

My dear friends, how are you doing? How are you doing this morning? How are you feeling? How are you feeling, especially in your heart and with your life and with your soul? Are you discouraged? Are you struggling? Are you burdened? Is that how you go about your life and through this world?

Peter, when he wrote this letter, this first letter to the church in Asia Minor, he was not thinking about people who were living in prosperity and in peace, but he was thinking about people who were struggling. He was thinking about people who were especially going through the fire of persecution. Peter was writing to Christians who were struggling with their commitment to wholeheartedly, daily following the Lord Jesus Christ.

The moment they were born again, they entered into a war, personally themselves, fighting against sin and evil, but they entered into a war because by nature we are under either one captain or another. We are either under Satan and at war against Jesus Christ, or we are under Jesus Christ and at war against Satan, and Satan hates Christ. He hates God, and he hates his people.

He would love to destroy them. He would love to take all their comfort out of their hearts. How are you doing? How is it in your soul? Are you struggling? Are you struggling? These people were struggling.

The moment they became born again, they became enemies of Christ and all his followers. For these Christians, that moment, everything changed. It changed radically in their life by the grace, as it does to all Christians the moment they're born again over the whole world.

But do you and I living here, do we know what persecution is? For some people like in Bolivia that come to church in Tarija, it takes commitment. They have to draw a line in the sand, and they say, I'm coming. I don't care what my father says.

I don't care what my mother says. I don't care what my university friends say. I'm going to church.

I want to serve the Lord. They suffered, but there's also a people among us, I believe, maybe not persecuted, but they're struggling. They're struggling, and those that are suffering and those that are struggling need to be encouraged.

How? Well, how did the Lord Jesus encourage his dear disciples, his dear people, to persevere? The Lord Jesus spoke to his people in John 16, verse 33, These things have I spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation, but be of good cheer. I have overcome the world.

Two things stand out in this text, in the words of the Lord Jesus Christ. First, he's very honest.

It will cost you, my dear friends, to make a stand, to live godly, to live godly for the Lord's glory. And we read in 2 Timothy 3, verse 12, Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution. You can count on it.

You will suffer one way or another. Either your friends in university will laugh at you, or your colleagues at work, or maybe it's even in your family. Maybe they're sitting in your own bench.

My brother, my sister, my father, my mother, my husband, my wife, the Lord Jesus is honest. You can count on it. We read in Acts 14, verse 22, And exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.

But something else, he also says he encourages them. He's honest, but he also encourages them. He says, That in me ye would have peace, be of good cheer, or rejoice.

Why? Because, he says, I have overcome the world. It is as if Jesus is saying, You will experience many hard times, but remember, your joy and your peace is in me. The only way to encourage struggling, persecuted, afflicted, burdened sinners is in Jesus Christ.

And Peter in this chapter also, he follows the example of his master. And when he's writing to them, he wants to encourage them.

What does he write to encourage them? He reminds them of who Jesus Christ is in this chapter. He reminds them of the love of God. He reminds them of how Jesus Christ redeems sinner.

The courage to encourage those struggling, those burdened, those sinking sinners like Peter. Remember, he had his eyes on the Lord. He took his eyes off, and he sunk.

The only way to encourage them is that they would have their eyes on the King of the Church, Jesus Christ. And that's my desire this morning. I don't know each and one of you personally, whoever you are here today, there are also those like Peter may be sinking.

Why? Are your eyes on Christ? Well, today, may the Holy Spirit give opening when we hope to speak about one tiny part of something of the Lord Jesus Christ, and that the Lord may give that faith, that it may be an exercise, and that your eyes may be upon Him, and that you may be encouraged in Him. And so I'd like to draw your attention this morning to 1 Peter 1 verse 19a, where we read from the Word of God these words, "but with the precious blood of Christ".

The theme is the precious blood of Jesus Christ.

now when we say something is precious, there are reasons. Is there not?

