

“He Purchased With His Own Blood”

Prepared by Patrick J. Griffiths © - pastorpat@waukeshabile.org
August 3, 2008

“Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.”
Acts 20:28

I have always been arrested by this short, but pungent statement, “Purchased by blood.” Our view of this blood is pivotal in our understanding of God, our salvation, and the formation of His church. Jesus Christ was fully and truly human. As such, He possessed real blood, blood that was fully and truly human. In the design of God He determined that without the shedding of blood there could be no forgiveness of sin (Lev. 17:11; Heb. 9:22). Yet when the Bible speaks of blood, it is not only literal blood referenced but also blood as it represents the totality of the individual. Thus the blood of the person speaks of the whole person in their essence and activity. Throughout the New Testament record “the word *blood* [should be] construed as theological shorthand for his *sacrificial* death”¹

Although it is rather lengthy, we would do well to read each of the listed verses and ask the Holy Spirit to open our eyes, ears, and hearts to what He is saying through the written Word about the Living Word.

“Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which **He purchased with His own blood**” (Acts 20:28).

“...whom God displayed publicly **as a propitiation in His blood through faith**. This was to demonstrate His righteousness, because in the forbearance of God He passed over the sins previously committed” (Rom. 3:25).

“Much more then, having now been **justified by His blood**, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him” (Rom. 5:9).

“In the same way He took the cup also after supper, saying, “**This cup is the new covenant in My blood**; do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.” (1 Cor. 11:25).

“In Him **we have redemption through His blood**, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace” (Eph. 1:7).

“But now in Christ Jesus **you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ**” (Eph. 2:13).

“... and **through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross**; through Him, I say, whether things on earth or things in heaven” (Col. 1:20).

“... how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, **cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?**” (Heb. 9:14).

¹ Robert L. Reymond, *A New Systematic Theology of the Christian Faith*, 626.

“Therefore, brethren, since we have confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus” (Heb. 10:19).

“... but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ” (1 Pet. 1:19).

“... but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin” (1 John 1:7).

“... and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To Him who loves us and released us from our sins by His blood” (Rev. 1:5).

“And they sang a new song, saying, "Worthy are You to take the book and to break its seals; for You were slain, and purchased for God with Your blood men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation” (Rev. 5:9).

“I said to him, ‘My lord, you know.’ And he said to me, ‘These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb’” (Rev. 7:14).

Think of the words used to describe the glorious work of His perfect life and substitutionary death: purchased, propitiation, justification, new covenant, redemption, reconciliation, peace, clear conscience, accessibility, purity, freedom, and a completely cleansing.

Everything about His people and His church is blood permeated, blood soaked, and blood bought. The value of a church is the price tag God places on it. The church has been secured by God as His own by the offering up of His own life-blood. There is nothing else that could call such a thing into existence. The only way and reason the church exists is because the second member of the Godhead took on the nature of man in order that He might die to secure for Himself worshippers from every tongue, tribe, people, and nation. God caused a situation in which, as a man, He could taste death for everyone. It is impossible for us to comprehend this act. But in our inability to process the depth of this idea, we would be foolish not to appreciate the church universal and the church local. We neglect both to our detriment. Knowing how the church came to be, it would appear sacrilegious to speak ill of the church and not to align oneself with her. As a shepherd of sheep, my affection for Christ and His Church has deepened. My prayer for you is that your affections for Christ and His Church will also deepen.