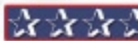




The Flag I Love





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The American flag—how often one thrills at the sight of it! Especially to men overseas does its appearance bring a thrill of pride and pleasure. Truly it is the symbol of free men and a free nation.

While this flag has long been the symbol of a free people, there is a deeper lesson to be learned from its wonderful blend of colors.



WHITE is the color of purity, an absence of all colors, a light reflector. White is the color of the garments of the redeemed in Heaven (Revelation 19:8). White is the color of the spotless throne of God. And there is but one truly white man, morally and spiritually, that ever trod this sin-stained earth—the man Christ Jesus. He was without sin and is called in Holy Scripture “spotless.” And it was this sinless, spotless One who was nailed to the cross of a criminal. The sinful world had little room and less liking for a man of this kind; for all other men born into the world are sinners (Romans 3:23). On the cross God “*made Him to be sin for us.*”



RED we recognize as the color of blood—the color of the blood-drops of Christ which one day dripped on Calvary’s hill for the sin of the world. “. . . *without shedding of blood is no remission*” of sins (Hebrews 9:22), the Bible records. And the crimson thread of the blood atonement begins on the first page of the Old Testament and leads through its history to the crimson fountain of Calvary:

*“There is a fountain filled with blood
Drawn from Immanuel’s veins;
And sinners plunged beneath that flood
Lose all their guilty stains.”*

Water cannot wash away the soil and stain of sin, but the “. . . *blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin*” (1 John 1:7). Morality, charity, good works, even baptismal water cannot wash away one’s sins; only the blood of Christ can.



BLUE is the color of the heavens. Like the word itself, the starry heavens and the Heaven of God are often associated. The apostle Paul once said, “*If in this life only we have hope . . . we are of all men most miserable*” (1 Corinthians 15:19). Man’s soul cries out that this earthly life is not the end; that there must be a hereafter. Not only the Scriptures, but man’s conscience warns that there is a Heaven to win, and a Hell to shun. Yes, the blue speaks to us of a Heaven to which some day we may go, and the shining stars remind us that those who are saved

shall shine as the stars forever (Daniel 12:3).

But this Heaven will not receive ALL men, but only those who trust Jesus Christ as their Saviour and Lord. The Bible tells us that *"He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him"* (John 3:36). You must by a definite act of faith receive the Lord Jesus Christ if you would be saved.

Remember, then, when you see Old Glory waving in the breezes of peace or in the winds of war that there is a lesson in its stirring blend of colors. WHITE—the purity of Jesus Christ. RED—the blood of Jesus Christ, shed for your sins. BLUE—the Heavenly hope which all who trust Christ as Saviour have. But remember also that Jesus said, *"... I am the way, the truth and the life: no man cometh unto the Father but by me"* (John 14:6).

—E. K. Bailey

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