If I tell you something is precious, then you might ask, why is it precious? Well, today I have three reasons. There can be more, but I've narrowed it down to three reasons why the blood of Jesus Christ is precious. First, because of its importance.

There's nothing more important than the blood of Jesus Christ. Second, because of its cost. Think of what it cost the Lord Jesus Christ, what it cost Him, His blood.

We will meditate on that. But third, because of its power. Nothing has as much power as the blood of Jesus Christ.

And there's many reasons. And so today, the precious blood of Jesus Christ.

its importance, its cost, and its power, its importance.

My friends, we can read in the Word of God, precious, many times in the Old Testament in Hebrew, and in the New Testament in Greek. And when you study that word precious, and when you understand what the meaning is, it means it is something which is very precious, but it was something which has value, something which you cannot buy. I will mention a few examples.

First, from the Old Testament, the Bible speaks of life being precious. That's precious, isn't it? Life is precious. 2 Kings 1 verse 13, O man of God, I pray thee, let my life and the life of these 50 servants be precious in thy sight.

Life is precious. The Bible also mentions the death of believers being precious. Listen to what we read in Psalm 116 verse 15.

Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints, and that death is precious because then it's an entrance into that eternal home, now with the soul and in the future with the body.

The word precious is also mentioned concerning the attributes and the goodness of God. Psalm 36 verse 7, How excellent is thy lovingkindness, O God! God, in all his attributes, he is precious, every one of them, all of them.

The Apostle Peter also uses the word precious many times.

For example, he uses it to describe the trial of faith, as we read in our chapter in verse 7, that the trial of your faith be much more precious than of gold that perisheth. And he also uses it to describe faith itself. To them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Savior Jesus Christ.

And one more from Peter. Peter also uses the word precious concerning the promises of God. 2 Peter 1 verse 4, Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises.

But how else does Peter use the word precious? He uses it especially when he speaks about Jesus Christ. 1 Peter 2 verse 6, Behold, I lay in Sion, a chief cornerstone, elect and precious. The stone is Jesus Christ.

He says Jesus Christ is precious. But then we also read in our text, he speaks about the precious blood of Jesus Christ. No money can buy life.

No money can buy the mercy and grace of God. No money can buy Jesus Christ or his precious blood. No, it's by grace and grace alone.

It's precious. The blood of Jesus Christ is precious. And the Bible mentions blood many times.

I believe it's over 400 times. You could say that the Bible is a book of blood from Genesis unto Revelation. Through the whole Bible, it speaks about blood.

Blood is precious. Blood is important. Children, if you hurt yourself when you see the blood pouring out, you get scared.

Why? Why do you get scared? Because you fear you may lose your life when you see all that blood pouring out. Blood means life. We read in Leviticus 17 verse 11, For the life of the flesh is in the blood.

But what is the importance of blood in the Bible? Why do we read so much about blood in the Bible? When do we begin to read about blood? Well, when God created us, he created us with blood. But we don't read specifically about blood. But after the fall, immediately after, we read about blood. I think of the first promise in Genesis 3 verse 15.

Then we hear about blood, because that promise implies blood.
It shall bruise thy head and thou shalt bruise his heel.
When you bruise someone, there's blood.

The Lord made clothes from animal skins for Adam and Eve. So there was the shedding of blood so that those sinners could be clothed. So why is there bloodshed? What's the answer? What's the conclusion? It's because of sin.

No sin, no bloodshed. It's because of sin. And because of sin, now there needs to be bloodshed.
My friend, you need blood. Sin broke communion with God.

Sin must be paid for. God's justice must be satisfied. God can only be approached with blood.

Or to say it in a different way, God can only be approached with payment, with payment for sin. You need the blood of Jesus Christ.

It's the most important thing that ever dripped upon this earth. You need it. I need it.

And through the whole Old Testament, its importance is signified by all the sacrifices, all those thousands of animals that were sacrificed, through that way, there was the shedding of blood. And it pointed to the importance and the need of blood.

