

Christ Reformation Church

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Living as Exiles in a Hostile World – The Epistle of 1 Peter

(Part 04 – The Blood of Jesus Christ Cleanses Us from all Sin)

July 31, 2016

Sermon Text: 1 Peter 1:1-5

Scripture Reading:

1Pe 1:1-5 Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who are elect exiles of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, (2) according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in the sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and **for sprinkling with his blood:** May grace and peace be multiplied to you. (3) Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, (4) to an

inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, (5) who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

“...elect exiles... according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in the sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and for sprinkling with his blood...”

The Christian, as we have seen, is an *elect* (chosen by God) *exile* (living in a hostile, foreign world) and is so because of the foreknowledge of God who set His choice and love upon us in eternity past, apart from any merit in ourselves. In addition, this foreknowledge and election ALWAYS includes:

- The sanctification of the Spirit
- Obedience to Jesus Christ
- Sprinkling with His blood.

There is NO Christian who is not elect. Furthermore, there is no Christian then

who is not indwelt by the Holy Spirit and sanctified (set apart for God, made holy to the Lord) and who therefore walks in obedience to Jesus Christ. If these things are not present in a person, then no matter what they claim or how outwardly “holy” they may appear, *they are not in Christ and do not belong to Him.*

Rom 8:9-14 You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. (10) But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. (11) If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you. (12) So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. (13) For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. (14) For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.

And again –

Mat 23:25-28 "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you clean the outside of the cup and the plate, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence. (26) You blind

Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup and the plate, that the outside also may be clean. (27) "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs, which outwardly appear beautiful, but within are full of dead people's bones and all uncleanness. (28) So you also outwardly appear righteous to others, but within you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.

It is absolutely impossible then for a true, regenerate, genuine Christian to walk in sin. It is VERY possible for a fake, counterfeit, unregenerate person to parade as a most holy saint of God and today the visible church is filled with such people.

Peter, in order to encourage these believers who were spread throughout the empire, elect *exiles*, often suffering persecution, writes these things and also adds that they were chosen by God “for sprinkling with his [Christ’s] blood.” Why would that be an encouragement to them and to us? We are about to see. Let’s look at the OT background:

Exo 24:1-8 Then he said to Moses, "Come up to the LORD, you and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel, and worship from afar. (2) Moses alone shall come near to the LORD, but the others shall not come near, and the people shall not

come up with him." (3) Moses came and told the people all the words of the LORD and all the rules. And all the people answered with one voice and said, "**All the words that the LORD has spoken we will do.**"

(4) And Moses wrote down all the words of the LORD. He rose early in the morning and built an altar at the foot of the mountain, and twelve pillars, according to the twelve tribes of Israel. (5) And he sent young men of the people of Israel, who offered burnt offerings and sacrificed peace offerings of oxen to the LORD. (6) And Moses took half of the blood and put it in basins, and half of the blood he threw against the altar. (7) Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read it in the hearing of the people. And they said, "All that the LORD has spoken we will do, and we will be obedient." (8) **And Moses took the blood and threw it on the people and said, "Behold the blood of the covenant that the LORD has made with you in accordance with all these words."**

What then did this sprinkling of the blood of an animal sacrifice signify? Listen to D.A. Carson explain it –

"The scene in Exod. 24 is the confirmation of the covenant, the sealing of the covenant: by Moses'

instructions, an altar is set up at the foot of Mount Sinai, and young Israelite men (the formal legitimate priesthood had not yet been instituted) offer burnt offerings and sacrifice young bulls as fellowship offerings to God. Moses collects the blood, sprinkling half on the altar, which speaks of God's forgiveness grounded in his acceptance of this sacrifice. Moses then takes the Book of the Covenant and reads it to the people who vow, 'We will do everything the Lord has said; we will obey' (Exod. 24:7), whereupon Moses takes the other half of the blood, collected in bowls, and sprinkles it on the people, making this a blood oath, a solemn covenant commitment to the effect that their blood will be required if they break the covenant."

And of course, as Paul reminds us in his letter to the Galatians:

Gal 3:10-12 For all who rely on works of the law are under a curse; for it is written, "Cursed be everyone who does not abide by all things written in the Book of the Law, and do them." (11) Now it is evident that no one is justified before God by the law, for "The righteous shall live by faith." (12) But the law is not of faith, rather "The one who does them shall live by them."

We know how it all played out with the Israelites. For all of their promises to do everything the Old Covenant required, they failed and failed very, very quickly. They ended up cursed by that covenant. The animal blood did not work.

Now, let's have the New Testament interpret the Old Testament for us, showing us how in Christ and by the sprinkling of His blood upon us we are blessed rather than cursed and obtain the inheritance promised to Abraham -

Heb 9:1-28 Now even the first covenant had regulations for worship and an earthly place of holiness. (2) For a tent was prepared, the first section, in which were the lampstand and the table and the bread of the Presence. It is called the Holy Place. (3) Behind the second curtain was a second section called the Most Holy Place, (4) having the golden altar of incense and the ark of the covenant covered on all sides with gold, in which was a golden urn holding the manna, and Aaron's staff that budded, and the tablets of the covenant. (5) Above it were the cherubim of glory overshadowing the mercy seat. Of these things we cannot now speak in detail.

