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To: Joe Wyant

John Allen Chalk

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However, there is a great difference between eating blood so as to consume it for physical strength and the accepting of a transfusion of human blood which would not be consumed but used and repeatedly cleansed by the physical body.

Mrs. Joe Wyant
P.O. Box 37
Anaconda, Montana

Dear Mrs. Wyant:

We appreciate your interest in the study of the Bible and are happy that you have written Herald of Truth concerning your Bible questions. We are sorry to learn of the loss of your minister and especially are concerned that he failed to answer the questions that are troubling you. Your three questions are important ones and the following remarks are intended as answers.

You will notice that in the New Testament the laying on of hands is mentioned in two respects. First, of the conveying of spiritual gifts to selected individuals within the early church qualifying them for leadership in local congregations before the New Testament had been written and compiled. This laying on of hands was done only by the apostles as the following scriptures will show. (Acts 6:6; 8:14-20; Rom. 1:11.) Second, it was the laying on of hands which signified appointment or ordination to special activities. This is what is talked about in I Tim. 4:14 where obviously the elders of the church appointed Timothy to preach the gospel. However, it should be pointed out that Paul mentions in II Tim. 1:6 that he personally also laid his hands on Timothy by the laying on of hands. Timothy evidently received the spiritual gifts mentioned earlier.

Your second question dealt with the matter of present day apostles. I think you already know the answer to this question but would cite you to Acts 1:21-22 where qualifications for the apostles are given. It is obvious that no modern man meets these qualifications and, therefore, we do not have apostles in our day. Paul makes plain that apostles were a part of the church's temporary and introductory structure. (I Cor. 12:28-30.)

Your third question dealt with the teaching by Jehovah's Witnesses concerning blood transfusions. All of the scriptures you mention deal with animal blood solely. We believe everything taught in these passages including the New Testament prohibitions concerning the eating of the blood of animals.
August 24, 1965

However, there is a great difference between eating blood so as to consume it for physical strength and the accepting of a transfusion of human blood which would not be consumed but used and repeatedly cleansed by the physical body.

Mrs. Joe Wyant

"When one gives a transfusion, it is not a sacrifice of life, and the eating of forbidden blood, but a transference of life from one person to another, a gift of strength offered in a spirit of mercy and charity." (p. 118, Walter Martin and Norman Klann, Jehovah of the Watch Tower.)

This is especially significant in view of what Jesus says about the expression of the highest love in the giving of one's life for another. (John 15:13.) The Bible teaches the necessity of Christians aiding others even in the giving of blood for the sustaining of physical life and in no way by the prohibition of the eating of animal blood denies that Christians can accept blood transfusions. It might be well to remember that Jehovah's Witnesses did not teach this unscriptural doctrine until July 1, 1945, after the death of their founder, Mr. Russell, and their subsequent leader, Judge Rutherford.

We encourage you to continue to listen to Herald of Truth and send us any further Bible questions on your mind.

Sincerely yours,

John Allen Chalk

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