

Southern Adventist University

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The Main Thing Devotional

Chaplain's Office

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Power in the Blood

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The Main Thing Devotional: Power in the Blood

In Him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace - Ephesians 1:7

The life we are living was purchased through Him dying. Today, people will gather once again at Ground Zero, as the nation pauses to remember the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon 19 years ago. Through the debris that covered most of Manhattan, September 11 gave us a glimpse into the horror and heroism of an event that changed the world forever. In the aftermath, the American Red Cross made an urgent appeal for blood donors to assist in increasing stockpiles at the blood bank to assist the wounded. The response was overwhelming, people gave more than 475,000 units of blood. Although the donations were certainly appreciated, The Red Cross could not utilize them all. It turns out that 258 units of blood were sufficient to treat the survivors of the attack, while the remaining units donated had to eventually be destroyed.^[1] You might be thinking, "what a waste! Why couldn't the blood have been stored away for future use?" I too thought the same thing, however, it is not that simple. Hematologists (a person who studies blood) will tell you that fresh blood has a shelf-life of only 42 days when refrigerated. The discarded donations of blood during September 11 were not a result of bad decisions but the degradative properties of blood; the life force of human blood has a use-by date.

The Apostle Paul wrote his epistle to the Ephesians around AD 60 while imprisoned in Rome. In the letter he powerfully declared that the blood of Jesus redeems us and forgives us. His blood redeems us through His death on the cross by purchasing us from the slavery of sin and adopting us into the family of God. Furthermore, His blood forgives us by removing the guilt and shame of sin as we turn away our self-righteousness to His glorious gift of grace. You do not need to be a mathematician to see that the book of Ephesians was written more than 42 days after Jesus died on the cross. That means, although humanity's blood cannot be preserved forever, the blood of Jesus Christ never loses its power! Jesus' blood had power for the Ephesians, and more than 2,000 years later His blood still has power to redeem and forgive us today!

Is it possible that whenever we feel that we are not enough, whenever we feel defeated, hopeless, unforgiven or unimportant, we are unconsciously telling ourselves that the blood of Jesus has lost its power; that it was essentially a waste? The reality is, God's blood being shed for us should be a reminder of our eternal value to Him. Unlike the blood bank that can run out of blood for the wounded, the Apostle Paul reminds us that our redemption is based on the riches of God's grace. In other words, there is enough grace in the stockpile of heaven to forgive every sinner, to break every addiction and to restore every relationship through the power of the blood of Jesus!

Today, you may feel like you are at your version of ground zero because the enemy may have attacked you, your children, your spouse, your health or your finances. You may feel weary of doing good and exhausted from the ambushes of life. During such times we can feel like all is lost and that life itself is too difficult to endure, but Jesus' blood still has life-giving power for us

today. Ellen White writes, “The world’s Redeemer accepts men as they are, with all their wants, imperfections, and weaknesses; and He will not only cleanse from sin and grant redemption through His blood, but will satisfy the heart-longing of all...”^[1] Like that old hymn goes, there is power, power, wonder-working power, in the precious blood of the Lamb!

Reflection

In what areas of your life have you seen the power of God working this week? On a piece of paper, write down those instances. Are there any areas in your life where you need God’s permanent power to work on your behalf? If so, where? What practical steps can you take this coming week to remind someone else, or yourself, that God’s grace is still available today?

Prayer

God, I am fully known by You! You know everything about me and I praise you for loving me in ways that satisfy my deepest longings. Forgive me when I am not being vulnerable with you, or for underestimating the power and price of your shed blood for me. I therefore rejoice and my heart is full of joy because I am fully known and forever loved by You!

NEWS AND RESOURCES

- **IMPORTANT University Spiritual Life Survey:** You should have received an email inviting you to complete this year’s *University Spiritual Life Survey* online. *We know that your time is valuable, so you will receive four enrichment credits towards next semester (Spring2021) as a token of appreciation for completing this survey.* You will also have the opportunity to win one of 10 **\$20 Amazon gift cards**. Your input will help to shape campus ministries at Southern Adventist University.
- **Vespers Tonight:** You must reserve your Vespers seat in advance. Unfortunately, if you do not reserve a seat in advance, we cannot guarantee you a seat and will invite you to plan to [livestream Vespers](#) at southern.edu/events from your residence. We have two Vespers services:
 - First Service: 6:30pm-7:30pm to reserve: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/119955061819>
 - Second Service: 8:00pm-9:00pm to reserve: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/119955356701>
- **LifeGroups for Students, Faculty and Staff:** Find belonging by doing life together! Over 50 LifeGroups to choose from. Take the next and [join today!](#)
- Check out our Chaplain’s Office [Parent Newsletters](#) which include worship opportunities parents are invited to join, a short article describing our weekly Vespers service, spiritual reflection questions for parents, and ideas for how parents can spiritually engage with their college student(s).
- **Prayer at the Flagpole:** Every morning from 8:15-8:30 (M-F), students, faculty and staff gather to specifically pray for an end to any racial division within our nation, church and campus. For more information, feel free to contact [Stephanie Guster](#).
- Share your prayer requests or praises with us via text message using your mobile phone. **Text-to-Pray: 423-281-8996.**

- **Need to talk to someone?** We encourage you to make an appointment to with Chaplain [Anna Bennett](#) or [Joseph Khabbaz](#) if you need someone to talk to for support, prayer or have a desire to grow spiritually.