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## HIS BLOOD BE ON US

During the dark hours leading up to the crucifixion, we find Pilate trying his best to release Jesus and keep Him from being crucified. He tried to get testimony from Jesus during His trials. However, Jesus remained silent (Jn. 19:9; Mk. 15:3-5; Isa. 53:7). Pilate knew He had been delivered to him out of “envy” (Matt. 27:18), so he appealed to the people and their customary “prisoner release” during the Passover. He allowed the Jews to choose between Jesus or Barabbas (Jn. 18:39-40). Sadly, the people listened to the chief priests and elders and chose Barabbas instead of the Lord (Matt. 27:15-21). Finally, seeing that he was getting nowhere, and the mob was growing more unruly by the minute, he took water and literally “washed his hands” of the situation. He told the people, “*I am innocent of this man’s blood; see to it yourselves*” (Matt. 27:24). The mob’s response was. “*His blood*

*be on us, and on our children*” (Matt. 27:25). What a terrible thing to say! These folks were telling Pilate to go ahead and kill Jesus, and they and their children would bear the guilt of the sin. Really, what they said is not possible because children cannot bear the iniquity of their parents (Ezek. 18:4, 20, etc.). Each person is responsible for his own sin (Jas. 1:14-15). However, their sentiment was one of cruelty and an ungodly attitude toward Christ. In this case, they confessed they were willing to kill someone in “cold blood” out of envy and a “mob mentality.” Such was a violation of Exodus 20:13 for them. They were also guilty of “envy”, which God describes as one of “*the works of the flesh*” in Paul’s writings (Gal. 5:21). As we study this event, what spiritual lessons might we learn? Could I suggest that one thing we see is that each of us might as well have been there with the mob that day, for it is our sins that nailed Christ to

the cross as well! The sins we have committed make us just as guilty as if we were the ones driving the literal nails into His body. Christ went to the cross to forgive the sins of the world, and this includes my sin (Matt. 20:28, 26:28; Rom. 3:23)! Thus, just like the people who cried "crucify him" that day, Christ's blood is on our hands! Yet, the context does not end here. If we fast-forward to 50 days after the crucifixion, we find these people now gathered on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:5-11). As they listened to the apostles speak (Acts 2:14), they were convicted of their sins and asked what they could do because they were guilty of murdering the Messiah (Acts 2:37). Peter responded by saying, *"Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself"* (Acts 2:38-39). Notice Acts 2:39. The promise Peter spoke of is to who? *"To you and your children."* In other words, you people who said, *"His blood be on us"* over a month ago are now given the opportunity to be saved. The ones who said *"His blood be on us,"* speaking of the guilt of Christ's death, are now getting the opportunity to have Christ's blood on them and their children so that they can be cleansed from the guilt of sin (Rev. 1:5; Heb.

9:14; 1 Pet. 1:18-19)! In like manner, would you like the blood of Christ to be on you? We already recognize that the guilt of sin rests on each one who has yielded to temptation (Jas. 1:14-15). Would you like the blood of Christ to cleanse you from your sin? Would you like the blood of Christ to wash your children from sin? Just as one cannot inherit the sins of his father, so we cannot inherit the salvation of our fathers! We must all come to Christ Jesus ourselves (Mk. 16:16)! Each person needs to come to Christ believing that He is the Son of God (Jn. 8:24), repenting of sin (Lk. 13:3, 5), confessing Christ (Rom. 10:10), and being baptized for the remission of sin (Acts 2:38). When one is baptized, he comes in contact with the cleansing effects of the blood of the Lord, and is cleansed from every sin. Paul said we are *"washed ... sanctified ... justified"* in Christ (1 Cor. 6:11). The Corinthians heard, believed, and were baptized (Acts 18:8; Mk. 16:16). Let us do the same thing so that Christ's blood can be on us and forgive us of every sin! – Jarrod Jacobs

**A Reminder To Parents About Modesty.** Parents need to realize that their little children will not naturally grow up to be modest – either in dress or behavior. Modesty is learned by teaching, but not by words alone. In addition to being taught, they must also be trained. They are trained by watching your modest behavior and dress and by the

way that you dress them from childhood. You cannot expect them, once they become developed as young men and women, to automatically become modest in behavior and dress. In fact, it will likely not happen if you have not been training them all along. — Ed Bragwell Sr.

**Editor's Note:** Let us all remember the need to dress ourselves and our children in ways that reflect godliness and modesty (1 Tim. 2:9-10; 1 Pet. 3:3-5). We are living examples of Christ that the world sees (Matt. 5:13-16). Let us make sure we are covering our bodies Scripturally. ***Could It Be ...***

Selected · that people reject the Bible — not because it contradicts itself, but because it contradicts them? · that some brethren do not attend various worship periods and Bible study classes because Christ is not really their “first love?” · that Satan has lulled us into thinking that we are really standing, when indeed, we are ready to fall? · we utterly abhor the violence going on in the world, yet do not think twice about what our families entertain themselves with on television and at the movies? · that some brethren honestly see no connection between commitment, attendance, and involvement? “If there was no error in principle or practice, then controversy, which is only another name for opposition to error, real or supposed, would be

unnecessary. If it were lawful, or if it were benevolent, to make a truce with error, then opposition to it would be both unjust and unkind. If error were innocent and harmless, then we might permit it to find its own quietus, or to immortalize itself. But so long as it is confessed that error is more or less injurious to the welfare of society, individually and collectively considered, then no man can be considered benevolent who does not set his face against it. In proportion, as a person is intelligent and benevolent, he will be controversial, if error exists around him. Hence the Prince of Peace never sheathed the sword of the Spirit while he lived. He drew it on the banks of the Jordan and threw the scabbard away.” Alexander Campbell — 1830



# MONTHLY CHALLENGE

**DIRECTIONS:** Each first Sunday of the month, we will have challenges that you should attempt to complete by the end of the month. If we all, as members, complete these challenges, our church will grow in spirit and in number.

## 1) Praying For Others Challenge

**James 5:16** *"The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much."* Prayer can turn night into day, and can change the worst of circumstances into amazing blessings. There are so many areas where our prayers can make a difference. We can pray for one another. "Epaphras, who is one of your number, a bondsman of Jesus Christ, sends you his greetings, always laboring earnestly for you in his prayers, that you may stand perfect and fully assured in all the will of God," Col. 4:12. We can pray for our enemies. "But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you," Matt. 5:44. We can pray for those we wish to share the gospel with. "Praying at the same time for us as well, that God will open up to us a door for the word," Col. 4:3. There are so many areas where prayer is the difference maker. Devote this month to praying diligently in these specific areas and watch God clear pathways to make progress. "I will even make a roadway in the wilderness, rivers in the desert," Is. 43:19.

## 2) USING YOUR BIBLE IN THE WORLD

Share the following verses with someone who does not attend this congregation at least twice this month:

**Titus 3:3-8**

"For we also once were foolish ourselves, disobedient, deceived, enslaved to various lusts and pleasures, spending our life in malice and envy, hateful, hating one another. But when the kindness of God our Savior and His love for mankind appeared, He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by His grace we would be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life. This is a trustworthy statement; and concerning these things I want you to speak confidently, so that those who have believed God will be careful to engage in good deeds. These things are good and profitable for men."