

Written In Red

1 John 5: 9-13

My brothers and sisters I come to you today in the Strong Name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. I wonder do you remember what it was like watching Dan Rather, Peter Jennings and Tom Brokaw reading the nightly news before dinnertime in the old day.

Because of this nightly ritual, many parents kept up with what was going on in the United States and the rest of the world. However, for young children and teenagers the practice of turning on the news was like looking at an old black and white television set and they were not interested in the news or what was going on in the world anyway. It did not make any difference; the world has never changed much, for the better, during our lifetime.

In the years since y two k, television newscasters have wedded themselves to a new journalism, "If it bleeds, it leads". Even more, television newscasters have focused new wide screen slow motion instant-replaying cameras on the violence that mars and scars our lives, watching the news is now as scary for a five year as it is for an eighty year old. It is a sign of the times. "It is written in red."

We can see bodies sprawled out, blood flying and flowing all over; any screen .The news has become so graphic, and horrific in words as well as in pictures that many communities have lobbied for and won toned down versions of the news, that news, which they deem unacceptable for viewing by young children, who need it for current events. " It is written in red."

My brothers and sisters, we are now a society saturated by blood, in the movies, and in sporting events because blood sells. After years of books with vampire and witch themes, we now are seeing more and more blood themes becoming hot topics and unless the blood really spills, we are not too impressed. We are as fascinated by the sight of all that vital red stuff as were our more primitive parents. "It is written in red."

My brothers and sisters let us also be remind that we are more frightened of blood now than at any other time in the history of the United States and the world. Because E M T's, and people who used to climb into the middle of bloody wrecks now put on layers of protective gloves and gear, while worrying about the possibility of contamination. Even brave police personnel now swank from the sight of a drug crazed junkie coming at them with a bloody syringe. In the age of AIDS, blood itself became a potential weapon. "I t is written in blood, it is written in red." It is written in black and it is a death sentence for the unsuspecting, those who we used to call hero's for their courage.

But, church for a large number of children blood has become an enduring symbol in their lives because they are steeped in the practice and ways of gang life, there are children in our cities, who have seen as much blood spilled as any citizen in a war torn nation.

The growing presence of violent bloodletting gangs, among girls and preteens as well as teenage boys and young men mystifies most of us today, as we look at the numbers in prison. We are unable to understand the connection of gang war between the ruthless, bloodthirstiness of gangs and the deeper loyalties of being a committed gang member toward those who share their communal identity. To be in a gang is to be willing to sacrifice one's blood. Gang members are truly blood brothers and sisters. You don't hear me! Through the flow of blood, these gangs express what they understand to be their "LOVE for each other. It is this strange connection between "love and blood" that holds gangs together so strongly. **"It is written in red."**

My brothers and sisters, I think it is so ironic that the Church has chosen this very moment in history to reject its own heritage of the blood image as one denomination recently published in its new "politically correct" hymnal, which deleted all references to Jesus 'blood, from the old familiar hymns.

They do not sing," **Nothing But the Blood" or "There is A Fountain Filled with Blood". When they sing the blood songs, the language is different, case in point (verse 3 of "The Old Rugged Cross") which is changed from "stained with blood so divine" to "which bore love so divine"; or verse 2 of "O How I Love Jesus," is changed from "it tells me of his precious blood, the sinner's perfect plea" to "Whatever problems may befall, we'll live in dignity"). The place where it needs to be in red it is not, the church. Lord please have mercy on us.**

This denomination will not be ousted here, because they are at least honest, and most of the other old-line traditional churches have not dealt with the issue of blood-soaked songs, simply not singing them anymore in their services. When was the last time we sang such songs as those mentioned here?

The church has sent out a message that the blood image is gross, disgusting, messy and maudlin, we just do not want to hear any such songs anymore. We just don't want to think of Jesus and blood but it is written, that man should not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of GOD. It is written in red!

What they did with the hymns were both botched and at the same time brilliant, because by substituting "love for blood", this new vocabulary demonstrated in an ironic but profound way that in Jesus Christ's blood, there is love. Love and blood are intimately connected, and the hymnal admits that relationship when it replaced blood with love. However, it missed the power of this connection by wiping away the bloodstained banner from the pages of the songs in the hymnals. You do understand it was the power of the blood and the cross that cleansed and removed all of the guilt and stains of a asking for forgiveness world. Amen! It is written in red.

