

BY THE BLOOD OF JESUS

John Edwards

The Hebrew writer introduces the theme of our study: *“Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus”* (Heb. 10:19). Many things have been made possible by the blood of Jesus.

1) WE HAVE THE REMISSION OF SINS. In instituting the Lord’s supper, Jesus said, *“this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins”* (Mt. 26:28). Have your sins been remitted?

2) WE ARE MADE NIGH UNTO GOD. Sin separates us from God (Is. 59:1-2). It is by the blood of Jesus that we are made nigh unto God. Paul penned, *“But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ”* (Eph. 2:13). Are you nigh or far off?

3) WE ARE REDEEMED. The blood of Jesus is redeeming blood. Ephesians 1:7 records, *“In whom [Christ] we have redemption through his blood...”* Have you been redeemed by the blood of Jesus?

Wouldn’t you like to know

how you can contact the blood of Jesus so you can have the remission of your sins, be made nigh unto God, and have redemption? Jesus shed His blood in His death (Jn. 19:33-34). Therefore, we must reach the death of Christ to contact the blood of Jesus. How do we reach the death of Christ? Paul answers, *“Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?”* (Rom. 6:3-4). Have you been baptized into Christ’s death?

THE LAST DAYS

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When people talk about the last days, they talk like they are a long way off, or they just started or something. The Scriptures teach we are in the last days now, and have been for nearly 2,000 years.

1) THE LORD’S HOUSE ESTABLISHED. Isaiah predicted that the Lord’s house would be established in the city of Jerusalem in the last days (Is. 2:2-3). This prophecy was fulfilled on the first Pentecost following the resurrection of Christ from the dead, around AD 33, as recorded in Acts 2. Acts 2:5 takes us to Jerusalem, verses 16 & 17 put us in the last days, and in verse 47, for the first time, the church, which is

the Lord’s house (1 Tim. 3:15), is spoken of as being in existence.

2) GOD HATH SPOKEN BY HIS SON. A reading of Hebrews 1:1-4 will show that God has spoken at different times in different ways, but now, in these last days, hath spoken by His Son. The word *“hath”* shows that God has said all He intends to say. This forever does away with the idea of “latter-day revelation.” Have you read what God hath spoken?

3) PERILOUS TIMES. The last days will be days of spiritual peril for, *“in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof...”* (2 Tim. 3:1-5). This is a pretty good sign of the times, isn’t it?

With each passing day, we are moving closer to *“the last day”*, when the dead will be raised (Jn. 11:24) and we shall all be judged (Jn. 12:48). Are you ready for that day to come?

IS SALVATION BY BAPTISM?

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Many have been made to believe that salvation is not by baptism, but is solely by faith or wholly by grace. What saith the Scripture about this? Is salvation by baptism?

1) **JESUS SAID IT IS.** Jesus said, *"He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned"* (Mk. 16:16). The word *"and"* ties faith and baptism together, making baptism just as essential as faith in being saved. To just believe is to come up short. Faith + baptism = salvation. It's just that simple!

2) **NEW TESTAMENT CONVERTS UNDERSTOOD IT IS.** Every case of New Testament conversion, from the conversion of the Jews on Pentecost in Acts 2 to the conversion of the Ephesians in Acts 19, involved folks being baptized. Why were all these baptized, even the same hour they heard the word, if salvation is not by baptism?

3) **THE APOSTLES TAUGHT IT IS.** The apostle Paul spoke of *"the salvation which is in Christ Jesus"* (2 Tim. 2:10), and taught that we are *"baptized into Christ"* (Gal. 3:27). If salvation is in Christ and we are baptized into Christ, then salvation is by baptism. Thus, all those who have not been baptized into Christ are outside of Christ and do not have salvation. The apostle Peter taught, *"The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us"* (1 Pet. 3:21).

The Bible says salvation is by baptism. Man says salvation is not by baptism. Which will you accept?

2) We have houses to eat and to drink in. When the church at Corinth abused the Lord's supper, Paul rebuked them saying, *"What? have ye not houses to eat and to drink in? or despise ye the church of God...And if any man hunger, let him eat at home"* (1 Cor. 11:22, 34).

3) The kingdom of God is not meat and drink. *"For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost"* (Rom. 14:17). The church is not a social club, even though some have tried to make it one. The church is a spiritual institution with a spiritual mission, to feed hungering souls the word of God (Mt. 4:4; 1 Tim. 3:15; 1 Th. 1:8; 1 Pet. 2:2).

4) Social activities belong to the individual Christian. Peter taught, *"Use hospitality one to another without grudging"* (1 Pet. 4:9). If an individual Christian or group of Christians want to get together for a meal and use their money to provide for it, that is fine and good, but where is authority for the church to take money out of its treasury to provide for social affairs?

NO KITCHEN BECAUSE

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A few Scriptural reasons why the church of Christ does not have a kitchen or eating facilities at the meetinghouse:

1) We follow the example of the early church under the guidance of the apostles. Acts 2:46 finds early Christians eating in their homes.

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