

## THE BLOOD

### Int.

1. Aim: To discuss characteristics of the blood and lessons from it.
2. Lev. 17:11 "The life of the flesh is in the blood."
3. Blood always has been a curious substance whose vast mysteries and capabilities have yet to be fully explored.
  - a. Doctors in the twenty-first century transfuse it, draw it, separate it, package it, store it, ship it, and sell it.
  - b. And, although modern-day scientists have not uncovered completely all of the wonders of blood, they have discovered that it is the key to life.
  - c. Without this "liquid of life," humans and animals would have no way to circulate the necessary oxygen and proteins that their bodies need in order to survive and reproduce.
  - d. Hemoglobin found in the red blood cells carries oxygen to the brain, which in turn uses that oxygen to allow it to control the entire body.
    - i. A brain without oxygen is like a car without gas or a computer without electricity.
    - ii. Blood makes all of the functions in the body possible.
4. In the past, ignorance of blood's value caused some "learned" men to do tragic things.
  - a. For instance, during the middle ages, and even until the nineteenth century, doctors believed that harmful "vapors" entered the blood and caused sickness.
  - b. For this reason, leeches were applied to victims of fever and other illnesses in an attempt to draw out blood containing these vapors.

- c. Also, the veins and arteries located just above the elbow were opened, and the patient's arms were bled to expunge the contaminated blood.
  - d. George Washington, the first President of the United States, died because of such misplaced medical zeal.<sup>1</sup>
5. Maybe you have seen a red and white striped, twirling pole at the entrance to a barbershop. In the middle ages, barbers did much more than cut hair. They also performed minor surgeries (such as tooth extractions). One of their most frequent feats was bloodletting. Barbershops generally kept on hand a fresh supply of leeches—stored in a basin on top of the pole.
6. Illustration: "What Does my Blood Do All Day?" [ See illustration at end of sermon]
- a. Universe
  - b. Circulatory system
  - c. Ps. 139:14 NKJV "I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, And that my soul knows very well."
7. But what does all this have to do with the Bible? Thousands of years before the lethal practice of bloodletting was conceived, mankind had been informed by God that blood was indeed the key to life.<sup>2</sup>
8. Lev. 17:11 "For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul."
- a. The life of a beast is appointed and accepted by God as a substitute for the sinner's life (in reference to the life of Christ, which was to be given for the life of the world;) but as this life is in the BLOOD, and as the blood is the grand principle of vitality,

- b. Therefore the blood is to be poured out upon the altar: and thus the life of the beast becomes a substitute for the life of the man. [Clarkes Commentary]
9. Lev. 17:14 "For it is the life of all flesh; the blood of it is for the life thereof: therefore I said unto the children of I srael, Ye shall eat the blood of no manner of flesh: for the life of all flesh is the blood thereof: whosoever eateth it shall be cut off."
- a. They were prohibited from eating blood.
- b. This has always been God's rule in all ages -
10. "And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation;"
- Acts 17:26
11. Let us notice some unusual characteristics of blood.

## Discussion

### I. BLOOD IS FLUID AND MOBILE

- A. Blood moves
1. All other tissues of the body, such as muscle, bones, or nerves, are all fixed cells.
  2. But blood flows through the entire body and supplies the fixed cells with nourishment and carries off the waste products.
  3. We have about 5 quarts of blood in our body.
  4. If it fails to reach the cells and members of the body then we will die.
  5. It circulates through the entire body in about two minutes .

## B. Spiritual truth

1. The church is called his body and we are members of his body and members one of another.
2. In this body Jesus Christ is the Head and all obedient believers are the members.
3. These members are all related by the blood of Jesus, the Christ.
4. Hymn: "There is a fountain filled with blood Drawn from Immanuel's veins; ever since by faith I saw the stream Thy flowing wounds supply, Redeeming love has been my theme, and it shall be till I die. "

## **II. BLOOD CONSISTS OF THREE KINDS OF CELLS**

### A. Solid part of blood consists of 3 kinds of cells

1. Platelets - help in clotting
2. Erythrocytes - red cells - carry oxygen to cells - pick! up carbon dioxide - also carries food
3. Leucocytes - white cells - the army that fights infection - like little soldiers

### B. Spiritual application

1. Christ is the source of life - Jn. 14:6
2. He gives us all we need for spiritual well being -nourishment and protection  
2 Pet. 1:3
3. God, as the sovereign author and proprietor of nature, reserved the blood to Himself and allowed men only one use of it--in the way of sacrifices. [Jamieson, Fausett and Brown]

