

## The Colors of Salvation

Text: Isaiah 1:18

## Introduction

- A. One of Breanna and Samantha's favorite things to get is a new coloring book and crayons. They love to color. I guess a lot of children like to color.
- B. To capture children's imagination and to teach a very important lesson about our salvation William V. Mason has written the "The Crayon Box Song" if you haven't sung it before here are the words:

1. When I was just a little child no higher than your knee,  
My mother bought a box of crayons, just for me.  
I picked them up and I opened them up and I looked way down inside,  
And the colors there reminded me of Jesus when He died. (chorus)
2. I colored and I colored 'til the crayons were all gone,  
And though I am much older now, the mem'ry lingers on.  
And when I see a little child with crayon box in hand,  
I tell them what they mean to me and hope they'll understand. (chorus)
3. Afraid to tell of a Saviour who died on Calvary,  
He died for lowly sinners just like you and me;  
And someday soon He's coming back to be our King,  
And the colors of the crayon box we will sing! (chorus)  
(chorus)
4. O...Red is the color of the blood that He shed,  
Brown is for the crown of thorns they laid upon His head.  
Blue is for royalty! Within Him did dwell;  
And yellow is for the Christian who's afraid to tell.  
So, don't you be a Christian, who's afraid to tell!

- C. What a great song and great message notice the colors that Isa 1:18-19 mentions, "Come now, and let us reason together, saith Jehovah: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool. If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land." Let's look tonight at the colors of salvation so we can appreciate the blessing we have in Christ.

## Body

- I. First the color of scarlet or crimson—

- A. Scarlet was made from:

1. Clusters of the eggs of an insect which attaches itself to the leaves and twigs of the coccifera oak; another species is raised on the leaves of the *cactus ficus*. The Arabic name for this insect is *qirmiz*, whence the word "crimson."
2. This dye was also obtained by the Egyptians from the shell-fish . Where it is said millions of shell-fish were harvested in the Mediterranean and some even driven to extinction to obtain the color purple. A small white vein in the head of a shell-fish were delicately extracted and the blood inside would eventually be refined to a deep purple color used for dyeing materials. The

drawback was that it took 8,500 shellfish to produce only one ounce of the dye. Because of this, the color was very expensive and only the super rich, such as kings, could afford it. That is why it is referred to as a royal color.

3. It was as scarlet robes “glaring and customary.” Scarlet and crimson were the firmest of dyes, and thus not easily washed out.

#### B. Scarlet is a common color mention in scripture.

1. This color was early known (Gen. 38:28) in which a scarlet thread was tied around the first twin of Tamar.
2. It was one of the colors of high priest’s ephod (Ex. 28:6), the girdle (Ex. 28:8), and the breastplate (Ex. 28:15).
3. Rahab's cord (Jos. 2:18).
4. It is also mentioned in various other connections (2 Sa.1:24; Lam. 4:5; Nah. 2:3).
5. A scarlet robe was in mockery placed on our Lord (Mat. 27:28; Lk. 23:11).
6. “Sins as scarlet” (Isa.1:18).

#### C. Scarlet as a color of Salvation.

1. Is. 1:18, “Scarlet” or “crimson” sometimes translated both were bright, glaring colors suggesting how sin glares before God.
  - i. The illustration of this color suggest in Is. 1:18 that even though the Israel’s sin as well as our sin is open, evident, and glaring, i.e., “blood-red,” if Israel repents, God will regard them as “snow-white” because of His mercy and forgiveness.
2. We know from the New Testament that this cleansing of sin can be once and for all realized through the scarlet blood of Jesus when carried our "sins" to the cross (Mt. 27:28).
3. Scarlet is a color that can remind us of the cost of our sins it cost Jesus His life. And if we believe what Jesus did on the cross the hurt, the price and the separation of sin can all be forgiven when we repent of our sins and are buried with Christ in baptism.
  - i. Jesus said in Mt. 26:28, “for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.”
4. Two thousand years ago Jesus Christ hung on a cross, bled and died and resurrected to bring us forgiveness of sins and a wonderful, eternal life with Him. Scarlet can remind us this very important fact of salvation.

## II. Second the color black or really the absence of all color.

- A. The word black is derived from, to be dirty, ink, bad, gloom, darkness, and of night. It also can represent sin although not mentioned in Is. 1:18 it is a color that can teach us about salvation.

1. Think about how and where black is used today, and the effect that black has; often wore at funerals, when the day is gloom and dark people are depressed and sad. Black is often used of thieves, criminals, and those who want to

rebel.

