



Northside Proclaimer

Proclaiming The Word Of The Lord

1 Thessalonians 1:8

Northside Church Of Christ Welcomes You!

November 15, 2015

Did Jesus Waste Blood?

Bryan Garlock

While at the county fair this past September, we had many people stop by the booth and ask great questions. As a result we were able to plant a seed that we pray will one day take root. Unfortunately a couple of people had no interest in asking honest questions. Instead they resorted to arguing their own preconceived beliefs of what they think “we” teach. Ultimately their questions turned to mild attacks such as, “You believe you’re the only ones going to heaven” and “your answers fit the ‘church of Christ’ doctrine,” etc.

During one particular discussion a man claimed that Jesus only died for those being saved. I responded that such was not the case, but that Christ died for all. He replied, “If Jesus died for all, then Jesus wasted blood!”

The man who contended for wasted blood is none other than a Calvinist. A Calvinist is one who holds to the beliefs of John Calvin. He believes that (1) all are born in sin, (2) all are predestined to heaven or hell, (3) Christ died only for those predestined to heaven (hence He did not “waste” any blood on those going to hell), (4) since we are born in sin we can do no good, including obeying the gospel, and so God sends the Holy Spirit to directly work on one’s heart so that they, against their willpower, will believe, (5) and finally, since some have been chosen to go to heaven, they cannot lose their salvation. Therefore one is once saved always saved.

While the argument “If Jesus died for all, then Jesus wasted blood” may seem silly to some; to others it is as Paul said in Colossians, “persuasive” or “enticing words” meant to take you captive and draw you away from Christ. If the above is true then Christ squandered His blood; but the above is not true.

Let us establish some basic truths. Jesus did in fact die for all. Paul said, “For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people...” (Titus 2:11). Elsewhere John the apostle wrote, “He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world” (1 John 2:2). The Hebrew writer argued, “But we see him who for a little while was made lower than the angels, namely Jesus, crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone” (2:9). Space would not allow for all the passages teaching that Jesus died for *all*. Interestingly none of the inspired writers thought Jesus had wasted blood.

Next, the argument has illogical flaws that must be pointed out. Simply put if the blood of Christ only saves one sinner it would not have been wasted; if only one sinner ever responded to the gospel. Further if only one sinner placed His faith in Christ, God accomplished the purpose for which He sent His Son. For consistency’s sake the Calvinist must assume that Christ would have had to shed additional blood for the non-elect (those who will be lost) and that the volume of blood shed was only sufficient for the saved.

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church Of Christ

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Announcements

- Remember the shut in's.
- Pray for the church and one another.
- Remember the spiritual sick among us.
- Call or email Bryan to add announcements, thanks.
- We need volunteers for door knocking. Please see Bryan.
- We need volunteers for picking folks up. Please see Bryan.

Chronological Bible Reading Plan

Nov 15 Luke 24, John 20-21
Nov 16 Acts 1-3
Nov 17 Acts 4-6
Nov 18 Acts 7-8
Nov 19 Acts 9-10
Nov 20 Acts 11-12
Nov 21 Acts 13-14

In contrast to this false idea His shed blood was and is able to save all. This is further proven when considering that the blood shed on the cross was representative of a sacrifice. It is not as if the blood was assigned proportionally to each saved individual, leaving not enough blood to cover the non-elect. In fact God never used mathematics when considering man's redemption. We mean that God did not calculate just how much blood was needed per person of the so-called elect. This fallacy is a logical consequence of the Calvinist's position. Instead His sacrifice was sufficient for its intended purpose, to be a sacrifice for all men. Besides this if men are already chosen for heaven what is the purpose of shedding His blood? That is pure and simple redundancy.

To be consistent the Calvinist must not only contend that Jesus wasted blood but also that *God wasted love*. Paul wrote, "But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5.8). Jesus taught, "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him" (John 3.16-17). Peter declared, "The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance" (2 Peter 3.9). Next, Jesus showed that God loves all when He said, "...For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust" (Matt. 5.45). If Jesus wasted blood by dying for all, God wasted love for sending His Son for all. If this is not the case, please tell us why it is not.

We must take this one step farther. Jesus commanded, "Go ye therefore, and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I commanded you: and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world" (Matt. 28.19-20). Is the spread of the gospel limited to the elect only? Surely such is not true. Nevertheless if Jesus wasted blood by dying for all and God wasted love for sending His Son for all, we are *wasting our time* preaching the gospel to all!

In reality, there is a sense in which Christ's blood is wasted. It is wasted every day, every moment, and every second that one chooses not to apply the blood of Christ to their life. Yes the blood is wasted; not by Christ but by man. Each time a sinner hears the gospel and refuses to obey he is wasting the sacrifice of Jesus for himself. Each time a Christian falls away he too is squandering that precious blood which was shed for him. Notice: "For if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a fearful expectation of judgment, and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries. Anyone who has set aside the law of Moses dies without mercy on the evidence of two or three witnesses. How much worse punishment, do you think, will be deserved by the one who has trampled underfoot the Son of God, and has profaned the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has outraged the Spirit of grace? For we know him who said, "Vengeance is mine; I will repay." And again, "The Lord will judge his people" (Heb. 10.26-30; see also Heb. 6.4-6). When one abandons his faith the Bible says he, "has trampled underfoot the Son of God, and has profaned the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified." Pray tell who wastes the blood of Jesus?

It is not the case that the blood of Christ was allotted equally to each member of the elect; leaving none for the non-elect. Nor is it a matter of Christ wasting any blood on those who will be lost. Instead it is the truth that Christ is "the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world" (John 1.29). The blood is for all, but not all will take advantage of its saving power. May we never fall for Satan's attempt to twist and cheapen the gospel.

I am indebted to several gospel preachers for their insight in writing this article. If by chance this article falls into the hands of the gentleman at the fair who made such a claim, I pray you will reconsider your position and may the God of peace be with you. BG