

Attempts seemingly

II Tim. 2: 1-13

Impress - (1). "The Blood Mark of Christianity".

Introd:- (1). On May 13th, 1940..Winston Churchill, newly appointed P.M. of Great Britain, uttered 11 undying words. Address in Holland, Belgium..German armoured columns were smashing through elaborate French defences, developing growing threat to Britain. Churchill stood before House of Commons members.. "I have nothing to offer but BLOOD, TOIL, TEARS AND SWEAT."

In the affluent days now with us..32 years later..we hear not a Churchill..but a church chorus somewhat like this: "We offer you fun, food, fellowship, frivolity.. and a final piece of piety at end to soothe the conscience."

(2). What think of that? "Not fair comparison. When Churchill spoke..a war on." TRUE...He said: "Our policy is to wage war with all our might, and with all the strength that God can give us; to wage war against a monstrous tyranny. What is our aim? Victory at all costs, victory in spite of all terror, victory however hard and long the road may be.." AND TODAY? No war on? No monstrous tyranny abroad? No victory to be won? II Tim. 2:3-4 That sounds warlike to me. As though an enemy around somewhere AND WHICH PHILOSOPHY.. "Blood, Sweat, Tears"..or "Fun, food and frivolity" will adequately gird us for battle? Is symbol of true X'nty a supper of beans..or STAIN OF BLOOD? Anything wrong with beans..fun..fellowship? NO. But face ques. with me..IS THIS REAL X'NTY? Yes? No? Why

I. I bel. God wants set before us four-letter word..Imp.

(a). Contrary to what may expect..world in general lives by a 3 letter word. Philos. of life..GET. Test it out.

(Not SIN..unpop.) Look & listen to adverts..Ask people what goals of life they follow..(Fame, money, possessions, pleasure for self, security) Sweat blood to get fun! X'm! Let me add:- Ev. tempt. of devil based on the GET philos. c/f Eve.."Ye shall be as gods." c/f X.."Stoned to bread" "Power over nations".. "Recog, as miracle man." GET.

(b). Philos. of true X'n..complete opposite. His word is GIVE. And greatest, perfect pattern is our Lord on Calvary..a cross with deep stain of blood ..He gave ALL. Sometimes we build half a philos. on this. "We love Him bec. He first loved us.." But ever sing.."I GIVE bec. He first GAVE to us." So much easier to be Play-Boys! X'ns! REAL X'NTY IS NOT AN EASY ROAD. Often blood-stained.

Many unsaved say that simple trust in X..His fin. work is too easy a way to heaven..and yet shrink from task of living X'n life bec. KNOW it's not easy. COST IS THERE.

Acts
20:35

II. Glance down pages of Bible history..and read this well.

(a). Begin with Abel. Story of blood-soaked earth. Bec. of fai
Read on about Zacharias..slain bet. Temple and altar..Blood on
Temple floor..bec. he dared give Spirit-filled rebuke to evil.
John Baptist.. stained prison floor with blood..bec. maintained
standard of morality.

Stephen..left record of bloody stones..bec. of witness.

Peter..stained a cross with blood..as crucified upside down.

Paul..walked last 3 miles along Ostian road..and finished life
that had seen stoning..beatings..blood stained back..and at
last left his mark of blood at Aqua Silvia..

Maximus Circus at Rome..saw thousands of X'ns..crucified..torn
to pieces by lions..burned alive. A blood-soaked theatre!

All these GAVE ..as followed Master's Calvary road.

Through ages..same path..In our day..this century..more martyrs
than in all ages before...Russia..China..Africa. THERE IS WAR.

(b). REAL X'NTY COSTS..or it's not real. This is why David wd.
not accept Araunah's offer to give threshing floor and animals
as offering..I Chron. 21.. "I will verily buy it for the full
price..I will not offer burnt offerings unto the Lord my God
of that which doth cost me nothing." He insisted on GIVING.

Paul found same principle.. "I have suffered the loss of all
things, and do count them but dung." "All who will live godly
in X Jesus shall suffer persecution." THE BLOOD MARK!

Paul: "I bear in my body the MARKS of the Lord Jesus."

WHERE ARE (MY) BLOOD *STAINS? How feel in heaven..among the
STAINED ONES ?

III. Now before go out..ask someone hit over head..read on...

(a). Sometimes the blood is shed drop by drop. c/f Arrival
in Bombay..Nobody in sight..Teibes in bed..malaria, dysentery..
utterly overworked. They GAVE life itself..bit at a time.
Certainly not there to GET! (Self-edification is a GETTING that
is commendable..but edification of others is better bec. it is
a GIVING..I Cor. 14:4, 17)

(b). Here is another kind of GIVING..day by day..Phil. 2:25-27
Epaphroditus sick, near death..bec. sought meet need that other
neglected..II Tim. 4:20 Trophimus..faithful foll. of Paul..
thru. arrest at Jerus..and on what per. 4th miss. journey...
Miletum..coast of Turkey. SICK..and unhealed. I suppose
some of our "modern healers" would claim to have been able to
better than Paul! Healed him! NO. Left him SICK.

