Just Jesus' Lifeblood



Introduction

Why is the blood of Jesus so precious? (1 Peter 1:19)

- 4. The uniqueness of Christianity: only through Jesus' blood is forgiveness possible (Hebrews 9:7, 22).
- The blood of Jesus His death and resurrection is the only sign and evidence of who He is that we can ask for (John 2:18–21; Matthew 12:39–40).
- Christianity rests on evidence, not speculation.

Point 1: The Gospel as Legal Evidence

Paul presents the gospel in **courtroom terms** (1 Corinthians 15:1–8). Salvation depends on believing this evidence.

- Christ died for our sins (v.3).
- He was buried (v.4).
- He rose on the third day (v.4).
- He was seen by witnesses (vv.5-8).

Point 2: Historical Witnesses to Jesus

- 5. Non-biblical historians confirm Jesus' life, death, and impact (see <u>HERE</u>):
 - o Thallus (c. AD 52) crucifixion darkness.
 - o Tacitus (c. AD 116) crucifixion under Pontius Pilate.
 - Mara Bar-Serapion (c. AD 70) "wise king" executed.
 - Phlegon (c. AD 80) eclipse and resurrection details.
 - o Pliny the Younger, Suetonius, Lucian, Celsus, Babylonian Talmud, Josephus.
- 6. Even hostile sources corroborate key facts.
- 7. Wikipedia: crucifixion of Jesus is the "most widely attested event in history."

Point 3: The Resurrection – The Central Evidence

- 8. Alternative explanations fail:
 - Jesus didn't really die → disproven by spear wound (John 19:34).
 - Body remained in tomb → Romans could have produced it.
 - Stolen body → impossible with guards and stone; disciples wouldn't die for a lie.
- Legal experts affirm the resurrection: (see <u>HERE</u>)
 - Edward Clarke (British judge).
 - Sir Lionel Luckhoo (Guinness World Record lawyer).
 - o Dr. Simon Greenleaf (Harvard professor of evidence law).

Point 4: Reliability of the Bible (See HERE)

- 9. Manuscript evidence: over 5,700 manuscripts, some from as early as AD 115.
- Gospels and epistles written within living memory of eyewitnesses (AD 40–63).
- Comparison with other ancient writings: far more reliable than Aristotle, Plato, Caesar, etc.
- Circumstantial evidence: accurate use of **popular names** of the time (e.g., Simon Peter, Judas Iscariot).

Point 5: Christianity Compared with Other Religions

- 10. Other religions:
 - Buddha → unverifiable cosmic claims.
 - Muhammad → concepts not historically testable.
 - Their bones remain, but Jesus' tomb is empty.
- Christianity uniquely verifiable through history, evidence, and resurrection.

Point 6: What the Resurrection Means for Us

- 11. Jesus is who He claimed to be the Son of God.
- There is a spiritual realm and life after death.
- Jesus is alive today and reigning.
- He has overcome death and every obstacle.
- Each of us is like a jury member must decide based on the evidence.

Point 7: Justice and Mercy at the Cross

- 12. Other systems: justice without mercy or mercy without justice (karma, Islam).
- Christianity: justice and mercy meet at the cross.
- Jesus pays the proper penalty for sin (Romans 3:23–26).
- God is both just and the justifier of those who believe (2 Corinthians 5:21).

Conclusion & Life Application

- 13. The blood of Jesus is **unique evidence** we can rely on.
- Believing in His blood brings new birth and transformation (John 3:3; 2 Corinthians 5:17).
- We are justified and declared righteous through Christ's sacrifice.
- Applications:
 - Rest your faith on evidence, not feelings.
 - Live with confidence that justice has been satisfied.
 - Respond personally: accept forgiveness, surrender your life to Jesus.
 - Share this evidence-based gospel with others.

Scriptures in this talk

1 Peter 1:19 - Jesus' blood is precious

Hebrews 9:7 NLT - "But only the high priest ever entered the Most Holy Place, and only once a year. And he **always offered blood** for his own sins and for the sins the people had committed in ignorance."

Hebrews 9:22 NKJV "...Without The Shedding Of Blood There Is No Remission."

Jhn 2:18-19 NKJV - "18 So the Jews answered and said to Him, "What sign do You show to us, since You do these things?" 19 Jesus answered and said to them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.""

Mat 12:38-40 NKJV - "38 Then some of the scribes and Pharisees answered, saying, "Teacher, we want to see a sign from You." 39 But He answered and said to them, "An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet

Jonah. 40 "For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth."

The "Gospel" is about verifiable facts: 1Co 15:1-8 NKJV - "1 Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, 2 by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you--unless you believed in vain. 3 For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, 5 and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve. 6 After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep. 7 After that He was seen by James, then by all the apostles. 8 Then last of all He was seen by me also, as by one born out of due time."

Rom 3:23-26 NKJV - "23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, 25 whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, 26 to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus."

2Co 5:21 NKJV - "21 For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him."

John 3:1-16 - you must be "born again"