

13 January 2019

## Forgiveness Pt 4 & final – Christ's forgiveness of our sins

This is our fourth and final study on our topic – “forgiveness”. In our previous study we established that motivation to forgive our brethren stems from – (1) our desire not to give our enemy an advantage in the battle, (2) our desire that our brethren be not overcome with sorrow, and (3) when we remember our brother has ought against us seek reconciliation through forgiveness. In this study we establish that (1) Jesus Christ was given for forgiveness of sins, and (2) it is through faith that we receive forgiveness of sins, and (3) it is through His blood that we are forgiven. Therefore it is faith in His blood by which we are forgiven our sins.

Scriptures upon which this teaching is founded.

### 1. Christ forgives our sins when we confess our sins.

“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 Jn.1: 9).

Christ was given for the forgiveness of sins (Acts 5: 31), He forgave sin (Mk.2: 5), and it is through the preaching of Christ that forgiveness is extended to the lost – Acts 13:38 “Be it known unto you therefore, men and brethren, that through this man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins”.

### 2. We receive Christ's forgiveness of our sins by faith.

“To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me” (Acts 26: 18).

### 3. Faith in the cleansing power of the blood that the Lord Jesus shed on Calvary.

“In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins...” (Eph.1: 7). Also Col.1: 14 and 1 Jn.1: 7, c.f.: 1 Pet.2: 24 – “Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree”.

Hence the similarity between remission of sins and forgiveness – as remission of sins is also received by faith in His blood – Rom.3: 25.

## An illustration to help apply the teaching to our life today.

We refer to the “Ignatius Catholic Study Bible” for Rome's interpretation of Acts 2: 38 and it reads – “The call to conversion is a call for Baptism, the sacrament that takes away sin...”

We have consulted a Roman Catholic on whether or not Jesus' actual blood cleanses their sins, and was told – “Catholics do not believe that their sins are on Christ because He died 2000 years ago and their sins are committed today, so we do not understand.”

### Question to think about.

How does a simply believer discern an unsaved person from among the multitude of people that call themselves Christians?

### Our answer from the scriptures.

One method to discern the Christian from the non-Christian is to establish what a person believes regarding forgiveness of sins. A Christian is one because they believe –

- \* Jesus Christ forgives their sins when they confess them, and
- \* they solely trust in Jesus to receive forgiveness of sins, and
- \* they solely trust Christ's blood that He shed on Calvary for forgiveness of their sins.

NO ONE in the body of Christ is forgiven their sins by baptism, NO ONE is converted “from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God” (Acts 27: 18) by any mumbo-jumbo mixed with Christian words, but through –

- \* Christ Jesus the Lord who forgives our sins when we confess our iniquities, and
- \* trust in Jesus Christ and Him alone for forgiveness, and
- \* have faith in the cleansing power of the blood He shed on Calvary, that their sins are forgiven!