

March 3, 2018

THE SURE WORD by Jonnie Hutchison

THE POINT OF CONTACT

The Bible clearly teaches that it is the blood of Jesus that washes away sin. "...Unto Him that loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood" (Revelation 1:5b). Peter writes that we are "not redeemed by corruptible things, like silver or gold...but with the precious blood of Christ, as a Lamb without spot and without blemish" (1 Peter 1:19). Few who accept Jesus Christ as the Son of God would deny the necessity of reaching the blood of Christ to have one's sins washed away. However, in man's response to God, where is the point at which one actually comes in contact with the shed blood of Jesus?

Few deny that faith is essential to one's salvation. Jesus taught, "Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for if you do not believe that I am He, you will die in your sins." (John 8:24). One who rejects faith in Christ rejects salvation (Acts 4:12). However, a most valid question is, does one contact the blood of Christ at the point of believing that Jesus is the Son of God? If so, then the demons must be saved for the inspired James wrote, "...Even the demons believe and tremble" (James 2:19). James was not teaching that demons have been saved by the blood of Jesus but that it takes more than mere belief in Jesus as the Son of God to be justified. Faith plus works of obedience are necessary for justification (James 2:20-26). If one contacts the blood of Jesus at the point of faith, where is the Bible passage that says so?

The Bible teaches that man's response to God's grace must include repentance. Jesus taught that it is either repent or perish (Luke 13:3). Acts 17:30 says that God "commands all men everywhere to repent." When one repents of sin does he or she at that point contact the blood of Jesus? If so, where is the Bible passage that teaches that repentance is the point of contact with the blood of Jesus?

Jesus shed His blood when he died on the cross (John 19:34). It follows then, that to reach the blood of Jesus one must reach His death. How is that possible so long after His death? The answer is given in Romans 6:3-4, "Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were **baptized into His death**? Therefore, we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life." The point of contact with the blood of Jesus happens when a penitent confessing believer is immersed in water into the death of Christ. In that act one spiritually reaches the blood of Jesus which washes away his sin. "And now, why do you tarry, Arise and be baptized and wash away your sins...." (Acts 22:16).