

Tidbits about Blood - For Bible Time Week 10

Here are a few tidbits on blood:

- If the blood flow to any part of your body is cut off, that part will quickly die
- Brain cells will die after 3 to 4 minutes without blood
- Thus: we will die without our "blood" connection to Christ

- The heart pumps about 4,730 liters of blood a day - every day of the year (24 x 7)
- Your heart can never rest because the body (every single cell - and there are billions in our body) needs the oxygen and nutrients that the blood supplies
- We need the spiritual nutrients that the Lord supplies every minute of every day

- Blood cells don't have a nucleus so they cannot reproduce themselves by cell division.
- The bone marrow constantly makes new red blood cells.
- An adult man has about three trillion red blood cells (a lot) and these cells live an average of 4 months
- When they are worn out the spleen is the chief disposal area for them

Blood - some more facts from a medical encyclopedia:

- Blood is red and sticky. Its main function is to act as the body's transport system.

- Blood has a major role in defending the body against infection.

- Blood has some clever mechanisms to stop its own loss from the body! It seals damaged blood vessels. It protects the injury with a clot. It helps to repair the damage.

- The average sized grownup has about 10 pints of blood. These ten pints get pumped every minute. The pumper is the heart. If a person is exercising, then the rate goes up to as high as 40 pints a minute going round and round the body.

"Blood consists of liquid and solid components and comprises approximately 8 percent of the body's total weight. The liquid part of the blood is called plasma. The solid parts are the red and white blood cells and cell fragments called platelets.

"Plasma makes up about half of the blood volume (the total amount of blood circulating within the body.) Composed mostly of water, plasma maintains the blood volume that the circulatory system needs to function normally. Plasma also contains nutrients essential for energy production, growth, and cell maintenance and carries waste products for elimination.

"White blood cells are a key disease-fighting component of the immune system. They defend the body against invading microorganisms. They also aid in producing antibodies that help the body resist infection.

"Red blood cells account for most of blood's solid components. They are produced in the marrow in the hollow center of large bones, such as the large bone of the arm (humerus) and of the thigh (femur). Red blood cells number nearly 260 million in each drop of blood. The red blood cells transport oxygen from the lungs to the body cells and carbon dioxide from the cells to the lungs. Red blood cells outnumber white blood cells approximately 1000 to 1.

"Platelets are disk-shaped cell fragments in the blood. Platelets are an essential part of the blood's clotting mechanism because they tend to bind together. Clotting is the process by which whole blood thickens at a wound site. Platelets help stop bleeding by forming blood clots at wound sites. Blood clots form the framework for healing. Until blood clots form, bleeding must be controlled artificially."