

A SERIES OF DEVOTIONS BASED ON PAUL'S LETTER TO THE CHURCH IN ROME

WASH'D IN JESUS' BLOOD

Romans 5:9 "Since we have now been justified by His blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through Him!"

A car dangles, having been pushed by another car almost over the side of a bridge. It appears it will soon drop forty feet into a rushing river below. A family of four is inside the car pleading for someone to save them. The local rescue squad has been summoned. Would they get there in time? A T.V. news crew also rushes to the scene!

This dramatic rescue effort captures your attention. Life and death are right there before your eyes in real time. The rescue crew arrives, quickly evaluating and going into action. They attach a chain between the car and their rescue truck. Then a second to the fire truck that also arrived on the scene. They determine how to get the car back onto the road and the family brought to safety.

In Romans 5, Paul has been describing an even more dramatic rescue effort. As previous devotions have said, when Jesus went to Calvary's cross you were actually dead in your trespasses and sins. (See also Ephesians 2:1-3) You were beyond rescue, at least so it appeared. But Jesus went to the cross, shed His blood, paid for your sins and your heavenly Father for His sake declared you without sin, giving you a new life.

It is difficult, isn't it, to picture your helpless, hopeless condition brought about because of your sins. It is even more difficult to fathom how the death of one man, namely Jesus, could reconcile you to your heavenly Father. But that is what happened on Good Friday. Jesus, dying on the cross, shedding His blood is the "meritorious cause" for God to declare you free of your sins, righteous and holy in His sight.

Through your connection with Jesus' shed blood which made atonement (total and complete payment) for your sins, you are no longer a sinner in God's sight. Jesus saved you from God's wrath through His substitutionary sacrifice in your behalf. God, for His sake, declares that it is just as if you never sinned because the faith you have been given in Jesus grasps the cleansing power of His blood. Thus, at the communion table you hear the words "given and shed for you for the remission of your sins." And, you are dismissed with the words, "this true body and blood of

your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. DEPART IN PEACE!

Prayer: Through You, your sacrifice in my behalf, I know I am forgiven of all my sins. Everyday bless me with this knowledge and the assurance of forgiveness, life, and salvation. In Your holy name. Amen.

Wash'd in the blood, by the Spirit sealed,
Christ in His word is to me revealed;
Glory to God! In my soul doth shine
God, my salvation, and His life is mine! Refrain:
 Washed in the blood, washed in the blood!
 Washed in the blood, in the soul-cleansing blood!
 Washed in the blood, washed in the blood!
 Sealed in the Spirit true, and washed in the blood!

Once I was blind, but behold I see;
God from above now hath shined into me;
Cleansed from all sin, in His word
I behold Wealth which can never be compared to gold. Refrain:

O that the world might the Savior see,
That blessed Savior who saved poor me!
O how the lost ones would come shouting home,
Never, never, never, nevermore to roam! Refrain:

Wash'd in the blood! Sinner, come today;
Jesus freely the debt will pay;
Come to His arms, to His arms of grace,
Come, now in meekness, seek the Savior's face. Refrain:
(Charles Price Jones, composer, 1865-1949. Public Domain)