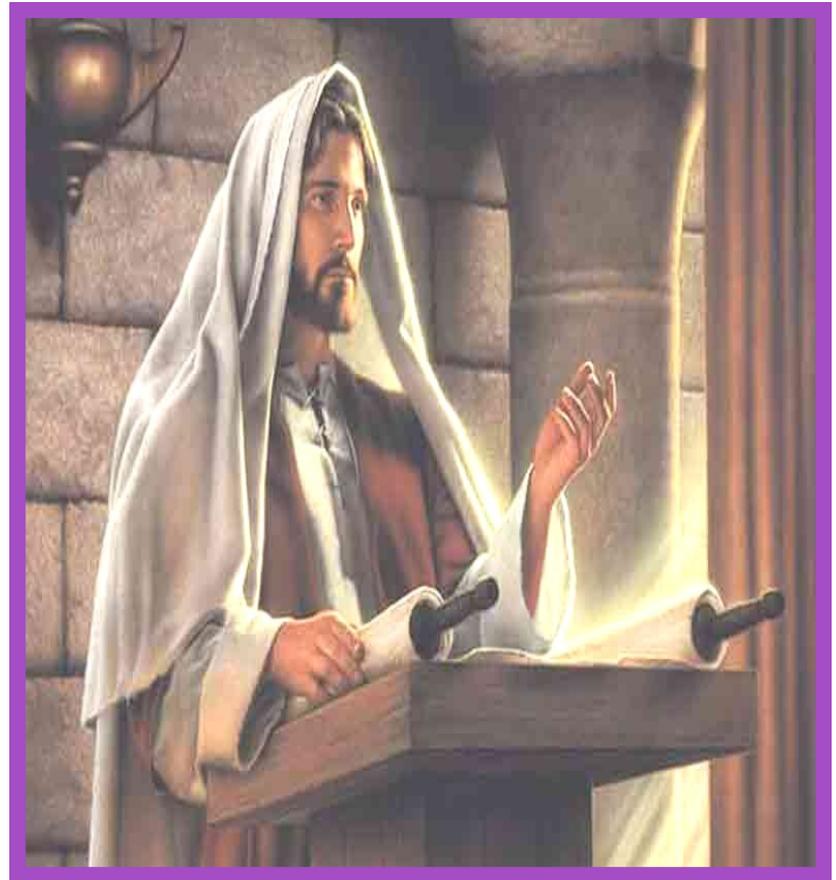


once and He gave for all. The Blood of Christ is salvation to him who desires it, punishment to him who does not desire it. You do not want to die; then why hesitate to be freed from the second death? And you will be freed from it, if you will take up your cross and follow the Lord, for He has taken up His Cross and has sought you, His servant.



**SERMON ON
PRECIOUS BLOOD OF JESUS
FROM THE FATHER'S OF THE CHURCH
160 - 1**



JESUS, OUR FIRST PREACHER!

***FEAST OF THE PRECIOUS BLOOD OF JESUS
MONTH OF JULY***

Based on the Divine Office-Douay-Rheims Version

Volume 2 - Pages 1949 - 1952 (1962 edition)

Commentary on the Gospel of John 9: 30 - 35

by: Saint Augustine, Bishop and Doctor

The Evangelist uses a carefully chosen word. He does not say that the soldier “struck” Christ’s side or “wounded” it or anything else of the kind, but that he “opened” it. This wording gives us a picture of the door of life opening to let the sacraments of the Church flow out, those sacraments without which no one can enter into the life which is true life.

The outpoured Blood was poured out for the remission of sins. The water is an ingredient of the cup of salvation: it serves both for washing and for drinking. All this was foreshadowed when Noe was commanded to make a door in the side of the ark. This door was to admit the living creatures who were not to perish in the flood; they prefigured the Church.

To foreshadow the same mystery, the first woman was made from the side of the man as he slept, and she was called Life and Mother of the Living. Thus a great good was prefigured before the great evil of sin. Here the second Adam, bowing His head, slept on the cross, that a wife might be formed for Him out of the water and Blood that flowed from His side as He slept. O death, by which the dead return to life! What is more cleansing than this Blood? What is more health-giving than this wound?

Men were being held captive under the devil and were serving demons, but they have been redeemed from captivity. They could sell themselves but they could not buy themselves back—redeem themselves. The Redeemer came and gave the price; He poured out His Blood and bought the whole world.

Do you ask what He bought? Look at what He gave and you can tell what He bought. The Blood of Christ is the price. How much is it worth? How much, if not the whole world? How much, if not all nations? Some people say that the price was too small...; they are very ungrateful for the price that Christ paid for them. Again, some say that they themselves are so important that the price was paid only for them; they are very proud. They should not boast or overestimate themselves. What the Redeemer gave, He gave for all.

Christ had the Blood with which to redeem us. That was why He took on flesh and blood: in order to have the Blood to shed for our redemption. If you want the Blood of your Lord to be given for you, it has been given for you; if you do not want it to be given for you, then it has not been. You may say, “My God had the Blood with which to redeem me, but now that His Passion is over, He has given it all. What has He left to give for me?” But that is the marvel: He gave