

SUNDAY MORNING

Announcements
Cole Meador

Song Leader
Daniel Allgor

Lord's Supper
Bill Rinehart Alec Capel
Clay Morris

Prayers
Jon Barry Mike Davis

WEDNESDAY EVENING

Announcements
Jack Calvert

Song Leader
Bryan Garlock

Prayers
Clay Morris Alec Capel

Invitation
Jon Barry

ABOUT US

Elders
Jack Calvert Rodney Ellis

Jon Barry Mike Davis
Clay Morris

Evangelist
Bryan Garlock

SERVICE TIMES

Sunday
Bible Study9:30 A.M.
Worship10:15 A.M.

Monday (Zoom)
Bible Study7:00 P.M

Wednesday
Bible Study7:00 P.M.

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GOD'S PLAN FOR SALVATION

Hear the word of truth Romans 10:13-17

Believe the truth..... Hebrews 11:6; John 8:24

Repent from all sins Luke 13:3; Acts 2:38

Confess the name of Christ ... Matthew 10:32-33; Romans 10:9-10

Be Baptized in His name Mark 16:16; 1 Peter 3:21; Colossians 2:12

Walk in newness of life and **be faithful** unto death Romans 6:1-4; Revelation 2:10

cost of sin and the magnificence of Christ's sacrifice?

When the Jewish people looked at the bloody altar at the Tabernacle or Temple, they came to realize the reality of sin. What will we do when we look at Christ's blood?



Volume XXVII

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Issue 2

Are You Spiritually Immature?

Bryan Garlock

How old are you? 30? 40? 50? 60? How long have you been a Christian? 10 years? 20 years? 30 years? Do you view yourself as spiritually mature?

Unfortunately, there are many spiritual twenty-year-old "babes in Christ" who have never grown up. However, one would think that if a person has been a Christian for twenty years, he would adequately understand and communicate the Scriptures and behave reasonably close to Scripture's demands.

In 1 Corinthians, we read of those who should have been mature. Paul wrote, "And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual men, but as to men of flesh, as to infants in Christ. I gave you milk to drink, not solid food; for you were not yet able to receive it... For since there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not fleshly, and are you not walking like mere men?" (3.1-3)

Paul said these Christians had not matured because of "jealousy and strife." Therefore, those beyond the spiritual-infant stage are not jealous nor cause divisions. Even more so, 1 Corinthians reveals that immorality, selfishness, and a lack of love characterized them. Thus we have a picture of what makes one spiritually immature.

Back to our question: Do you view yourself as spiritually mature? If you are a fifteen-year disciple that still gets jealous, why? If you are a twenty-five-year disciple that acts selfishly to the point that you cause division, why?

Perhaps Peter has the answer: "Therefore, putting aside all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander, like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation, if you have tasted the kindness of the Lord." (1 Pe 2.1-3) BG

FAMILY TALK

Continue to remember and check on our shut-ins: **Maxine Burnham**, and **Francine Davis**.

Continue to remember the health concerns of **Gerald Eaton, Joey Avance, Jerry Schnelle, Bonnie Allgor, Pat Buls, Sonny & Cathy Monaghan**, and **Pete Rowland**.

Francine Davis can now have visitors at the Little River Nursing & Rehab in Ashdown, AR. Perhaps call ahead to check on their Covid status before going there.

Alec's mother tested positive for covid but is symptom free. She will have surgery soon.

Beth Ellen is struggling with Covid and pneumonia. **Joey** is still very sick from Covid. **Jetta** is feeling better. Also keep **Pete** in your prayers as he is struggling with many issues, too.

Gladys Winters is still sick.

The **Rinehart** family has been exposed to covid. **Nathan** has covid.

January Birthday and Anniversaries

2 – Gladys Winters

4 – Gerald Eaton

8 – Jack & Karen Calvert

20 – Joey & Jetta Avance

25 – Brooke Scott

The Bloody Altar

Jarrold M. Jacobs

When the Jews offered sacrifices, we note that God has something to say about what happened to the blood of the sacrifices. Eight times in Leviticus, we read where God expected the priests (or Moses) to put blood on the horns of the altar, and then the rest of the blood was to be poured “at the bottom of the altar” (Lev. 4:7, 18, 25, 30, 34, 5:9, 8:15, 9:9).

As I read these passages and thought about the animals offered, I got to thinking that it would not take long for this area to stink and, on occasion, have blood pooled up around the altar after the priests had offered many sacrifices. In the days of Solomon when the Temple was built, the Bible speaks of 22,000 oxen, and 120,000 sheep offered to God (I Kings 8:63)! Think of feast days such as the Passover and other times when the multitudes had gathered and offered their sacrifices! Can we fathom the volume of blood that poured from that altar?

Is there any wonder why God required the numerous washings by the priests and commanded them to wash their hands and feet before going into the Tabernacle and Temple? Their hands and feet would have been coated in blood! I wonder how long it would be before the laver itself, once filled with water for their purification, had become blood-red?

Why did God require blood in connection with the sacrifices? “And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without

shedding of blood is no remission” (Heb. 9:22). Blood was necessary in God’s plan. These people needed to see the price of sin. They needed to understand that the consequences of sin were bloody and ugly. They needed to know that sin affected more than just the individual and that, yes, sometimes the innocent will suffer for the deeds of the wicked!

Don’t we also need to understand the price of sin? Don’t we also need to see that the consequences of our sins are bloody, ugly, and affect other people besides ourselves? Don’t we need an object lesson that our sins will hurt innocent people? I believe if we truly faced what our sins do, then sin would not look the same to us anymore! It would repulse us, and we would want to get away from it. Just like when Judas threw the money back at the chief priests and elders in the Temple after Jesus was condemned to death (Matt. 27:1-5), we also would run away from our sins when we understand what it did to the innocent One!

Remember that Christ, the “Lamb of God” (Jn. 1:29), died as the sacrifice for man’s sin. He suffered, and His blood poured out from His various wounds as He died on the cross (Zech. 13:1)! Look with the eye of faith to His sacrifice and understand “How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?” (Heb. 9:14). Yes, the “Just” suffered for the “unjust” (I Pet. 3:18)! His blood was shed

“for the remission of sins” (Matt. 26:28). After He died, a cruel soldier pierced His side “and forthwith came there out blood and water” (Jn. 19:34).

Every time blood was shed and poured at the altar in Old Testament days, it pointed to the blood of the innocent One whose blood could take away sin (Heb. 9:24-26, 10:4)! His blood poured down to the ground and pooled around the cross for a time. Perhaps folks there stepped in it? We know there were many gathered around His cross (Jn. 19:24-27; Mk. 15:29-32; Matt. 27:47-49). I am sure some Roman soldiers had Christ’s literal blood on their hands and clothes since some argued and gambled over His bloody garment (Matt. 27:35, Jn. 19:24), and others had whipped and beat Jesus ’back (Matt. 27:26; Mk. 15:15; Jn. 19:1)! No doubt Christ’s blood could be seen at the whipping post, and from here, one could follow His blood trail to Golgotha! Now, as Christ is suspended between heaven and earth, we see Jesus ’ blood drip down and pool at the ground! What a bloody altar the cross is!

The people of the Old Testament knew something about blood and something about the cost of sin. Do we appreciate that cost? Jesus died so we might live (II Cor. 5:14-15; Rom. 12:1-2). His stripes heal us (Isa. 53:5; I Pet. 2:24)! His blood cleanses us (Rev. 1:5, 7:14)! His blood purchased the church (Acts 20:28; I Pet. 1:18-19)! Have we ever paused to consider the actual