

24 September 2017

A believer's standing before God (Pt 2 Forgiven, washed & cleared)

In our previous study on a believer's standing before God we established that the saved are justified, redeemed and imputed with the righteousness of God at the moment they believe the gospel of Christ crucified. In this teaching we establish the saved are also forgiven, washed, and cleared.

Scriptures upon which this teaching is founded.

1. The believer's sins are forgiven.

"In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace" (Eph.1: 7). See also Col.1: 14.

A Jew in the Old Testament had his sins forgiven by an animal sin sacrifice (Lev.4: 20). Today those who believe that Jesus Christ died for their sins are forgiven through His blood shed on Calvary.

2. The believer's sins are washed.

"And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God" (1Cor.6: 11). See also Rev.1: 5.

In the Old Testament when a Hebrew sinned and blood was shed on the altar his sins were never taken away – Heb.10: 4. But the Lord Jesus, when He offered himself for sins "hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified" (Heb.10: 14). Hence, the Old Testament saints had their sins taken away when Christ shed his blood on Calvary, just as sinners in this age are washed in the blood of the Lamb at the moment they believe their sin is on Christ, and call on His name.

3. The believer is cleared of the guilt of his sins.

"Whom God hath set forth [to be] a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God" (Rom.3: 25) – c.f. Num 14:18 "The Lord is longsuffering, and of great mercy, forgiving iniquity and transgression, and by no means clearing the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation".

Today the Christian is cleared of the guilt of his sin unlike those in the Old Testament whom God would visit their iniquity upon their children until the third and fourth generation.

Additional comments on our three points.

The age of the Gentiles will end when Christ returns in the clouds for those who have placed their trust in His finished work on the cross. Those who believe are saved in this age and consequently have a standing before God like none other.

Applying the teaching to our life today.

The Roman Catholic institution that calls herself the true church of Christ twists the scriptures and denies their adherents the benefits afforded to a person that simply believes God's words by faith.

Question to think about.

What is the difference between a Roman Catholic and a Christian in the context of this teaching?

My answer to our question from the scriptures.

A Roman Catholic is forgiven their sins at baptism, when they drink the wine that mysteriously becomes the blood of Christ, and finally in Purgatory. Plus their guilt of sin is removed by charity and penance. Whereas a Christian is a lost person that believes their sins are forgiven by the blood that Christ shed on Calvary, they are washed and cleared of the guilt of their sin by the precious blood that Christ shed on Calvary. In response, let us whose standing before God is solely on the basis of Christ's one-off sacrifice yield ourselves servants unto righteousness (Rom.6: 16).