Of whose blood? Of the blood of Jesus Christ. Hebrews 9 verse 7, But into the second went the high priest alone once every year, not without blood, which he offered for himself and for the errors of the people. The high priest could not enter into the holies of holies without blood.

God was present there. And if he entered into that place except on the day of atonement, then he had to enter with blood for himself and for the people. But if he entered into that holy place any other time, he would die.

That taught the Israelites, God is holy. His justice needs to be satisfied. He needs to be paid.

He can only be approached with payment, with blood. The only way to approach God is in communion, to be reconciled is through blood.

You need blood. The precious blood of Jesus Christ, it's important. It's of utter importance, my friends.

We read in the book of Hebrews that God is a consuming fire. God is love. God is mercy.

God is all his attributes. But have you ever thought of God as a consuming fire?

We cannot. You will not. I will not stand before him without blood. You need blood. And if you were an Old Testament worshiper, when you would come to the temple or to the tabernacle, you couldn't enter into that tabernacle or the temple, but you could come to the outer court and see a Jewish family then coming, their children.

And as they entered into that outer court, what would the first thing, one of the first things they would see?

When we enter into here, the first thing you see is the pulpit because it's at the front. It's the center, the preaching of God's Word. But the Israelites, when they came, they saw especially the altar of burnt offering.

They saw that altar there and they saw blood dripping from that altar. It taught them. It taught their children.

Children, Israelites, sinful Israelites, you need blood. May I ask you something?

Do you see your personal need for the blood of Jesus Christ, for his blood, for your sin? Have you? Have you or not?

You need it. All the substitutionary sacrifice of the animals were a visible preaching to the Israelites, showing them the importance and necessity of blood.

My friend, the sinner that sins must die. The wages of sin is death.

You have sinned. I have sinned. And in order to be saved, our blood must be shed, or there needs to be another to stand in our place.

You need blood. We need blood. It's only through blood.

Could the blood of animals save the Israelites? No. It spoke of what was coming. It all pointed to the precious blood of the Lord Jesus Christ, of the Lamb of God.

The Old Testament was full of blood. I believe in Leviticus you can read about blood 65 times. Blood, blood, and more blood.

Blood is important. And yet all that bloodshed was insufficient. But in the New Testament, there is better blood.

There is precious blood, the blood not of animals, not the blood of goats. But we read in Hebrews 9 verse 12, neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us. Whose blood is that? That's the blood of Jesus Christ.

Why is it so precious? It's better than the blood of Abel. Well, what did Abel's blood call for? It called for vengeance. It called that Cain, his brother, that his life should be shed.

But Christ's blood, does it call for vengeance? No. That precious blood, it calls for forgiveness, forgiveness. And now Jesus Christ, he ascended into heaven, and he's at the right hand of the Father, and there he's presenting to his Father his blood, so to speak.

And he pleads. No, he demands, Father, forgive them, free them, give them life. I have paid for them, redeemed them.

Precious blood, you need his blood. It's important. And so we go to our second thought, its cost.

It's not only important, but think of its cost.

the precious blood of Christ has a cost? No, not for those poor and needy sinners. They receive it by grace.

They receive it by grace, but it cost God the Father, and it cost Jesus Christ everything. Have you ever received a gift, or maybe someone came to you with a very precious and a very expensive gift, and you saw that gift, you looked at it, and you knew that cost that person so much money. And you said, no, no, no, I can't receive it.

That gift is so expensive. I can't take it. I don't dare take it.

It cost you so much. But then that person says, but I worked so hard for it. I spent all my money.

I saved so much because I wanted to buy it especially for you. And then you feel you can't say no, to reject it. That's like a slap in the face.

And now, this morning, you may hear about the precious blood of Jesus Christ. What's your reaction? Maybe you say, I don't want to hear a sermon about this.

What's your reaction? What's our natural reaction? We only reject it. Why? Why do we only reject it? Why we have no interest in it? Why doesn't it fill us just to hear about those precious words about the blood of Jesus Christ? Why is it not like water on our soul? Why? It's because we have no need for it. And that's you and me by nature.

