

Repentance Tabernacle Church

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Covered by the Blood

Focus Verse: Exodus 12:23 - For the LORD will pass through to smite the Egyptians; and when he seeth the blood upon the lintel, and on the two side posts, the LORD will pass over the door, and will not suffer the destroyer to come in unto your houses to smite you.

Lesson Text: Exodus 12:21-27; Matthew 27:33-54 Truth About God: Jesus Christ's shed blood delivers us from sin. Truth For My Life: I will live above the power of sin in my life.

Israel lived under bondage to the Egyptians. They spent 430 years in captivity, far removed from their homeland. Each passing day brought a greater sense of hopelessness. Most likely, there were days they wondered if God had forsaken them and left them to die in Egypt. But they were God's chosen people. He was not about to leave them or forsake them. To affect their release, God sent Moses and Aaron to the house of Pharoah to demand he let God's people go. Time after time Pharoah refused. With each refusal God sent a new plague to convince Pharoah to free the Jewish people.

At the first Passover, God instructed the man of each Jewish household to kill a young lamb or goat that had no defects. Each family was to roast and eat the sacrifice. Any leftover meat was to be burned. They were to eat fully dressed, with their sandals on and their walking sticks in their hands. Some of the lamb's blood was to be taken and smeared on the top and sides of the door-posts of each home. The marking of that blood brought the true meaning of Passover into their lives. God promised Moses, "When I see the blood, I will pass over you" (Exodus 12:13). God passed over the lives of those marked by the blood of the sacrifice, thus sparing them from death. The Passover was not to be a one-time event. The Lord commanded Passover to be observed on an annual basis.

When Jesus cried from the cross, "It is finished," He was declaring an end to offering blood sacrifices for the sin of the people. When John the Baptist saw Jesus, John declared, "Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world" (John 1:29). Paul wrote to the church in Ephesus, "In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace" (Ephesians 1:7).

We all have been living our lives on a spiritual death row. We are guilty as charged. Like all others who have sinned, we are condemned to die for our sin. But time to time, we dream about finally being set free. We long to break out of the prison of sin. Yet, no matter how much we dream about it, there seems to be no way out. There is no last-minute reprieve or pardon. It seems we are destined to die in our sin.

Until now. According to <u>2 Corinthians 6:2</u>, "Now is the day of salvation." Jesus Christ has stepped into the prison of sin in our lives and offered to take our place. He has already died so we can live. He became bound to the cross so we could be spiritually free.

When Jesus died at Calvary, forgiveness was provided for all the sins of humanity. When we have had Jesus' blood applied to our lives through the new-birth experience, God grants us freedom we have never felt before. The struggle is real, and the battle is intense. The only real victory and power over sin is through the blood of Jesus Christ. When we understand the incredible price Jesus paid to forgive our sin, we should be filled with gratitude. Every day we live should be a day we thank Him for the gift of forgiveness.

Jesus atoning sacrifice at Calvary covered our sin. We can find our way to freedom through repentance and having our sins washed away by being baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then we can become new creatures in Him by receiving His Spirit. Jesus removes the condemnation of sin by allowing us to walk in the Spirit. This results in us never being separated from the love He has for us. What amazing love. He died for us so we can live.