2. I can remember being a kid my sister and I would pick out all the black jelly beans and give them to dad because we did not like them.
3. I can relate to one little girl when tasting a black jelly bean said it was the perfect taste for sin because it tasted so disgusting.
4. Black in regards to sin is disgusting.

B. Black is also mentioned through out scripture.

1. Matt. 5:36 Jesus of hair;
2. Rev. 6:5, 12 used in Revelation,
3. Heb. 12:18 contrast of Sinai and Zion,
4. Ex. 10:22 the ninth plague in Egypt.
5. 2 Pet. 2:4, 2:17 talking about torment and hell,
6. Jude 6, darkness; 13, blackness, hell.

C. Black and how it relates to salvation.

1. Black reminds us that we need salvation. Usually we don't often want to think much about sin. But sin is real and Rom. 3:23 reminds us all have done it.
2. But the Bible speaks a lot about what sin does to us.
  - a. Sin hurts. Rom. 6:23 "For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."
    - i. You can't get any more hurtful than that. A good definition of sin is anything that God knows will ultimately hurt Him, you or hurt someone else. We usually think of sin as lying, cheating, stealing, murder, but sin is anything that goes against God's plan for our lives. And all sin hurts it hurts God, us or someone else.
    - ii. 1 Cor. 6:9-10
    - iii. Gal. 5:19-20
  - b. Sin separates.
    - i. Is. 59:2, "but your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden his face from you so that he does not hear."
    - ii. Sin separates us from God. God who is often referred to as Light, that when He separated from us the only thing is left is darkness.
    - iii. Sin not only separates us from God it often separates us from other people when we hurt them as a result of our sin.

- c. Sin has a price.
  - i. Rom. 6:23 “For the wages of sin is death.”
  - ii. That price is death.
  - iii. That is why it was necessary for Jesus to die on the cross; our sins deserved death. Someone had to pay the price, someone had to take care of the bill. Jesus did.
  - iv. Rom. 5:10, “For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life.”
- 3. When we realize how terrible sin is that it is represented by blackness and it can give an idea why hell is referred to as darkness, blackness, and gloom.
- 4. The colors scarlet and black should remind us of the tragic price for our sin. We must also know that our sins can be forgiven and we can go from viewing our sin as scarlet and black to knowing that we can be pure, white, and clean in Christ. Which brings us to our last color:

## II. Last the color of white-

White is the color of purity, bright, clear, AND bright.

- A. This color is mentioned more in the Bible than any other color.
  - 1. Our Lord, at his transfiguration, appeared in raiment “white as the light” (Mt.17:2).
  - 2. It is mentioned a number of times to describe animals, fields, mountains, trees, and stones.
  - 3. White also reflects the characteristics of God, such as His holiness, righteousness, justice, and mercy as seen through out scriptures.
  - 4. Heaven is seen white and as full of color. While Hell is seen as the absence of colors, we can get the idea that Heaven is full of goodness and Hell is absence of everything Heaven is not.
  - 5. White snow-Ps. 51:7 “Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.”
  - 6. Wool-restored to its original undyed whiteness Is. 1:18.
- C. White relates to salvation because it represents what the blood of Christ does to our life when we accept Jesus’ gift of forgiveness and eternal life because of His death, burial, and resurrection.
  - 1. Isaiah 1:18, “Come now, and let us reason together, saith Jehovah: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool. If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land:” As we read this our minds go to the cross of Christ where our sins although scarlet are now made white as snow and wool.

2. The purging of stain of according to Isaiah turns it snowy white and is symbolic of the life-changing grace of God, which delivers men from the guilt and condemnation of sin. The prophet reminds his readers that God stands ready to cleanse and forgive all who will turn to Him.
3. Ps. 51:7 “Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.”
4. Rev 7:14, “And I say unto him, My lord, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they that come of the great tribulation, and they washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.”
  - a. Faith and obedience applies to the heart the purifying blood of Christ once for all for justification, continually throughout the life for sanctification.
  - b. There is power alone in the blood of Christ to cleanse us from all sin
  - c. 1 Jn. 1:7, “But if we live in the light in the same way that God is in the light, we have a relationship with each other. And the blood of his Son Jesus cleanses us from every sin.”
  - d. The result is "white," not "red," as one might imagine. Christ makes us “white” or “pure” so we can dwell with God for eternity one day.

Finally,

- A. What color represents you tonight are your sins as scarlet? Are you separated from God and black in sin? Or have you been washed in the blood of the Lamb where you have been make white as snow?
- B. Tonight you can be white as snow and perfect in Christ will come to the invitation of Christ? Will you come tonight and be washed in the blood of the Lamb? Please do as we stand and sing.