

ALAS! AND DID MY SAVIOUR BLEED?

*Alas! and did my Saviour bleed?
And did my Sovereign die?
Would He devote that sacred head
For such a worm as I?*

*Was it for crimes that I have done
He groaned up on the tree?
Amazing pity! grace unknown!
And love beyond degree!*

*Well might the sun in darkness hide,
And shut His glories in,
When Christ, the mighty Maker, died,
For man, the creature's sin.*

*Thus might I hide my blushing face,
While His dear cross appears;
Dissolve my heart in thankfulness,
And melt mine eyes to tears.*

*But drops of grief can ne'er repay
the debt of love I owe:
Here, Lord, I give myself away,
'Tis all that I can do.
AMEN.*

Isaac Watts

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CELEBRATING THE HERITAGE OF AFRICAN AMERICANS



**“The life of
the flesh is in
the blood.”**

Leviticus 17:14

On each Communion Sunday, we have the symbols of the body and blood of Jesus before us. The bread and the juice of the grape represents the sacrifice which Jesus made for the redemption of humanity. As we participate in Holy Communion, we are also called to take a flashback into the annals of African-American history. In doing so, one of our African-American brothers, **Dr. Charles Richard Drew**, comes forth.

Just as the blood which Jesus shed saves us, the scientific achievements in research of blood plasma by Dr. Drew saved many lives and is continuing to save lives today. Unfortunately, his research could not save his own life.

Dr. Charles Richard Drew

(1904-1950)

CHARLES DREW is known for his development of the procedure to separate blood plasma from whole blood. This procedure made it possible to store and refrigerate blood in blood banks for longer periods of time.

He was born in Washington, D.C. as the oldest child of Charles and Nora Drew and graduated from Dunbar High School where he excelled in football, basketball, swimming and track. He then attended Amherst College in Massachusetts and graduated in 1926 with honors. After which he became an instructor in chemistry and biology and Director of Athletics at Morgan State College in Baltimore, Maryland. However, Drew had a desire to become a doctor so he entered McGill University Medical School in Montreal, Canada. While there he won membership in its Medical Honorary Society. In 1933 he received his Doctor of Medicine and Master of Surgery degrees. During his studies in medical school, he became interested in blood research.



While in Canada, he served internships at the Royal Victoria Hospital and the Montreal General Hospital. He returned to Washington, D.C. to teach at the Medical School at Howard University. Later at Columbia Presbyterian Hospital in New York City, he researched a process for long-term blood preservation. In 1940, he received a Doctor of Science in Medicine with a dissertation on “Banked Blood.”

As World War II raged, the British were suffering heavy losses and sought Drew’s help in starting its blood bank program. With this

opportunity, Drew instituted his procedure for long-term preservation of blood plasma. It worked well and the British asked Drew to organize the first mass blood bank project. Thus, Drew actually became the director of the American Red Cross Blood Bank.

Drew’s work in the War Department eventually met with difficulty as a directive was issued that blood obtained from black soldiers was not to be mixed with that of white soldiers. Drew resigned his position and stated that “the blood of individual human beings may differ by blood groupings, but there is absolutely no scientific basis to indicate any difference in human blood from race to race.” So he returned to Howard University to teach surgery at the medical school.

Tragically, in 1950, this African-American genius died from injuries received in an automobile accident in North Carolina. He was on a trip to a medical conference at Tuskegee Institute in Alabama. In spite of the oppressive constraints of a segregated society, Drew was able to creatively use his God-given gifts to help all of humanity. Millions are alive today as a consequence of the dedicated research and experimentation of Charles Richard Drew.

Leviticus 17:14 states that “the life of the flesh is in the blood, and that it is the blood that makes atonement for the soul.” Accordingly, we must recognize that we do not know everything about the life given through the blood. However, it is an absolute fact that a transfusion of blood is at best only temporary, but the blood of Jesus makes possible eternal and endless life for all who believe.

Just as Charles Drew is remembered today for his legacy of blood research, what will you leave the world? Will the inhabitants of this planet earth, some fifty or a hundred years from now, recall a significant contribution that you made to humanity?

**ONE PERSON CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!
WILL THAT PERSON BE YOU?**
