**Sacred Cows**

**Part 6 of 6**

**“Under the Blood?”**

**Psalm 103:12**

***“As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us.”***

In this series I’m putting the microscope on some of the terminology we use. I’m convinced that some of the subtle nuances in what people have told us about our God, our world, and ourselves have misled us. The words we use to describe something are important. Sometimes they subliminally communicate ideas to us that stick in our minds, whether they’re true or not. The use of fuzzy words and phrases results in fuzzy thinking, which leads to misdirected perceptions.

I’m “clearing the fuzziness” by calling sacred cows out…

Sacred Cow #1 – We need to focus on overcoming our sins.

Sacred Cow #2 – God won’t put more on us than we can bear.

Sacred Cow #3 – We must forgive and forget.

Sacred Cow #4 – Our hearts are desperately wicked.

Sacred Cow #5 – Our sins can disqualify us from being used by God.

I’m calling sacred cows out to make the point that there’s been a widespread dilution of the truth. When it comes to the gospel, diluted truth is polluted truth, and polluted truth is no gospel at all. Too much is at stake to risk faulty communication about the truth.

So, on that note, another one of the most dangerous sacred cows in the body of Christ today is the belief that…

***Sacred Cow #6 – Our sins are under the blood of Jesus.***

Take a close look at that statement. What could possibly be wrong with that?

To clear up a lot of fuzziness, ask this simple question: “What do you mean by that?” Ask people what they mean by a phrase or term, and you’ll finally be able to pinpoint what the controversy or teaching is really saying. You’ll often discover that you actually agree with what a person is trying to say, even though you disagree with how they say it. At other times, you’ll discover that what sounds good on the surface actually disguises a serious error beneath. Either way, you won’t discover what you’re really dealing with until you ask people to clarify what they mean.

Many of our shorthand expressions and clichés serve to promote sacred cows and reinforce misunderstandings.

In this case, what someone usually means by saying that our sins are under the blood of Jesus is that we’re forgiven. I’d certainly do nothing but agree with that assertion, but I do have a problem with this way of trying to say it. It communicates a serious misunderstanding about the work of Christ.

***Consider three truths that will put this sacred cow out of its misery:***

***1. The Old Testament sacrifices COVERED sin TEMPORARILY.***

Hebrews 10:4-5 says, *“It is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins. Therefore…Christ came into the world…”*

***2. The New Testament Sacrifice CUT OFF sin PERMANENTLY.***

Hebrews 9:23 says, ***“****Therefore it was necessary for the copies of the things in the heavens to be cleansed with these, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these.”*

John 1:29, *“Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!”*

1 John 3:5, *“You know that He appeared in order to take away sins; and in Him there is no sin.”*

Hebrews 9:26*“Now once at the consummation of the ages He has been manifested to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself.”*

Hebrews 10:11-12,14, *“Every [old covenant] priest stands daily ministering and offering time after time the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins; but He, having offered one sacrifice for sins for all time, sat down at the right hand of God…For by one offering He has perfected for all time those who are sanctified.”*

***3. The New Testament Sacrifice CHANGED you COMPLETELY.***

Galatians 2:20 says, *“I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me.”*

Ephesians 4:23 says, *“Be renewed in the spirit of your mind.”*

Romans 12:2 says, *“Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind…”*

Psalm 103:12 says, *“As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us.”*