



# FORGIVENESS OF SINS

*“In whom we have redemption  
through His blood, even the  
forgiveness of sins,” Col. 1:14*

## Forgiveness of Sins

In considering the question of the forgiveness of sins it is important, in the first place, to see the real ground of it. If I get God's forgiveness I must surely get it in God's way. Now, it is plain in Scripture that God links our forgiveness with the redemption value of the blood of Christ. "We have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace" (Eph. 1:7).

Two great mistakes on this point seem to be common in the present day. One, that we shall secure forgiveness if we beg hard enough to induce God to give it to us. The other, that we shall be made sure that it is ours through certain inward feelings. The truth is,

1. That it is secured for us by the blood of Christ.
2. It is received by faith in Him whose blood was shed.
3. That it is assured to us by the Word of God.

Not that any sober-minded Christian could be other than glad to hear a cry for mercy from a

convicted sinner. But it is important for an anxious soul to see that it is not by his tears and cries that forgiveness is secured, but by the blood of Christ, and by His blood alone. "Without shedding of blood is no remission" ( . 9:22).

Nor, on the other hand, could we help rejoicing to see a forgiven sinner's heart overflowing with "a joy too deep for words." But we would remind him that he must have, for the settled assurance of forgiveness, something more solid to rest upon than the deepest feelings that joy could afford. How many thousands have found this out to their sorrow. While the joy and freshness of first love lasts they feel secure; but in learning themselves, their joy ebbs out, and they are left stranded in darkest uncertainty.

We must learn to link our forgiveness with the price which secured it. What solid rest it would give a poor debtor, if he had not only seen the bill settled in his creditor's office, but the money itself—which a friend had paid for him—pinned to the page of the ledger where his account was recorded. How boldly he could say, "I am clear of my debt. My account has been cleared off in full, once for all."

“The trembling sinner feareth  
That God can ne'er forget;  
But one full payment cleareth  
His memory of all debt.

“When nought beside could ease us  
Or set our souls at large,  
Thy holy work, Lord Jesus,  
Secured a full discharge.”

“For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly” (Rom. 5:6).

“Who His own self bare our sins in His own body on the tree” (1 Peter 2:24).

“Be it known unto you therefore . . . that through this Man (Christ Jesus) is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins: and by Him all that believe are justified from all things” (Acts 13:38, 39).

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