

Day 2

Bloody People

1 John 1:5-7

The blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. 1 John 1:7

Life in developed countries is quite easy for many people. Yes, there are ongoing challenges (health concerns, financial worries, employment uncertainties, relationship problems, etc.). But in general, we live comfortable lives compared to much of the rest of the world.

We are so comfortable, in fact, that many don't want to know how difficult life is elsewhere or how difficult it has been in the past. For Christians, life has often been harsh, even bloody, because of persecution. In late 2008 over 500 Christians were martyred in India. The 20th century has been called the bloodiest in history for the Church because of rampant persecution. Throughout history blood has been shed because of Christ.

The Christian life truly is bloody—but not in the way many think. The life of faith in Christ is steeped in, covered by, and washed in the Blood of Jesus Christ. While we deserve to be rejected by God eternally due to the filth of our sin (Isaiah 64:6), Christians stand before God cleansed from sin and made righteous in God's sight for the sake of the Blood shed by Jesus on the cross of Calvary (Revelation 7:14).

No matter the experiences we face, in Christ we are Bloody people. Whether life brings joys or sorrows, the Blood of Jesus cleanses us and we are free from our sin.

Therefore, we can rejoice and celebrate the fact that we are forgiven. We are washed clean to be Bloody people.

Oh, precious Savior, you shed your Blood on the cross for me. Thank you for washing my sins away with the flood of that Blood. Strengthen me that I might live in peace with others because you covered me with your Blood. Amen.

*Adapted from Forgiven to Forgive - 6 Weeks of Daily Devotions
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Write or type your answers. Writing your answers helps you to meditate more deeply on the question, organize your thoughts, and provide a visible way for you to review and reflect on how this devotion applies to your specific situation.

1. Sometimes we become depressed and convince ourselves that we are not worth much. Read 1 Peter 1:17-21. With what did God purchase (ransom) you? What does this suggest about your worth to God?
2. Considering the one with whom you have a strained relationship, with what did God purchase (ransom) that other person? What does this suggest about his/her worth to God?
3. Reflecting on the worth that God places on both you and the other person:
 - a. How can my thoughts about me reflect God's love and value for me?
 - b. How can my thoughts about the other person reflect God's love and value for me?
 - c. Write out some words you can say to the other person that reflect being bloody people.
 - d. Write a prayer that God will reinforce His view of you and the other person as you seek reconciliation.