C. And it is well worthy of being remarked, that Christ not only died for sinners, but our redemption is everywhere attributed to his BLOOD, and the shedding of that blood; and that on the altar of the cross, this might make an atonement for the lives and souls of men, he not only bowed his head, and gave up the ghost, but his side was opened, the pericardium and the heart evidently pierced, that the vital fluid might be poured out from the very seat of life, and that thus the blood, which is the life, should be poured out to make an atonement for the life of the soul. [Clarkes]

### **III. BLOOD has ANTIBODIES**

A. These antibodies or antitoxins

1. These help prevent infection.
2. The white cells fight infection when it occurs but the antibodies prevent the infection from getting a foothold.
3. These antibodies are produced in response to infection.
4. Once the body has been attacked by disease it builds up immunity so that it will not be attacked by that disease again. This immunity is in the blood.

B. Application

1. Blood of Christ helps us to fight the infection of sin.
2. His blood keeps on cleansing us - I Jn. 1:7.
3. The Christian has the "antibodies" of Christ's blood which helps him overcome sin.
4. Ps. 119:11 "Thy word have I hid in mine heart that I might not sin against thee."

## **CONCLUSION**

1. Today, we understand completely the truthfulness of Moses' statement that "the life of the flesh is in the blood." Lev. 17:11
  - a. But how did an ancient shepherd like Moses come to know such information?
  - b. Just a lucky guess?
  - c. How could Moses have known almost 3500 years ago that life was in the blood, while it took the rest of the scientific and medical community thousands of years (and thousands of lives!) to discover this truth?
  - d. That answer, of course, is that Moses was guided by the Great Physician—and therein lies the difference between life and death. <sup>3</sup>
2. Today we hear about "blood banks"
  - a. Storehouse for blood taken from healthy individuals for future use in the treatment of injured or sick persons.
  - b. We can give our blood and it can be used to save the life of someone else.
3. Christ did something even better than that: He gave his blood:
  - a. It fits every blood type
  - b. It avails for everyone
  - c. It has no need of additives!
  - d. It is free to all.
4. Christ Shed His Blood to:
  - a. Purchase the church
  - b. For Our sins
  - c. Contact the blood by Baptism
5. Gal. 3:27 "For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ"

Illustration:

"What does my blood do all day?"

"a five-year-old child asked, while peering dubiously at his scraped knee. Whereas the ancients would have answered elegantly with references to ethers and humours carried by that "pure clear lovely and amiable juyce," perhaps a technological metaphor would serve best today.

Imagine a plastic pneumatic tube snaking southward from Canada through Orinoco jungles, plunging into oceans only to surface at every inhabited island, shooting out eastward through every jungle, plain and desert in Africa, forking near Egypt to join all of Europe and Russia as well as the entire Middle East and Asia—a pipeline so global and all-pervading that it links every one of the four billion people worldwide. Inside that tube an endless plentitude of treasures floats along: 49 brands of cereals; mangoes, Kiwi fruit, asparagus, and other produce from every continent; watches, calculators, and cameras; genes and minerals; all styles and sizes of clothing; the contents of entire shopping centers. All four billion people have access: at a moment of need or want, you simply reach into the tube and seize whatever product suits your taste. Somewhere far down the pipeline a replacement is manufactured and inserted.

Such a pipeline exists inside each one of us, servicing not four billion but one hundred trillion cells in every person's body. A stockpile of oxygen, amino acids, nitrogen, sodium, potassium, calcium, magnesium, sugars, lipids, cholesterols, and hormones surges past our cells on rafts of blood cells. Each cell has special withdrawal privileges and uses the resources to fuel a tiny engine, which carries out complex chemical reactions.

In addition, that same pipeline ferries away refuse, exhaust gases, and worn-out chemicals. In the interest of economical transport, the body dissolves its vital substances into a liquid, much as coal is shipped most efficiently through a slurry pipeline rather than by truck or train. Five or six quarts of this all-purpose fluid suffice for all hundred trillion cells.

Source = "In His Image" by Paul Brand and Philip Yancey p. 276

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Sermon by Arthur Pigman - Sunday Night Dec. 9, 2007  
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1. Apologetics Press <http://www.apologeticspress.org/articles/print/1600> Blood the Liquid of Life by Kyle Butt

2. Ibid

3. Ibid

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