

The Wednesday Word, July 19, 2017: Speaking Blood

But you are come . . . to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaks better things than that of Abel (Hebrews 12:24).

In our text, we have both the blood of Abel and the blood of Jesus. Both men were murdered! Both men presented a sacrifice before the Father. Both sacrifices were accepted but, strictly speaking, Abel's sacrifice was accepted only because of Christ's future work at the cross. It was impossible that the blood of Abel's lamb could, in and of itself, take away his sin. But it did, because the Father accepted it, as it were, by credit, based on the final payment for sins that was yet to be made at Calvary.

Abel's sacrifice had no merit in it, but Christ's sacrifice was so overflowing with value that it encompassed Abel's sacrifice of his lamb. When Abel's lamb died, the blood was the blood of an everyday lamb. Although it was a far inferior sacrifice to Christ's sacrifice, it was accepted because it was offered by faith and pointed to Christ.

Christ's blood, however, was atoning blood, poured out once for the sins of His people from every generation. It was a well pleasing and satisfactory sacrifice which guaranteed that no charge made against us would prosper.

There is, however, a deeper meaning to this verse in that Abel's own blood, is to be contrasted with that of Christ's. Abel's blood was speaking blood. God said to Cain, "What have you done, the voice of your brother's blood cries unto Me from the ground" (Genesis 4:10). So here we have two men, two sets of blood, two voices. What's the difference? The difference is this, Abel's blood called for vengeance and vindication, but Christ's blood calls for mercy!

Both Abel and Christ were murdered. Abel was killed by his brother and Christ was murdered by his "own" for, "He came to His own, and His own received Him not" (John 1:12). And there at the cross, Jesus bled and died. But listen and listen intensely. Do you hear it? Listen to what? The silence! There is only silence from Christ's blood on the subject of vengeance. We hear no call for vengeance upon His people. But listen again to what Christ's blood is saying. It is speaking mercy and salvation to those who believe. Abel's blood cries out for justice and judgment, but Jesus' blood declares redemption and acquittal. Christ's blood makes a much better speech than that of Abel's.

Spurgeon said it like this,

"You came to the blood with no merits of your own. Guilty, lost, and helpless, you came to take that blood, and that blood alone, as your everlasting hope. You came to the cross of Christ, with a trembling and an aching heart; and oh! what a precious sound it was to you to hear the voice of the blood of Jesus! . . .it cries "It is finished; I have made an end of sin; I have brought in everlasting righteousness."

And that's the Gospel Truth!