

Riverview Baptist Church
Sunday School Teaching Plan
April 20, 2013
Hebrews 9:13-14
“The Blood of Jesus”

Memory Verse

“How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God!” Hebrews 9:14, NIV

The Big Idea:

Sermon Topic: *Approach the Throne: Part 6 – Jesus Makes Us Clean Through His Blood (Heb 9-10)*

Sunday School Scripture: Hebrews 9:13-14

Sunday School Title: “The Blood of Jesus”

ESS: Hebrews 9:14 teaches that Jesus’ death fulfilled the Old Covenant and demonstrated God’s love for us so that we might become righteous, receive forgiveness, and be reconciled to God.

REVIEW: Last week, we focused on the first 11 verses of Hebrews chapter 9. We studied the differences between the Old and New Covenant. Help class remember some of the differences & discuss the results of living under the new covenant. (*OLD: written in stone, worship at temple, laws & rituals, sacrifices required, blood of animals only obtained temporary forgiveness; conscience not cleared; NEW: written in hearts, focus on Jesus – not laws; blood of Jesus sacrificed once for all; obtained eternal forgiveness; conscience cleared; RESULT: we are spiritual worshipers free to worship Jesus at any place or time*)

This week, we’re focusing on the blood of Jesus to see the significance of His sacrifice.

- If someone were to ask you why Jesus died on the cross, what answer might first come to mind?
- What if someone asked you how we benefit from Jesus’ death on the cross – how would you reply?

As we celebrate Easter and remember our Savior’s sacrificial death and triumphant resurrection, let’s take a look at the purpose for and the benefits of the blood Jesus spilled on the cross for us.

READ Hebrews 9:13-14

So most of us know the story of Jesus’ death on the cross. But let’s take a moment to evaluate its significance. Based on Hebrews 9:14, we can answer a few main questions:

- What was the purpose behind his death?
- Why did Jesus die on the cross?
- How does Jesus’ death benefit us?
- What do we receive as a result of His death?

PURPOSE: Jesus died in order to:

1. Meet the Old Covenant Requirements for Sacrifice

“How much more, then, will **the blood of Christ**, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God!” Hebrews 9:14

Jesus’ death on the cross was a bloody ordeal. And this was no accident. Death by crucifixion – blood pouring from his head, hands, and feet, was how God satisfied the Old Covenant requirements.

READ Hebrews 9:22 and Leviticus 17:11

In the Old Testament law, God makes it clear to his people that the spilling of life blood makes atonement for sin. This may be difficult to understand, but one way to look at it is that the requirement of blood for forgiveness shows God's seriousness towards sin. Sin destroys our righteousness, severs our relationship with a Holy God, and stirs God's wrath. Since God is just, sin cannot go unpunished. "God appointed these sacrifices for the relief of His people. They sinned and needed a substitute to bear their punishment. In His mercy, God accepted the ministry of sinful priests and substitute animals" (John Piper, *The Passion of Jesus Christ*). But as we know, the inadequacies of the priests and sacrifices opened the door for God's servant to enter and fulfill the sacrificial requirement perfectly, and once for all.

And this is what Jesus' bloody death on the cross does – it fulfills the Old Testament requirements for sacrifice. Jesus is our sacrificial lamb. He was presented on our behalf, suffered our punishment for us, and became a substitute for us in His death. In dying for us, He fulfilled God's requirement for the spilling of life blood for the atonement of sin. And Jesus fulfilled this requirement completely and eternally! His perfect blood spilled on the cross was sufficient to serve as a the once-for-all sacrifice for all who come to God. No further sacrifices are needed to atone for your sin or mine. Ever.

So why did Jesus die on the cross? To obey His father and obtain our fulfill God's requirement for the necessary sacrifice.

2. Demonstrate His Unconditional Love

"How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God!" Hebrews 9:14

Did you notice that in Hebrews 9:14, it says that Jesus *offered himself*? This means that Jesus willingly volunteered to take our punishment and be the sacrifice for our sins.