The blood (which is the life) was being shed invisibly...GIVEN.
Others followed their steps..Henry Martyn..C.T.Studd..David
Livingstone..David Brainerd..All these fulfilled I John 3:16.!

(c). Let me go back to life of Paul..There is a strange stateme
that he made about his own life...in Phil. 2:17. What make
of that? "Offered". Paul used this twice of himself...And

it is from Greek word "Spendo"..(spend). "to pour out as a libation..to devote one's life or blood as a sacrifice" c/f II Tim. 4:6....Spending life for Lord Jesus! Paul suggested he would be offered up on top of another sacrifice..added to it..an additional GIVING to sac. of service and faith of Philippians. And I think he had the meat offering of Levit. 2 in mind.

(b). In that chap..there were prescribed 3 offering additi..and one was forbidden. Each one tells of something that I can GIVE to complete work of others..make acceptable to God. 1. OIL..added. vs.6..I can GIVE Spirit-filled witness to encourage and guide others in what they do for the Lord. 2. NO LEAVEN..vs. 11 I must not add to what is being done for God the energy, desires, work of self.. No falsity..corruption. 3. SALT. vs.13 The salt of the covenant. What I give must be true to the Book..far above all else. 4. FRANKINCENSE..vs. 15. The symbol of prayer for others.

(c). Paul's desire was that he might GIVE these great help to people at Philippi..as they GAVE their service and faith to God. THIS WAS PHILOSOPHY OF HIS LIFE. AND OURS?

Conclus: 1. Now may God stir our hearts!

We may be some of those who "Have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin." Perhaps our prayer has produced tears..but not turned to sweat of blood. Perforce we have not truly reached the GIVING stage as fully as we ought.

2. What are we living for? ^{What?} How much has the GET philosophy taken hold..become the goal. How completely am I given to the GIVE of Calvary? This is the work of the Pastor with his flock..but just as fully the work of the flock with each other. "WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP..OTHERS ? is the key-note. "At any cost". Blood..visible or invisible.

3. Talked much about giving..and never mentioned money! Real X'nty much deeper than that. I can witness of the Saviour..I can declare the truths of His Word. I can pray for those around me..and so HELP my fellows. Above all..I can LIVE Jesus Christ..by dying to me. Like this:- II Cor. 4:8-11.

And some day find this..vs. 16-18.

"What shall I give Thee, Master,? Thou hast given all for me....Not just a part, but all of my heart. I will give all to Thee." IS THE BLOOD MARK OURS? It's the mark of complete surrender..devotion..dedication..to the blood-marked Lord....and to His blood-bought family.

A last key-word - LOVE

REV. 12: 10-11

LOVE AFFAIR

it is from Greek word "Spendo" (spend). "to pour out
 as a libation...to devote one's life or blood as a sacrifice"
 "c/11 Tim. 4:6....Spendo...life for Lord Jesus!
 Paul suggested he would be offered up on top of another
 sacrifice...added to it...an additional GIVING to God.
 service and faith of Philippians. And I think he had the
 meat offering of Levit. 2 in mind.
 (b). In that chap. there were prescribed 3 offerings additional
 ..and one was forbidden. Each one tells of something that
 I can GIVE to complete work of others..make acceptable to
 God. 1. OIL...added. vs. 6..I can GIVE spirit-filled
 witnesses to encourage and guide others in what they do for
 the Lord. 2. NO LEAVEN..vs. 11. I must not add to what
 is being done for God the enmity, desires, work of self..
 No falsity..corruption. 3. SALT..vs. 13. The salt of the
 covenant. What I give must be true to the Book..far above
 all else. 4. FRANKINCENSE..vs. 15. The symbol of prayer
 for others.
 (c). Paul's desire was that he might GIVE these great help
 to people at Philippi..as they GAVE their service and faith
 to God. THIS WAS PHILOSOPHY OF HIS LIFE. AND OURS?

Conclusion: 1. How may God stir our hearts!
 We may be some of those who "Have not yet resisted unto
 blood, striving against sin." Perhaps our prayer has
 produced tears..but not turned to sweat of blood.
 For we have not truly reached the GIVING stage as
 fully as we ought.
 2. What are we living for? How much has the GIFT philosophy
 taken hold..become the goal. How completely am I given
 to the GIVE of Calvary? This is the work of the Pastor
 with his flock..but just as fully the work of the flock
 with each other. "WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP..OTHERS? is the
 key-note. "At any cost". Blood..visible or invisible.
 3. Talked much about giving..and never mentioned money!
 Real X'ny much deeper than that. I can witness of the
 Saviour..I can declare the truths of His Word. I can
 pray for those around me..and so HELP my fellows.
 Above all..I can LIVE Jesus Christ..by dying to me.

Like this: II Cor. 4:8-11.
 And some day find this..vs. 16-18.
 "What shall I give Thee, Master? Though hast given all to
 me....Not just a part, but all of my heart. I will give
 all to Thee." IS THE BLOOD MARK OURS? It's the mark of
 complete surrender..devotion..dedication to the blood-

Reverend Chaplain - Oct 10/73
 Edmonton Fund BapK - Mar 19/72