We can hear about the blood, but by nature we have no need for it. We don't see its preciousness. We're blind.

We're dead. We're enemies. That's why.

Or has it begun to become precious to you? Has it?

But even after grace, yes, after grace, we don't see its beauty. We're foolish like Naaman.

What about Naaman? Naaman, he was told to go wash in the river Jordan. He didn't want to. Why? Because he had his own way to cleanse himself.

He had his own rivers, which he thought were much better. And that's you and me after grace. We think we have our own ways. To cleanse ourselves. We hope with something of ourself that maybe we can move the Lord, that he would be pleased with us. We say it's by grace. But inside, in our hearts, do we really believe it? Do we really live by it? Is that our hope? And do we see the beauty of the blood? May I ask you, children of God, today, do you see the preciousness of the blood of Jesus Christ? You know how we see it? By learning that we have nothing in ourself, that we have no rights, that we're condemned to hell, that

God is just, the just judge that we have sinned against him, and that he needs to be satisfied.

We need to preach the justice, the immovable justice of God, that he will not move aside, but he stands there as that judge against whom you and I have sinned against, he demands payment, and he teaches his children that of his immovable justice, and he works, and he works, that they become naked, that they become lost, and that they know in their heart, not in their head, that God must be satisfied, and they have nothing to satisfy him.

They have nothing to pay him, and then, in that way, that payment of Christ's blood becomes precious. Listen closely.

We're all welcome to that fountain of blood.

We believe the Bible says firmly that fountain is open, and all are welcome, but who will come? Ask a doctor.

Who will come see him? Ask them. Who will come? Those that are sick. I've never heard of someone going to the doctor and say, please give me a blood transfusion, when he absolutely doesn't need it.

That's nonsense. We need to learn our need, and the holiness, and the immovable justice of God. And in that way, there becomes a deep need, and Jesus Christ becomes so infinitely precious, and when they learn that it's without money, and without price, that becomes joy, that they can come bankrupt, poor, needy, nothing in their hands, but it's all in him, and in him alone.

Will the Lord ever receive a sinner like me? But the Lord takes it all away, through his word, by the Spirit. For example, John 6, verse 37, all that the Father giveth me shall come to me. And now that precious promise, and him that cometh to me, I will in no wise cast out.

That's a promise. It's a promise from him. And then to hear of all that God gave in his Son, that unspeakable gift, and that Jesus Christ gave his blood, and then to reject it, and then to turn away from it, and then they learn that they not only sin against the law, but that they also sin against all the goodness and the grace of God.

What's your reaction to hearing about the preaching of the precious blood of Jesus Christ? how shall we escape if we neglect so great salvation, that salvation that is through Jesus Christ with his blood? Oh, what it cost Jesus Christ. It cost him everything. He left the glory of heaven, came to the sinful earth to suffer and die.

Think of the Lord Jesus Christ in Gethsemane. See him there on the ground as that worm and no man. See that sweat that came on his head, out of his head, what it cost him.

We read in Psalm 22 verse 6, but I am a worm and no man, a reproach of men and despised of the people. See him in the garden taking that cup that was full of the wrath against sin. See him taking it.

And he said, not my will be done, but thy will be done. He spoke to us, He took that cup and he drank it empty, empty to the last drop. And now that cup is not empty, but that cup overflows because he drank it empty.

It overflows with grace. Think of what he was in the garden. There he became sin who knew no sin.

And he cried out in Matthew 26 verse 38, my soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death. What suffering for sinners, what love, what it cost him. Think of the Lord Jesus being scourged by the cruel Romans, beaten and afflicted.

And his back was torn open and the blood rushed out. And he did it willingly. Yes, he did it willingly.

We read in Isaiah 50 verse 6, I gave my back to the smiters. He gave it. And I gave my cheeks to them that pluck off the hair.

I hid not my face from shame and from spitting. They spit in his face. Could you imagine someone spit in your face? I've never had that.

