

McCabe United Methodist Church
Wednesday, February 13, 2013
Poured Out: Elements of a Resurrection
Blood
Ty Rostvedt

Hebrews 9:15-22

For this reason Christ is the mediator of a new covenant, that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance—now that he has died as a ransom to set them free from the sins committed under the first covenant. ¹⁶ In the case of a will, it is necessary to prove the death of the one who made it, ¹⁷ because a will is in force only when somebody has died; it never takes effect while the one who made it is living. ¹⁸ This is why even the first covenant was not put into effect without blood. ¹⁹ When Moses had proclaimed every commandment of the law to all the people, he took the blood of calves, together with water, scarlet wool and branches of hyssop, and sprinkled the scroll and all the people. ²⁰ He said, “This is the blood of the covenant, which God has commanded you to keep.” ²¹ In the same way, he sprinkled with the blood both the tabernacle and everything used in its ceremonies. ²² In fact, the law requires that nearly everything be cleansed with blood and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.

In the Old Testament, the people had to offer animal sacrifices in order to receive forgiveness of sins. However; this could never actually remove their sins, but instead, it foreshadowed the day when the Messiah would come and provide eternal forgiveness. We are all guilty of committing sins, just as people throughout history have struggled with sin. Anytime you have ever been greedy, or coveted something that wasn't yours, or told a lie, or lusted after someone you have committed a sin against God. There are innumerable sins to count, but those are a few common examples. Since we have all sinned, we all have guilt. There is only one way for guilt to be removed. You can't remove it through being a good person and you can't remove it simply by being penitent. The only way you can get rid of guilt is to be forgiven and the only way to be forgiven is through the shedding of blood (Heb. 9:22).

Romans 6:23 says, “The wages of sin is death” which explains why animals had to die on behalf of the people who committed sins. In God's eternal justice system, He requires death for crimes committed against Him. This is where Christ's death and resurrection start to make sense for us. Christ took the punishment that we deserved on the cross in order to provide our forgiveness. Since everyone has sinned, everyone needs forgiveness. Only through Christ's death can forgiveness be offered. His resurrection secured it for all time because since He lives forever, we can forever know that we are kept saved.

In Matthew 26, Jesus speaking about His blood says, “This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.” We look to the

communion table to be reminded of Christ's death and to feel secure in our salvation. We don't have to doubt whether we are saved or not because our salvation is not dependent on anything we've done, but solely on what has already been done through Christ.

Now that we know we are forgiven we can live as forgiven people and offer the same forgiveness and love toward others. We can offer our lives as living sacrifices (Rom. 12:1) in the same manner that God gave His all for us.