

Becoming all things to all men

...I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means save some.

And this I do for the Gospel's sake ([1 Corinthians 9: 22b-23a](#)).

Those who know the Lord realize that the saving message of the Gospel is to be presented to everybody. Why God gave us this responsibility rather than to angels is a subject to which no one can give easy answers, but whether we know the reasons for it or not, the mandate is clear.

In an effort to fulfill that great commission, missionaries leave their homeland and travel to places all over the world to win souls. Pastors preach the Word and exhort believers in their churches to share the Gospel to people in their communities. Some go door to door; some go to nursing homes; some conduct jail ministries; some minister to children; there are so many needs and so many people to win to Jesus!

In recent days God has made it possible for me (as founder of Eleutheros Books) to share the message to another different group of people. On February 4-7, I will be joining over 100 men from all over the United States to minister the Gospel in California during Super Bowl week.

Please pray for this evangelistic outreach!

If anyone who receives this newsletter is interested in ministering the Gospel to sports fans at future events in the United States, feel free to contact me so I can get you in touch with the right people.

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All this is part of *becoming all things to all men* ([1 Corinthians 9:22](#))!

The Blood of Christ

And almost all things are by the Law purged with blood: and without shedding of blood is no remission ([Hebrews 9:22](#)).

God has been revealing the importance of blood sacrifices since the time of Adam and Eve. After they fell into sin, God realized they had a need for clothing and some hope for forgiveness.

Unto Adam and to his wife did the Lord God make coats of skins, and clothed them ([Genesis 3:21](#)).

The word “blood” does not appear here, but the implication is that God killed an animal, and therefore its blood was shed. The Lamb of God died thousands of years later, providing a way for mankind to be saved, allowing righteousness to be imputed from Him to those who believe. The coats of skin are pictures of “putting on the new man” ([Colossians 3:9-10](#)). Thus we see that this act in Genesis was a picture of what Jesus did for Christians.

Did Adam and Eve understand that Jesus was their Savior? Of course, the answer is “no,” but they did understand that God was both holy and loving and that blood was shed so they would not be ashamed.

There is a steady revelation about the blood in the Old Testament. The same can be said for grace and faith. These three bedrock truths have been an important part of God’s revelation to man from the very beginning.

Below is a partial listing of the Old Testament’s teaching about the blood:

1. Abel’s sacrifice was acceptable to God because an animal was offered, and therefore blood was shed.

And in the process of time it came to pass, That Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the Lord. And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the Lord had respect unto Abel and to his offering: but unto Cain and his offering he had no respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell ([Genesis 4:3-5](#)).

The remainder of this story is revealed in verses 6-16 of this chapter. We can see what happens when somebody tries to change God’s standards into something else, even though there was some effort made to make an offering to God.

Cain undoubtedly worked hard to produce “the fruit of the ground” which he offered to God. He probably felt that his offering was just as good as Abel’s, but when Cain made the decision to ignore God’s directions regarding sacrifices, to become rebellious in not making the adjustment to offer what God insisted on, and to kill his brother Abel, he fell very deep into sin and paid a heavy price as a result.

And Cain said unto the Lord, My punishment is greater than I can bear ([Genesis 4:13](#)).

This story illustrates how important it is to follow God’s directions! Religions today have come up with substitute ways to appear “good,” but in the end they are not recognizing that God has provided only one way to be saved, and the consequences of not believing Him are very heavy indeed, just as they were for Cain.

2. God revealed even more about the blood when He gave instructions to Moses about the Passover.

Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year: ye shall take it out from the sheep, or from the goats: And ye shall keep it up until the fourteenth day of the month... ([Exodus 12:7-8, 13a](#)).

These verses instruct that the lamb be “without spot,” just as Jesus was sinless; and the blood was to be smeared clearly on the entrance to the house, just as believers are to have the blood of Christ applied to their hearts.

The results? When the Father sees the blood applied, deliverance is immediate, and the consequences of ignoring or disobeying God’s command is death ([Exodus 12:29](#)).

3. Blood was a part of many of the offerings prescribed by God soon after the first Passover.

The following offerings required blood: the sin offering ([Leviticus 4:15-17](#)), burnt offering ([Exodus 29:16](#)), atonement ([Leviticus 16:14-18](#)), trespass ([Leviticus 7:2](#)), peace ([Leviticus 3:12-13](#)), and the blood of the covenant ([Exodus 24:5-8](#)).

We will continue this look at the blood in next month’s newsletter.

Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness

Nicolaus L. von Zinzendorf

trans. by John Wesley

*Jesus, Thy blood and righteousness
My beauty are, my glorious dress;
'Midst flaming worlds, in these arrayed,
With joy shall I lift up my head!*

*Lord, I believe Thy precious blood,
Which at the mercy seat of God
Forever doth for sinners plead
For me, e'en for my soul, was shed!*

*Lord, I believe were sinners more
Than sands upon the ocean shore,
Thou hast for all atonement paid,
For all a full atonement made!*