

# The Brown Street Beacon

*"...Shine out among them like beacon lights,  
holding out to them the Word of Life" (Phil 2:15-16)*



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## Blood Transfusions

**T**he Hebrew writer wrote, *"Be not carried about with divers and strange doctrines..." (Heb. 13:9)*. Strange doctrines are doctrines foreign to the Word of God. They are doctrines that originate in the mind of man instead of the mind of God. While there is certainly much false teaching in the religious world today, perhaps some of the strangest doctrines come out from among the Jehovah's Witness cult. What are some of the things they teach? They teach that hell is the common grave. They advocate that at death those who are not faithful Jehovah's Witnesses enter into a state of non-existence. They believe and propagate the strange doctrine that the only punishment that will be experienced by those who die in sin is complete annihilation. They also deny that those who die in a right standing with God will not go to heaven (to them only 144,000 select people will go to heaven and everybody else will live on earth forever). Furthermore, they deny such things as the Deity of Christ, the resurrection of the body, and the eternal soul of man.

There is another false doctrine espoused by Witnesses which I consider to be especially strange. It is the idea that receiving a blood transfusion is a violation of the Word of God. The Witnesses take this strange doctrine very seriously. In an article from the newspaper, I read of a woman who was suing the hospital where a doctor performed a life-saving blood transfusion on her. She had six children and a husband who clearly loved her, yet she was willing to die instead of receiving a transfusion. There have been other even more remarkable reports. I have heard of parents willing to let their children die as opposed to allowing them to receive a blood transfusion. This just emphasizes how serious these people are about their belief regarding blood transfusions. Does this show a great deal of conviction? Yes. In fact I wish more true Christians had such strong feelings concerning truth as Witnesses have in regard to error. But the bottom line is that this teaching regarding blood transfusion is false. It is a strange doctrine and has no scriptural foundation at all.

Now, what exactly do the Jehovah Witnesses believe and teach? Here is a sample: *"So, whether one eats congealed blood in unbled meat, or drinks it at a slaughter-house, or takes it by intravenous feeding at a hospital, it is still a violation of a divine restriction that forbids taking blood into the system."* And what do they base this whole thing on? Well, they base it on the misunderstanding of several passages. Here are the passages that Witnesses believe condemn having a blood transfusion.

Gen. 9:4 - *"But you shall not eat flesh with its life, that is its blood."*

Lev. 3:17 - *This shall be a perpetual statute throughout your generations in all your dwellings: you shall eat neither fat nor blood."*

Lev. 7:26, 27 - *"Moreover you shall not eat any blood in any of your dwellings, whether of bird or beast. Whoever eats any blood, that person shall be cut off from his people."*

Lev. 17:12 - *"Therefore I said to the children of Israel, 'No one among you shall eat blood, nor shall*

*any stranger who sojourns among you eat blood.” Acts 15:28, 29 - “For it seemed good to the Holy Spirit, and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things: that you abstain from things offered to idols, from blood, from things strangled, and from sexual immorality. If you keep yourselves from these, you will do well. Farewell.”*

Now, did any of these passages mention anything about a blood transfusion? No! Regardless of what Jehovah Witnesses believe, there is a difference between eating blood and receiving a blood transfusion. The Bible says nothing about blood transfusions. Besides, the passages above made no mention of human blood, which is the type of blood used in transfusions. These passages condemn *eating* the blood of animals. I am not saying that it would be lawful to eat human blood, I am merely pointing out that the passages used by Witnesses to condemn the transferring of human blood taken from one human and given to another, say nothing about human blood. Yet, these folks would stand by and watch their children die instead of allowing them to have a transfusion of blood. If you think this is an exaggeration of their conviction, notice this article found in the [New York Daily News](#):

*“ A young father and mother said today they followed God’s will in refusing a blood transfusion on religious grounds while their 9-day-old baby died. The father said, ‘It was God’s will. If I am called a murderer, that is God’s will. We want more children. But if such a thing happens again and the child dies, that will be God’s way too”*

Surely we can see that this is a strange doctrine indeed.

*Don*

## **Are We Too Hard?**

By Aaron Erhardt

**S**ometimes gospel preachers are accused of being “too hard” on denominational doctrines and practices. We are told to be more tolerant and less judgmental of others. Is that true? Let us examine the issue.

The Lord said that one must be baptized to be saved (Mk. 16:16). Are we “too hard” when we expose Baptist preachers who say otherwise? Should we ignore the fact that they are perverting the teachings of Christ and leading people astray?

The kingdom was established in the first century (Col. 1:13). Are we “too hard” when we expose Premillennialists who say it is not yet in existence? Should we ignore the fact that they are perverting the truth and leading people astray?

Baptism is a burial in water (Col. 2:12). Are we “too hard” when we expose Roman Catholic priests who practice sprinkling for baptism? Should we ignore the fact that they are perverting the truth and leading people astray?

There is no such thing as inherited sin (Ezek. 18:20). Are we “too hard” when we expose Calvinists who say infants are born totally depraved? Should we ignore the fact that they are perverting the truth and leading people astray?

Salvation is in the body (Eph. 5:23). There is only one body (Eph. 4:4). Are we “too hard” when we expose denominationalists who say there are many bodies (or churches) that are acceptable to God? Should we ignore the fact that they are perverting the truth and leading people astray?

Gospel preachers are not being “too hard” when they defend the truth of the gospel and expose false teachers. We are simply doing what the Lord Jesus would have us to do (2 Cor. 10:5; 1 Tim. 6:12; Jude 3). Error must be defeated!