

# No Forgiveness Apart From Christ's Blood

By Tony Melton

Blood has always been connected with Man's redemption. The Bible says that "without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness" (Hebrews 9:22). God has never forgiven anyone based on his or her good morals or good deeds. The justice of God demands the shedding of blood.

In the Old Testament, God commanded animal sacrifices (Hebrews 9:7). However, the Bible says that animal sacrifices cannot take away sins (Hebrews 10:4). How were they then forgiven under the Old Testament law? They offered their sacrifices in view of the coming Lamb of God—Jesus Christ who would take away the sins of the world. The blood of Jesus flowed in two directions, back to the beginning of creation and to the end of the world (Hebrews 9:15; Romans 3:24, 25).

There has never been a man or woman who lived on this earth who has been saved apart from Christ's blood. If someone could be saved by some other means, then Jesus died in vain (Galatians 2:21).

Today, the question we must ask: *How can I receive forgiveness through Christ's blood?* Under the Old Testament dispensation, the people offered animal sacrifices in view of or looking forward to the shedding of Christ blood. Today, we receive forgiveness by the blood of Christ when we believe, repent, confess Christ and are baptized for the forgiveness of sins (Romans 10:9, 10; Acts 2:38). That is exactly the reason Acts 22:16 tells us, "And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord."

In the Old Testament, we know that animal sacrifices could not in themselves take away sin, but without offering these sacrifices sin remained. In other words, their forgiveness in Christ blood was contingent on the sacrifices they offered. Water baptism in itself does not remove sin, but rather the blood of Christ; nevertheless, without being baptized one cannot reach the saving blood of Jesus.