

## The Gift of Blood

Ponder: Donating blood

Scripture: “In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins according to the riches of His grace” (Ephesians 1:7, NKJV).

Many of us have donated blood, whether to the Red Cross or some other blood bank. Let’s compare and contrast my experience in giving blood, to the Son of God giving His blood at Calvary.

ME: My blood might help one or several people enjoy better physical health.

JESUS: His blood has the power to give every human who has ever lived eternal life. Most will refuse this gift; but multitudes will be in Heaven because Jesus gave His blood for them.

ME: Donating blood didn’t really hurt me. The Red Cross folks were more than friendly. Most times I barely felt the needle poke. I enjoyed chatting with the nurses and the other donors. After the donation was complete, I was given a snack and some juice before leaving. My body will replace the blood before very long.

JESUS: People who hated Him brutalized Him. Roman soldiers pounded spikes through His hands and feet. The pain was unspeakable! Ungodly mockers cast insults at Him, as did the robbers crucified on either side of Him. For His thirst, the soldiers gave him vinegar.

ME: Before donating, I had to read forms, answer questions, and have my vital signs taken. Then they tested one drop of my blood for sufficient iron. Some people have to leave without donating because only healthy blood is allowed.

JESUS: The blood of the sinless Son of God was the only acceptable atonement offering. None other could have paid for my sins or yours.

ME: Long ago I lost count of how many times I have donated blood. The need is ongoing.

JESUS: He offered His blood “once for all” (Hebrews 9:12). The need for His blood is ongoing, but shedding His blood once was sufficient for all time.

ME: The opportunity to help someone less fortunate made me happy to donate my blood.

JESUS: “The joy that was set before Him” motivated Jesus to “endure the cross, despising the shame” (Hebrews 12:2). He willingly gave His blood to save sinners like us.