READ John 10:17-18

In this passage, Jesus makes it clear that no one coerced or forced him to come to earth, live as a man, and die on a cross. He did it all voluntarily. He chose to die for you and me. Why would he do such a thing?

READ Romans 5:8

Scripture says that God showed His love for us by sending Jesus to die on the cross. In obedience to His father and out of love for us, Jesus willingly submitted to God's plan and freely offered himself up as the sacrifice for our sin. Jesus was motivated by love! Jesus loved us so much that he chose the cross. So why did Jesus die? To show us God's love!

READ 1 John 3:16

Jesus' voluntary death on the cross was meant to show us the depths of His love. The love expressed on Calvary gives us purpose. Why did God create us? Because He loves us. Why do we exist? To be loved by Him and to love Him in return.

And Jesus' voluntary death on the cross was also meant to give us an example of how we should love others. Calvary's love gives us a standard. How should we live? Full of love for God and others. What's our example for loving others? Jesus' death on the cross.

How does Calvary's love give you purpose? If Calvary's love is your standard, how should you show love to others?

BENEFITS: Jesus' death offers us:

1. Righteousness

"How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God!" Hebrews 9:14

Hebrews 9:14 says Jesus presented himself as a perfect, unblemished offering. Jesus lived a sinless life and obeyed every point of the law. At all times, Jesus was totally obedient to God the Father, even unto death. The perfect, sinless blood of Jesus not only fulfills the requirements for sacrifice, but it also enables us to be righteous.

READ 2 Corinthians 5:21

On the cross, a great exchange took place. Jesus willingly took on our sin and, in return, allowed His righteousness to be passed on to those of us who believe. The perfect blood of Jesus covers our sins, but it also grants us a righteousness that we could never attain on our own – a righteousness that God demands for entrance into Heaven. When we believe in Jesus and trust in His sacrifice for our salvation, His righteousness is imputed to us. Thereafter, when God looks at us, he doesn't see our sin. Instead, God sees the righteousness of His Son covering us.

2. Forgiveness

*“How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, **cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death**, so that we may serve the living God!”* Hebrews 9:14

Hebrews 9:14 says that Jesus' death clears our conscience of guilt from sin. In short, Jesus' death provides forgiveness and rescues us from the bondage of sin.

READ 1 John 1:7

This passage reminds us that the blood of Jesus gives us forgiveness from all sin – sins in the past, in the present, and in the future. His blood forgives it all. There is no sin too great for the blood of Jesus. And since we have forgiveness, we are free from the bondage of sin.

READ Romans 6:17-18

Without Christ, we are all slaves to sin. But through His blood, we can be freed from the bondage of sin. So Jesus' death forgives us from all sin and enables us to say “yes” to God and “no” to sin.

3. Reconciliation

*“How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that **we may serve the living God!**”* Hebrews 9:14

Hebrews 9:14 says that Jesus' sacrifice enables us to serve the living God. This means that we are free to live for God and enjoy a close relationship with Him. Without the blood of Jesus, we are alienated from God. Our relationship with Him is severed by sin and we are as good as enemies to God.

READ Colossians 1:21-22

Though we were once separated from God, the blood of Christ reconciles us to Him. In other words, Jesus' sacrificial death forgives us and makes us righteous so that our relationship with God is restored. The Greek word for *reconciled* used in Colossians 1:22 means *to restore the former state of peace and harmony in a relationship*. Before sin entered the world, Adam and Eve enjoyed an intimate relationship with God. Sin severed that relationship, and nothing can restore it except the blood of Christ. On the cross, Jesus takes us from “enemy of God” to “child of God,” reconciling us to God.

CONCLUSION: Hebrews 9:14 teaches that Jesus' death fulfilled the Old Covenant and demonstrated God's love for us so that we might become righteous, receive forgiveness, and be reconciled to God.

APPLY: Take time to write a prayer to Jesus (in the back of your Bible or in your learner guide). Tell Him what his death on the cross means to you. Thank Him for the blessings you receive because of His sacrifice.