

## THE BLOOD OF CHRIST

*Nicolas Edwards*

The Bible has much to say about the blood of Christ (1 Cor. 10:16; Eph. 2:13; Heb. 9:14). The blood of Christ:

**SHED FOR THE REMISSION OF SINS.** *“For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins”* (Mt. 26:28). Sins can be let go as if they never had been committed, because of the blood of Christ!

**JUSTIFIES.** *“Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him”* (Rom. 5:9). The Lord’s blood is one of the things that makes us right! Without His blood, there would be no justification. This proves justification is not by faith only! (Rom. 5:1; Jas. 2:24).

**REDEEMS.** Through the Lord’s blood we have redemption, even the forgiveness of sins (Eph. 1:7; Col. 1:14)! *“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”* (Heb. 9:12). *“Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers;*

*but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot”* (1 Pet. 1:18-19).

**SANCTIFIES.** *“Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate”* (Heb. 13:12).

**CLEANSETH US FROM ALL SIN.** *“But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin”* (1 Jn. 1:7). This is not unconditional continuous cleansing! We are only cleansed by the Lord’s blood, if and when we *“walk in the light, as he is in the light”* and we *“confess our sins”* (1 Jn. 1:9).

**WASHES US FROM OUR SINS.** *“And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us and washed us from our sins in his own blood”* (Rev. 1:5).

**MAKES US NIGH.** Sin separates us from God (Is. 59:1-2). If we die in our sin, we will be separated from God for all eternity (Jn. 8:21, 24; 2 Th. 1:7-9). It is by the blood of Christ that we are made nigh unto God! *“But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the*

*blood of Christ”* (Eph. 2:13).

**PURCHASED THE CHURCH.** *“Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood”* (Acts 20:28).

**CONTACTING THE BLOOD OF CHRIST.** In order to receive the great benefits of the Lord’s precious blood, we must contact it! How do we do that?

1. Jesus shed His blood in His death (Jn. 19:33-34). Therefore, we must reach the death of Christ to contact His blood. Here is how we do that: *“Know ye not that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?”* (Rom. 6:3-4). Through baptism!

2. Ephesians 2:13 reveals the benefits of the Lord’s blood, such as being made nigh. This comes by being in Christ! How do I get into Christ that I may be *“made nigh by the blood of Christ?”* Through baptism (Rom. 6:3-4; Gal. 3:27)!

3. Baptism puts one in the church which he purchased with His blood (Acts 2:41, 47; 1 Cor. 12:13)!

Have you been baptized that you may contact the blood of Christ?

## GAMBLING VS. LOVE OF GOD

AND MAN  
*Ron Halbrook*

Though gambling has become socially acceptable and legal, it is not right according to what God teaches us in the Bible. God teaches us to love Him with all the heart, mind, and soul, and to love our fellowman as we love ourselves (Mt. 22:37-40). Everything else God teaches us depends on these two principles (v. 40). "Love" in this sense comes from a Greek term, AGAPE, referring to the highest kind of love: a love based on principles of truth and right, and a love seeking the best interests of its object rather than mere self-gratification.

Since love of God and of fellowman must be the motives for all our conduct, how do these two principles relate to gambling? God teaches us that we may receive gain in ways which demonstrate love to all parties to any transaction. We may receive gain in the following ways: 1. the process of labor (Eph. 4:28); 2. exchange of goods and services (Mt. 13:45-46); 3. gifts (Mt. 6:1-4). Each of these methods of receiving gain is honest, showing

respect for principles of truth and right and for the welfare of all parties involved.

Gambling is a wager on some chance event, with the result that the "winner" takes gain from others without respect for principles of truth and right and without seeking the welfare of all parties involved. Therefore, gambling is a means of taking dishonest gain. The fact that the other participants agreed to take part does not mitigate the dishonesty involved, any more than "kickbacks" in a business deal are mitigated from dishonesty by the agreement of the parties involved. Gambling is an exercise in covetousness, seeking mere self-gratification without regard for truth and right or the best interests of everyone involved.

Gambling is sinful, an offense against God and a curse to our fellowman. Because all of us have sinned from time to time, whether through gambling or other deeds, God sent His Son into the world to die for our sins (Rom. 3:23; Jn. 3:16). The death of Jesus Christ on the cross of Calvary demonstrates both the justice and the mercy of God: Sin was punished (justice), but punished in a way which extends forgiveness to sinners (mercy). Thus, God proves Himself to be "*just, and*

*the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus*" (Rom. 3:26). Since God does not force anyone to receive this gift of grace, we may choose to receive it or to reject it. We receive it by faith in Christ when we repent of our sins (a change of heart resolving to turn away from sin), confess our faith in Christ as God's Son, and submit to immersion in water (Mk. 16:15-16; Acts 2:38; 8:35-38; 22:16; Rom. 10:8-10; 6:3-4).

As a fellow-traveller from time to eternity, I urge you to turn away from gambling and to do everything in your power to convince others to turn away from it. Such a course is based on our love for God and our fellowman because we recognize that gambling is a curse to the human heart, to the home, to the church, and to the nation. Our lawmakers act contrary to love of God and fellowman by legalizing gambling. Churches debase God's standard of morality by promoting it. All who participate in it act to the detriment of themselves and others.

There are no winners in gambling, whether it be in casinos, at the races, in bingo parlors, or in lotteries and raffles. No such activities meet the tests of true love for God and our fellowman.

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