before the event, vs. 36-37.

D. I understand that around the human heart is a sac called the Pericardium that contains a clear fluid, primarily water. The Roman soldier thrust his spear thru the pericardium into the Heart of Jesus & a combination of blood & water issued forth. Jesus had a real body & Jesus shed real blood.

II. THE WITNESS OF THE WATER & THE BLOOD IN 1 JOHN 5:6-8.

A. Jesus began His ministry in water & finished it with blood.
READ MATTHEW 3:13-17.

1. Isa. 53:12 foretold that Christ would be numbered with Transgressors, tho He Himself would not be a sinner.

2. This was a prophecy of the sacrificial death of Jesus—
But even from the beginning of His ministry, He began to Be numbered with the transgressors by submitting to

Water baptism, which for all others, was for the Remission of sins, Mark 1:4; Luke 3:3.

B. The O.T. with its ceremonial washings & ritualistic Sacrifices looked forward to the ministry & reign of Jesus.

1. The water of the flood in Noah's day prefigured N.T. baptism. The animals he sacrificed prefigured Christ's blood.

Then Noah built an altar to the Lord & took of every clean animal & of every clean bird, and offered burnt offerings on the altar. (Gen 8:20)

READ I PETER 3:19-22

2. Israel's crossing of the Red Sea prefigured N.T. bapt.
READ I CORINTHIANS 10:1-4

3. The ceremonial washings of the O.T. priests & the animal sacrifices they offered served as types or shadows to be fulfilled in the N.T.

READ HEBREWS 9:28, 10:1-4

4. Throughout the N.T., the water & the blood are forever linked. READ EPHESIANS 5:25-26.

READ ROMANS 6:3-5

Acts 22:16; Rev. 1:5

NOTE: In John's day there were those who tried to have the water without the blood. In our day, many claim to have the blood without the water. But the N.T. forever links the two together.

III. IN N.T. CHURCHES, THERE ARE TWO PRACTICES THAT ARE SYMBOLIC IN NATURE.

- A. Water baptism memorializes the death, burial & resurrection of Christ. It also symbolizes the Christian's crucifixion Of his old un-christian lifestyle & rising to walk in newness of Life. It puts the sinner into contact with the cleansing, Purifying blood of Jesus.
- B. The Lord's supper pictures the death of Jesus—His pierced body And His shed blood.
- C. Such memorials do not exist where there was nothing to be Memorialized. Both baptism Y the L.S. are silent witnesses to the Life & death of Jesus Christ.

CONCLUSION: After 2,000 years, the blood & the water & the written words of the H.S. still testify to the sinless life & sacrificial death of Jesus. The Jesus who came to die in our place is coming again to judge the world in righteousness. It is not His will than any person perish—but those who reject the blood & the water will never experience the remission of their sins. We must apply the soul-cleansing blood by having our bodies washed in the water of baptism in obedience to His revealed will.

Exton, PA, September 21, 1990
Shiloh, Mexia, TX, November 18, 1990
Lancaster County, PA, May 27, 1993 (meeting)
Shiloh, Mexia, TX, October 8, 1995
Susquehanna, Marietta, PA, June 9, 2002