

GOD'S *Forgiveness*



“Christ did His part, but I have to do mine.” How often has such confusion been heard! But what does the Bible teach about God’s forgiveness?

IT IS COMPLETE FORGIVENESS

“The blood of Jesus Christ...cleanses us from all sin” (1 John 1.7 NKJV). *“And you...God made alive...having forgiven us all our trespasses”* (Colossians 2.13 ESV).

The letter to the Colossians was written sometime after they had been forgiven. Yet, no sin committed afterward had taken that forgiveness away.

Colossians 3.13 (NKJV) anticipates the possibility (not the permission!) of sinning after being forgiven. Far from being jeopardized, divine forgiveness is used as the basis for human forgiveness, *“Bearing with one another, and forgiving one another... even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do.”*

IT IS NOT CONDITIONAL FORGIVENESS

God does NOT say: “If you sin, I will take away your forgiveness.” IF that were the case:

It would be forgiveness based on works. But Ephesians 2.9 says: *“Not by works.”*

It would never be secure. But those forgiven in the Bible knew it with certainty. Read Colossians 2.13, quoted at the beginning.

It would not be by grace. But the Bible repeatedly insists that it is. One example suffices: *“In Him we have... the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace”* (Ephesians 1.7 NKJV).

It would contradict the meaning of grace—it is unmerited. Like oil and water, grace and works do not mix for salvation. *“And if by grace, then it is no longer of works; otherwise grace is no longer grace. But if it is of works, it is no longer grace; otherwise work is no longer work”* (Romans 11.6 NKJV).

It would clash with faith. Faith is trusting in God. Forgiveness that depends on oneself would result in self-reliance. The Bible does **not** say: *“Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and in yourself, and you will be saved.”*

Believing in Christ would not be enough. Insisting on doing “my part” shows a failure to understand

or believe in the completeness of Christ's work. To trust partially in Christ is to distrust Him. If one is not believing in Christ, one is not saved.

One would not be believing in the word of Christ. He said: *"It is finished,"* (John 19.30 KJV), which means completed. The Bible says: *"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved,"* (Acts 16.31 NKJV). If you had to do your part, this verse would be false.

Why not rest solely in Christ? Then you would have complete, unconditional, and eternal forgiveness. Does Christ not deserve all your respect and acknowledgment for His complete and perfect work on the cross? Repent of your proud and misguided reliance on yourself—on "doing your part." Understand and accept this truth: *"The blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin"* (1 John 1.7 NKJV).

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