The text refuses to clean up the messy moments that make up God's redeeming work through the Son .It declares that there are three witnesses to the truth about Jesus Christ's,

Messianic mission and his identity, the water, the blood and the Spirit .It takes the water of baptism, the blood of the Cross and the wind of the Spirit to make possible God's intention for all believers, it is the gift of eternal life, and John makes it clear that salvation did not happen and was not achieved because of bloodless coup de gras . It took water, blood and wind to make the promise of eternal life a reality. GOD'S testimony is written in red, not blue or black, but red the color of air inducted blood, becomes oxygenated the reason it turns red is oxygen. The breath of GOD, the first gift to all mankind. **Are you with me on this?**

My brothers and sisters, the church must never sanitize the realness of the sacrifice for the sake of "political correctness". In our blood-soaked, war-torn, gang-banged culture, the blood and guts of Jesus Christ's loving sacrifice has never been so powerful or so important, people are spiritually starved and searching for any crumbs of hope and compassion.

Some were very excited a few years ago when this spiritual hunger awakened in the culture a renewed interest in angels, but the new found popularity of those spirits have not brought the culture any closer to Jesus Christ.

At best, angelic messengers of cuteness and convenience have been combined with a kind of feel good spirituality to be spread over the malaise of the suburbs

My brothers and sisters, to those who are in the middle of this world's deepest troubles, to the inhabitants of our most violent neighborhoods, to our most helpless and hopeless, the church has always been an answer as gritty and as real as the nightly news, because it gives us hope.

The answer is that JESUS CHRIST

- **Knows about blood.**
- **Knows about death.**
- **Knows about violence.**
- **However, knows no defeat.**

The Bible tells us that Jesus Christ experienced all of these pains, but through the cleansing, healing and transforming power of divine love, Jesus broke their hold over humanity forever, Jesus' love for you, love for me and love for the **world is written in red. Do you agree with me?**

The church offers the world God's love blood, the pure, and the Holy blood sacrifice. Can those in need feel Jesus' nail scarred palms on their heads because of you?

My brothers and sisters many people wonder about the true identity of Jesus Christ, was he just a good man, maybe one of the best to have ever lived? Was he a man with illusions of grandeur that is a man with a messiah complex? In other words was he crazy and others wonder if he was really GOD-man.

I wonder if hearing such speculation about Jesus Christ could possibly cause a person to have doubts or even to wonder.

John rushes to reassure the believer with fundamentals of the Christian faith on this question. The basic tenant is that Jesus alone is qualified to offer up the perfect sacrifice for our sins. He alone is capable of satisfying God's requirement for the payment of the debt owed by mankind.

Therefore, John is writing this letter to dispel any doubts that believers may have and to give reassurance that, "If you believe in the Son of GOD, you have eternal life. He also tells us that if you do not believe, you do not have eternal life. He further states that, "Jesus the Christ, the Son of GOD, is God in the flesh." Do you believe in the Son of GOD? If you do, John says, "This is the testimony: that GOD has given us eternal life, and it is in the Son. He who has the Son has life."(I John 5:11-12)

Now you are a soldier armed with this testimony of your fellowship with GOD, you are to live in holiness, love your fellow believers and lone for His reappearance in glory. **"It is written in red," it is in blood** and it will be. He will return one day. Do you believe it?

My brothers and sisters Jesus the Divine Christ not only experienced a life giving birth, but also a death killing life, thank you Lord. It was not only a birth from the womb, but also a baptismal birth of his ministry and a sacrificial death. All the while, the Spirit is confirming the truth, the reality of God's presence at His baptism and Crucifixion; bring those occasions alive for us. It is a triple testimony the Spirit, the Baptism and the Crucifixion all three in agreement, in perfect agreement, Amen thank GOD for that.

The testimony of GOD is, the water, the blood and the Spirit like a dove descending and a voice from Heaven saying,"This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased,"(Matt. 3:17) this is the testimony of a father about a son, whom he loves dearly.

It is in red, the love blood of GOD, his love for the world is in blood, written in red. Amen, Amen! It is the blood of the Lamb of GOD, first seen on the mountain in Genesis, with Abraham and his son Isaac when GOD supplied the lamb.

John tells us in conclusion that we can be sure of our fellowship with GOD, and what we can tell others about Him.

WE must:

Believe in Jesus Christ

Have love for the Father and Son

Keep God's commandments

Experience the witness of the Holy Spirit

Be assured of answered prayer

Possess eternal life