But I think our natural reaction would be to want to hit them. We would be so offended. And there Jesus Christ in that hall, beaten, afflicted, and they spit in his face, the holy child of God.

And he stood there. He didn't say a word. He let it all fall on him.

What love, what it cost him. Think of Jesus standing, being mocked by the soldiers as they put that purple robe on him. And they put those crown, thorn of crowns on his head and they beat it.

So those thorns went into his head and blood rushed out. See that blood pouring on his back from his head. Precious blood or not? Yes, precious blood, profoundly precious blood.

What a cost, what love, what unspeakable love.

My friend, think of the Lord Jesus Christ being nailed to the cross. Those nails going through his hands and through his feet and being nailed.

They're the hammers of God's wrath. Nail them to that cross. And the cross was picked up and was dropped in the hole.

His whole body hung, cast out from heaven, cast out from the earth. What love, what suffering, what it cost. Who can explain the suffering and what it cost Jesus Christ to give grace to enemies, to wretches, to sinners.

What love. Think of the Lord Jesus Christ on the cross being forsaken by his father. Forsaken.

His father hid his face from him. It's the first time he didn't feel the love of his father. And why? Because he was made sin who knew no sin.

And he cried out, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani. That is to say, my God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?

It should be you there. It should be me there, beaten, afflicted, nailed to the cross, cast out, beaten under the wrath.

But he went there. He went there willingly to stand there in the place of those sinners that have nothing but sin. And see that soldier coming then, coming with his spear.

And he pierced Jesus Christ in his side and out poured blood and water. Jesus Christ paid the price. But oh, what it cost him.

It cost him everything. My friends, consider the love of God in giving his son not to just live a pleasant life on the earth, but he gave him to be this lamb of God, to be that sacrifice, to suffer and to die.

And think of Jesus Christ. He gave everything. What a cost.

What love. Why? Why did God the Father need to give everything, his son? And why did Jesus Christ have to go such a way, a horrible suffering and shame? Why did he have to die so horrible, such a shameful death? What's the answer? It's because of sin.

You want to see the horribleness of sin? Go to Golgotha.
don't go to Sinai. Go to Golgotha.

There you see what sin is. God put to death his own dear son. There you see the love of God the Father and of Jesus Christ.

It's because of sin. There's only one way. There's only one way for God the Father, his justice to be satisfied, and that's with the blood of his dear son.

Sin offended the majesty of God. It closed heaven. It opened hell.

There's only one way. It's only through the payment of the precious blood of Jesus Christ that heaven again is opened and that hell is closed for his dear people, the precious blood of Jesus Christ. Precious because it's important.

You need it. Precious because of its cost. And now we go to our third thought because of its power.

But let us first sing Psalter 306.

I think of the tears of Jesus Christ. Are they not precious? Because in those tears we see the compassion of Jesus Christ.

Think of him at the tomb of Lazarus. Jesus wept. It showed his compassion.

But his blood, it has power. The precious blood of Jesus Christ has power. It's the blood of Emmanuel.

It's not just the blood of man. It's the blood of Emmanuel. It's precious because of its power or what it has the power to do, and what it will do.

Well, what can and what will the blood of Jesus Christ do? I will mention several things. There's more, but I only mentioned several. My prayer is that by the power of the Holy Spirit

that you may see it, that you may believe it, and that it may come with power into your soul today, about the power of the blood of Jesus Christ.

First, it has the power to redeem. We read in 1 Peter 1 verse 18, for as much as you know that you were not redeemed with corruptible things as silver and gold, but with the precious blood of Jesus. Redeemed means to be bought back.

They would be sold as slaves when they had no more money and there was a debt, and then they would be sold, and then to be redeemed was to be brought back like a slave receives freedom by someone paying for him. Then he was redeemed. He could go free.

Now, a slave can be bought back with money. Again, we know that from history, but no sinner can be redeemed with silver or even with gold. It's impossible.

Silver and gold has no value in the eyes of the Father when it comes to redemption. The corruptible, they cannot. Nothing but the blood of Jesus Christ, and my friend, you need to be redeemed.