(6) These preparations having thus been made, the priests go regularly into the first section, performing their

ritual duties, (7) but into the second only the high priest goes, and he but once a year, and not without taking **blood, which he offers for himself and for the unintentional sins of the people.**

(8) By this the Holy Spirit indicates that the way into the holy places is not yet opened as long as the first section is still standing (9) (which is symbolic for the present age). **According to this arrangement, gifts and sacrifices are offered that cannot perfect the conscience of the worshiper,** (10) but deal only with food and drink and various washings, regulations for the body imposed until the time of reformation.

(11) But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation) (12) **he entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption.** (13) For if the blood of goats and bulls, and the sprinkling of defiled persons with the ashes of a heifer, sanctify for the purification of the flesh, (14) **how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our**

conscience from dead works to serve the living God.

(15) Therefore he is the mediator of a new covenant, **so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance, since a death has occurred that redeems them from the transgressions committed under the first covenant.**

(16) For where a will is involved, the death of the one who made it must be established. (17) For a will takes effect only at death, since it is not in force as long as the one who made it is alive. (18) Therefore not even the first covenant was inaugurated without blood. (19) For when every commandment of the law had been declared by Moses to all the people, he took the blood of calves and goats, with water and scarlet wool and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book itself and all the people, (20) saying, "This is the blood of the covenant that God commanded for you." (21) And in the same way he sprinkled with the blood both the tent and all the vessels used in worship. (22) **Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.**

(23) Thus it was necessary for the copies of the heavenly things to be purified with these rites, **but the**

heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. (24) For Christ has entered, not into holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true things, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf.

(25) Nor was it to offer himself repeatedly, as the high priest enters the holy places every year with blood not his own, (26) for then he would have had to suffer repeatedly since the foundation of the world. **But as it is, he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.** (27) And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment, (28) so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.

And continuing into chapter 10-

Heb 10:1-22 For since the law has but a shadow of the good things to come instead of the true form of these realities, **it can never, by the same sacrifices that are continually offered every year, make perfect those who draw near.** (2) Otherwise, would they not have ceased to be offered, since the worshipers, having once been cleansed, would no longer have any consciousness of sins? (3)

But in these sacrifices there is a reminder of sins every year. (4) **For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.**

(5) Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, "Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body have you prepared for me; (6) in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. (7) Then I said, 'Behold, I have come to do your will, O God, as it is written of me in the scroll of the book.'" (8) When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law), (9) then he added, "Behold, I have come to do your will." He does away with the first in order to establish the second. (10) **And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.**

(11) And every priest stands daily at his service, offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. (12) **But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God,** (13) waiting from that time until his enemies should be made a footstool for his feet. (14) **For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.** (15) And the Holy

Spirit also bears witness to us; for after saying, (16) "This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, declares the Lord: **I will put my laws on their hearts, and write them on their minds,**" (17) **then he adds, "I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more."**

(18) Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin. (19) **Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus,** (20) by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, (21) and since we have a great priest over the house of God, (22) **let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.**

You notice that the Apostle is quoting from Jeremiah 31, that great prophecy of the New Covenant. Listen to it and notice carefully what it effects –

Jer 31:31-34 "Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, (32) not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their

husband, declares the LORD. (33) For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. (34) And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more."

See it? Unlike the Old Covenant, this one really effects the salvation of all who are in it –

- It is not like the Old Covenant in that it is UN-breakable
- All who are in this New Covenant have God's Law written upon their very hearts rather than externally on stone. That is to say, they will by their very nature love God and His Law and it will be their nature to keep it.
- Every person in the New Covenant knows the Lord
- Every person in the New Covenant has their sins forgiven.

And therefore you see the power of these amazing words –

"...elect exiles... according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in the sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and for sprinkling with his blood..."

Jesus' blood. Sprinkled with His blood which signifies that we are in Him, in this New Covenant, and that we share all the benefits of it without exception.

- We know the Lord and love Him
- We are His children
- The inheritance promised to Abraham is ours
- We have forgiveness of sins and thus are justified before Him

Let's close by reading through Hebrews chapter 8 as the Apostle once more explains the power of the blood of Christ with which we are sprinkled. And notice as we read that here we have the "P" in TULIP. That is, *the perseverance of the saints*. Because we see here very plainly that all who are sprinkled with Christ's blood, and therefore all who are in this New Covenant, can NEVER come under the curse again –

Heb 8:1-13 Now the point in what we are saying is this: we have such a high priest, one who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven, (2) a minister in the holy places, in the true tent that the Lord set up, not man. (3) For every high priest

is appointed to offer gifts and sacrifices; thus it is necessary for this priest also to have something to offer. (4) Now if he were on earth, he would not be a priest at all, since there are priests who offer gifts according to the law. (5) They serve a copy and shadow of the heavenly things. For when Moses was about to erect the tent, he was instructed by God, saying, "See that you make everything according to the pattern that was shown you on the mountain." (6) But as it is, Christ has obtained a ministry that is as much more excellent than the old as the covenant he mediates is better, since it is enacted on better promises. (7) For if that first covenant had been faultless, there would have been no occasion to look for a second. (8) For he finds fault with them when he says: "Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will establish a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah, (9) not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt. For they did not continue in my covenant, and so I showed no concern for them, declares the Lord. (10) For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my laws into their minds, and write them on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. (11) And they shall not

teach, each one his neighbor and each one his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest. (12) **For I will be merciful toward their iniquities, and I will remember their sins no more."** (13) In speaking of a new covenant, he makes the first one obsolete. And what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away.