

## **Bermudian Church of the Brethren**

**WEDNESDAY'S WORD** – a midweek thought from Pastor Larry M. Dentler

to share a word of inspiration ... encouragement ... challenge ... a smile ... in the middle of your week

October 16 in the year of our Lord 2019 - #809

### *Whose Blood?*

My wife Cathy & I are praising the Lord and enjoying the blessing of the first time in over a decade that she has no open diabetic ulcers on her feet. It's been a l-o-n-g journey with sometimes weekly visits to the podiatrist for debriding of the ulcers. It just seemed like no matter what we did they wouldn't heal. At one point she had three ugly open wounds. But we give thanks to the Lord ... right now her feet are all healed up! As we prepare for our annual fall trip to the beach Cathy is looking forward to toes in the ocean! It's been a long time!

But in this time I have to admit ... we're a bit paranoid. I'm so afraid that a new wound will open. She carefully cleans and moisturizes her feet studying for any signs of a new wound. The other night she was in the bedroom and I was in the bathroom. I called out to her in panic, almost hyperventilating, "Cathy! Are your feet OK? There's blood all over the bathroom floor!" Well she quickly got her shoes & socks off and examined her feet. "No!" she replied, "They look OK!"

Sheepishly I called back. "Sorry, it's OK, it's my blood." Somewhere along the way I had cut my finger and blood was everywhere on me and the floor and I hadn't even noticed.

More than 2000 years ago on a rocky outcrop just outside the city walls of Jerusalem, my Lord Jesus was nailed to that old rugged cross in one of the most evil means of execution ever devised by the human mind – Roman crucifixion. It was a bloody affair; by design. The Romans wanted to shock people into obedience. Step outside of Roman law and THIS is what could happen to YOU! Historical records tell of the streets outside of Jerusalem lined with crosses of those who had crossed Rome. But this one Cross, on that skull shaped hill called Golgotha, was different from every other. For the Man crucified there was my Lord Jesus. And the blood shed there was shed for an amazing purpose; my forgiveness. It was me who deserved punishment. It was my blood that deserved to be shed. It was His blood that was poured out in my place. Whose blood?

Centuries earlier God had given the Israelites a powerful object lesson. Not pleasant! The Temple sacrifices they were commanded to bring for their God were to be perfect, blemish free, the most valuable, lambs from their flocks. And their blood was to be spilt on the altar, in the Jerusalem Temple, sprinkled on the Mercy Seat in the Holy of Holies for the forgiveness of sin. Father God wanted His people to understand the high cost, the terrible consequences of sin. Temple sacrifice was a messy, gross, undertaking. We are told that the Temple mount pavement had channels cut into it to divert the blood. Messy! By God's design!

But all that changed on Golgotha, when Jesus' blood was poured out for me, for you, for all sinners ... once for all!

Now beware of the heresy being spread about in our world today that says that Jesus didn't really need to die and bleed so horrendously. This false teaching, that is at odds with 2000 plus years of Christian orthodoxy, says that God's love is enough to forgive us. Don't blame the gore on God they say! Love wins! There's just one terrible problem with this increasingly popular teaching. It's not what the Bible says!

***"In fact, the law requires that nearly everything be cleansed with blood and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness."*** Hebrews 9:22 NIV

***"For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect."***

1 Peter 1:18-19 NIV

And even the Lord Jesus Himself, when He took the fourth cup from the Passover Table at the Last Supper, the Cup shared after the meal, the Cup of Redemption, and breathed new meaning into it ... made it clear.

***"...for this is my blood, which confirms the covenant between God and His people. It is poured out as a sacrifice to forgive the sins of many."*** Matthew 26:28 NLT

See His blood? Whose blood? Jesus' blood! HIS blood *poured* out in love for MY sin! For YOUR sin! For OUR sin! Hallelujah! What a Savior!

Pastor Larry <><