You need to be redeemed from the power of sin. You need to be redeemed from the power of Satan, from the curse of the law, and from death. You need to be bought back.

You need to be freed. Nothing and the entire world can redeem us. No tears, no church membership, no knowledge of the Bible, no repentance, no religious traditions, not even if you could give one of your own children.

They cannot. They will not redeem you. None of these things.

There's only one thing, and my friend,, and this morning I may proclaim to you, there is redemption in the precious blood of Jesus Christ. You read in Job 33 verse 14, deliver him from going down into the pits. I have found a ransom.

The ransom is the blood of Jesus Christ. Without that blood, you and I need to be cast into that pit. But what a wonder to stand before that holy judge and to hear I have found a ransom for him, for her, for that sinner.

It's in the blood of Jesus Christ. Secondly, the precious blood of Jesus Christ has the power to give complete atonement. Atonement.

We read in Leviticus 17 verse 11, for it is in the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul. God cannot, and he will not just forgive sin because he's God, and he loves himself. He cannot.

There needs to be payment. God in no wise will forgive the guilty. It cannot.

Blood, and only blood can make atonement for sin, and it's the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ.

But maybe you say, but my sins, they're so horrible. They're so wicked.

They're so many. They're so heaven-provoking. They're as black as hell.

My answer is to you, my friend,

the precious blood of Jesus Christ has the power to atone for all kinds of sins and all types of sinners. That blood has the power, has the power to redeem and to atone for a harlot Rahab. That blood has the power to make atonement for a deceiving Jacob.

That blood has the power to make atonement for the murdering Manasseh. He put his own children in that fire, and he sacrificed them. It has the power to make atonement for a denying Peter.

It has the power to make atonement for a persecuting Paul. It has the power to make atonement for the adulterous Israelites. It has the power to make atonement for the absolute wicked immoral Corinthians.

And maybe you think of someone, maybe in your own family, he's gone into the world living in immoral life. There's hope. There's hope, parents, because of the blood of Jesus Christ.

It has the power, has the power to make atonement for an adulterer, David, and he was also a murderer. We read in Romans 5 verse 11, and not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ by whom we have now received the atonement, atonement. Thirdly, the precious blood of Jesus Christ has the power to cleanse, to cleanse from all sin.

What a precious text we read in 1 John 1 verse 7. What do we read there? And the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanses us from many sins, some sins, bad sins. No, I don't read that. And the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanses us from all sin.

Maybe you have a question, but could the Lord forgive me of this sin?

I know that. I know in my life when the Lord especially pointed His arrow at that great chief sin in my life, then I read the Bible different, looking on pages. Could that one chief sin, especially that one, could that one be forgiven? And then to read this text, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanses us from all sin.

And when that comes with power, then there's hope. That comes with joy. That comes with sweetness.

Because then, when the Lord applies it, then you can believe for yourself that you can be cleansed from all sins. Sin defiles us. In God's sight, because of our sin, we are impure. And He is holy, as he looks upon sin. But through the blood of Jesus Christ, He can look on you, whoever you are, and He can smile, and He can call you, His son, His daughter. What a wonder.

What an absolute precious wonder. And the Lord says, He even invites. He invites to come and to be washed.

Sinner, Isaiah 1 verse 18, Come now and let us reason together, saith the Lord, though your sins be as scarlet, though shall be white as snow, though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool. Yes, the precious blood of Jesus Christ has the power to make us as white as snow, to make us pure in the eyes of God.

Fourthly, the precious blood of Jesus Christ has the power to justify.

Justify. We read in Romans 5 verse 9, Much more than being now justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. And in Romans, Paul teaches us how a sinner becomes justified before God.

To be justified is to be declared righteous. The sinner who believes in Jesus Christ is declared righteous, or he's acquitted.

To justify is a term for the court. And the Bible is contrasted with condemnation. And you and I only deserve condemnation.

