

Bible Devotions: Lock Stock & Barrel
Devotional Reading for Outdoorsmen
(Old Testament)

Deuteronomy 18:13

Blameless By the Blood of Jesus

You shall be blameless before the Lord your God.

I don't require much from my firearms. None of them are super-weapons. I just want a gun that is reasonably accurate, safe, reliable, and practical. In other words, a working gun. Although I prefer blued steel and walnut stocks, I also use stainless steel and synthetic stocked arms. Even with these "extreme condition" guns, I don't require a lot.

As for accuracy, you never know what you'll get. Each firearm is a story in itself. Personally, I enjoy trying to make an inaccurate gun shoot straight. Sometimes I succeed, sometimes I don't. Either way, I find a lot of satisfaction in the effort. It's one of many reasons I enjoy firearms as a hobby.

I've never found a perfect gun. It doesn't matter the cost – the priciest handgun I own shoots low and to the left with its fixed sights. It doesn't matter the cosmetics – the prettiest shotgun I ever owned had an irregular pattern. It doesn't matter the construction – the most practical rifle I use in the deep woods is not ideal on the open prairie. I must live with imperfection. I hold my guns blameless in this regard.

As for one's relationship with God, well that's another story. In this Scripture, God had just told the nation of Israel to stay away from human sacrifice, witchcraft, sorcery, conjurers, mediums, and other occasions for the occult (Deuteronomy 18:10-11). These were things practiced by wicked people and judged by God to be abominable. If anything elicited His hate, these things surely did (Deuteronomy 12:31). On the flip side of this, He gave the command to *be blameless before the Lord your God*.

With this command to be blameless comes the necessity to learn; that is, to learn the right lessons. In Deuteronomy 18:9, God told the Israelites that they were not to learn to follow the abominations of wicked people. In other words, learning was not to be influenced by wickedness. Teaching was not to be done outside the scope of God's instruction. Learning and teaching were reserved for God's laws and precepts, as He clearly commanded in Deuteronomy 6:4-9 (the Judaic confession of faith, or Shema).

There's nothing perfect in this world, including firearms, hunting plans, fishing strategies, or what have you. We should enjoy all these things and not blame them for their state of imperfection. In fact, a lot of the joy we experience outdoors comes from making the very best of less than ideal situations.

To be sure, we can't stand blameless before the Lord in our own state of imperfection. *There is none who does good, no, not one* (Psalm 14:3). We need help. We need saved from this state of blamefulness. Enter the blood of Jesus which cleanses us from all sin (I John 1:7).

His blood can wash us clean, without spot, without blemish, without imperfection. In a word, blameless. All things earthly will pass away someday. Nothing on earth can help us be blameless before the Lord. Only the blood of Jesus can do this. *We are not redeemed with corruptible things, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot* (I Peter 1:18-19).

God takes pleasure in making the very best from less than ideal human conditions. What does He require? That men fear the Lord, walk in all His ways, love Him, serve Him with all their heart and soul, and keep His commandments (Deuteronomy 10:12-13). That's true not only for the Old Testament believer but also for the New Testament believer. That's you. That's me... a sinful son of a gun turned into a saintly son of the King. Coming before the Heavenly Father blameless by the blood of Jesus.

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Bible Devotions: Hook Line & Sinker (study guide)

Deuteronomy 18:13
Blameless By the Blood of Jesus

HOOK

1. Name your favorite outdoor hobby or activity. What is your second favorite? Third?

2. In your view, what is the most near perfect outdoor item you own? Explain why you think so.

3. Describe three things you'd do to improve the accuracy of a gun.

LINE

With this command to be blameless comes the necessity to learn. Learning and teaching were reserved for God's laws and precepts.

There's nothing perfect in this world, including firearms, hunting plans, fishing strategies, or what have you. We should enjoy all these things and not blame them for their state of imperfection. In fact, a lot of the joy we experience outdoors comes from making the very best of less than ideal situations.

We can't stand blameless before the Lord in our own state of imperfection. We need help. We need saved from this state of blamefulness. Enter the blood of Jesus which cleanses us from all sin.

God takes pleasure in making the very best from less than ideal human conditions. He requires that men fear the Lord, walk in all His ways, love Him, serve Him with all their heart and soul, and keep His commandments. That's true not only for the Old Testament believer but also for the New Testament believer, coming before the Heavenly Father blameless by the blood of Jesus.

How are you blameless before the Lord? Or, how can you be blameless before Him?

Describe three things you can learn, or learn better, that will help you honor the Lord.

SINKER

Take a few minutes to write your thoughts on this devotional. Reflect on your own experiences.

Key words: blameless learning blood of Jesus