But through Jesus Christ, and all those who believe in Him shall be justified, justified by faith. And God the Father, the Judge, He acquits them. All that is written against them, fell on His Son.

And all those merits of His Son and of His blood is upon them. And He wipes it away. He blots it out.

He can declare them innocent, free, cleansed. And that's why Paul could write in Romans 8 verse 1, There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

Are you under condemnation? Do you feel condemnation? There's only one way to be delivered from our just condemnation, and that is through the blood of Jesus Christ.

Do you desire to be just with God? Remember Job had those questions, how can a man be just with God? He longed for it. He wanted to be just. He wanted God's favor.

Is that you? Do you want to be just with God, and that God can smile upon you, and that He can embrace you as that father embraced the prodigal son?
It's only through the justifying blood of Jesus Christ.

Fifthly, the precious blood of Jesus Christ has the power to sanctify, not only to justify, but also to sanctify. And sanctify speaks about being made clean, to be made pure.

So you have the forgiveness of the sins. That's justification, children. Maybe some of these words are a little hard, but justification is the forgiveness of sins.

It's through the blood of Jesus Christ. Sanctification is to be made, I would say simply, to be made clean, to be made clean within, and that's within the person. Justification is all in Jesus Christ, but sanctification is in the people.

Do you? Do you long to live holy, to serve God? It's only through the blood of Jesus Christ. He has the power to sanctify. We read in Hebrews 9 verse 14, how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? It's by the blood.

The blood has the power to redeem. The blood of Jesus Christ has the power to make atonement. The blood of Jesus Christ has the power to cleanse.

The blood of Jesus Christ, that precious blood, has the power to justify, and it has the power to sanctify. And one more, the precious blood of Jesus Christ has the power to give entrance into heaven. It opens heaven.

What happened when Jesus Christ died, that veil in the temple that separated the holies of holies from the holies? It was rent, ripped in half from top to bottom. The way was opened.

My friend, there's only one way that you and I will ever enter heaven, and that is through the blood of Jesus Christ. But maybe you ask, I heard about its importance, I heard about its cost, and I heard about its power, but how? How can I receive that blood? How?

By faith.

It's by faith, that precious gift of faith that God puts in the heart, that connects, that connects that rich, precious, glorious Savior and that lost sinner, who has nothing, that faith connects to Him.

Sin has closed heaven, and none of us will ever enter into heaven without being washed. And we read in Revelation 21 verse 27, and there shall in no wise enter into it anything that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination or maketh a lie.

We're all polluted. We cannot, we will not enter without being washed. And then the verse continues, but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life, they will all enter.

Why? Because of Him, because of His grace, because He seeks them, He finds them, He renews them, He washes them, He does it. And they, they receive it all from Him by grace. By the grace received, they do repent, they do believe, they do cry out unto Him, and they flee to Him to be washed.

And all those that are washed, they will enter, all of them, they will all enter into heaven. The heavenly gates are wide open, and all those, through Jesus Christ who believe in Him and who are washed by His blood shall enter in.

How is it, my friend? How are you feeling? How is it with your soul? How is it? Are you sinking like Peter? Are you like those two men walking to Emmaus, troubled, perplexed, down and discouraged? There's only one way.

Remember the Lord Jesus came, and He walked beside those men. What did He do? He opened the Bible. And what did He do? Did He go to Exodus 20 and read to them the law? No, He didn't.

They need the law, but He didn't at that time. He opened, and we read that from Moses and the prophets, He taught them of Himself. He showed them through the prophets.

There's the Savior. Did you read about who He is? Did you read about His death, Isaiah 53? And that's how He comforted them.

My friend, look, look to your Master. Look to that great Savior that came into this world to save sinners. Don't look at all the things in the world.

Don't get so easily distracted.

We do. I know.

I do too.

You can get so easily distracted by all the glitter and the foolishness here below.

But There's only one way for hope.

There's only one way to live, and that is with your eyes upon King Jesus and upon Him.

And He says,

Look unto Me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth.

Amen.