

FORGIVEN: Past, Present, and Future?

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The big question for many Christians upon salvation is, are our past, present, and future sins forgiven? This is the million dollar question. Actually, it is one of the most important questions a believer can ask themselves. When asked, some say yes, some people say no, and some people say that only confessed sins will be forgiven. The latter is what Gary with oncesaved.org believes:

“If a saved Christian who fails to confess and repent of any new sins after they are saved, then those sins are not forgiven and he or she could lose salvation. So for saved Christians to keep their salvation, they must walk in obedience to God and then confess and repent of every sin, every day, so that they don’t have unconfessed or unrepented sin in their lives that could cause the loss of their salvation”.

<https://oncesaved.org/author/garyoncesaved-org/>

Yikes! So, according to Gary’s interpretation of the Bible, if you sin at 8:01 a.m. and die at 8:02 a.m. without confessing your sin, you are on your way to hell. This doesn’t sound like grace to me. Therefore, let’s look at another opinion on the matter. Billy Graham, a famous TV evangelist on a question-and-answer platform in 2004, states:

“Christ’s death atoned for all our sins—past, present, and future—so we needn’t fear losing our salvation each time we sin. If that were the case, you and I would lose our salvation every day—because we sin every day. The Bible says that Christ appeared once for all at the end of the ages to do away with sin by the sacrifice of himself (Hebrews 9:26)... But you cannot live the Christian life by your own strength. You need God’s help—which is why He has given His Holy Spirit to you. When you sin, confess it immediately, and then seek the Holy Spirit’s help each day to live as you should”.

<https://billygraham.org/answer/Does-god-forgive-the-sins-we--commit-in-the-future-or-just-those-from-our-past/>

So, let me get this straight. I’m confessing sins which no longer exist and that God has no memory of. So did Jesus remove our sin or just cover it until we confess it? Evangelist Graham’s statement seems confusing and contradicting. Why are we confessing sins that Christ’s blood erased? What if we don’t realize that we sinned or forget to confess one or two sins? What then?

Let’s continue on. Andrew Wommack, a head minister of over eighteen churches, in several nations, gives an additional view. He states that:

“Most people, including Christians, see the forgiveness of sins as something that God can do, and continues to do, but not as something He has completed. From that comes the false concept that we must constantly confess our sins, which makes and keeps us sin conscious.” He goes on to say, “We don’t have to ask Jesus to forgive our sins; He’s already done it. Paul didn’t tell the Philippian jailor to ask Jesus to forgive him; Paul told him to believe in what Jesus had already done and he would be saved (Acts 16:31). We confess the Lord Jesus, not our sins, to receive this gift of salvation (Rom. 10:9)”. “Jesus either paid for it all, or He paid for nothing at all! It’s not Jesus plus you; it’s Jesus or you!” <https://www.awmi.net/reading/teaching-articles/redemption/>

So if I’m understanding correctly, Pastor Wommack is saying that we don’t need to ask for our sins to be forgiven because Jesus already did. He then continues to say, we need to confess Jesus, not our sin, because doing so would only make us sin conscious. He sums it up by saying, it’s not what Jesus and you did. It’s what Jesus did for you. That is probably contrary to what you’ve heard from the pulpit all your life. Is it really that simple? As you can see, there are various opinions on the subject. Therefore, you can’t just go on opinion, you need to see what God has to say about it for yourself. So we need to find the answer in the “Book of Truth”, the Bible.

Hebrews 10:10-11 AKJ

10 By the which (By that) will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. 11 And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins:

Your first question should be, who was the book of Hebrews written to? The answer is, to the Hebrews or to Jews. The author, which is believed to be the Apostle Paul, is addressing the believers of Jesus who are of Jewish descent. Note, however, this book is very beneficial and eye opening for Christians alike. For clarification, be aware, the parentheses are mine. Verse ten explains that believers are sanctified (made holy) by Jesus Christ’s death on the cross, one time for all of humanity. We will revisit this topic, one time for all humanity, in a moment. Now continuing on in Hebrews. In verse eleven, it refers to the priest making repeated sacrifices under the law that only covered sins. Their sins still hung over them. So, under Jewish law, the believers had to not only believe, repent, confess their sins but also offer ongoing sacrifices in order to be saved.

Colossians 2: 13-15 AKJ

13 And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses; 14 blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross;

Colossians 2:13 is one of the most freeing verses in the entire Bible. Now, that's post cross, Jesus already died for our sins, so **all sins have already been forgiven!** The word all, in the above Scripture, is the Greek word *pas*, which means every kind or variety, whole, or total. So as Pastor Derek Prince agrees, "all means all". God's forgiveness of our trespasses covers every past, present, and future sin! When we received the Lord Jesus as our Savior, we received complete forgiveness of all sin. That means every kind of sin, no matter when or where we faltered. **The completed work of the cross removed it.** How could Jesus' blood remove our sins two thousand years before we even committed them? Because God operates outside of time. Jesus, not being restricted by time, as we are, took **all** man's sin and nailed it to the cross. However, it is a gift that we either accept or refuse. So if our sins are gone, do we need to confess them upon salvation? Let's see what the Word of God has to say about salvation.

1 Corinthians 15:1-4 AKJ

15 Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel 2 by which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. 3 For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; 4 and that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:

That is the Grace Gospel that Christ Himself revealed first to Paul. In a nutshell, it says in order to be saved you must believe in your heart, beyond any doubt, that Jesus Christ died, was buried, and arose on the third day. It has a condition, unless you believe in vain or unless you doubt what He did was enough. Again, you must **believe in your heart, not just your mind.** Talk is cheap and doesn't impress God that we run through a list of our sins, which He already nailed to the cross. In fact, it probably displeases Him. Wouldn't it be more pleasing to thank Him for erasing our sins? So, just how do we activate this forgiveness?

Romans 10:8-9 AKJ

8 But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach; 9 that if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

This verse in Romans states, we must confess our sins. **No, it doesn't!** It says that we are to confess the Lord Jesus and believe in our heart that God raised Him from the dead, then we're saved. It is our confession of who He was and what He accomplished on the cross, which activates our salvation. Not what we have done! His blood is a free-gift that we can accept or refuse. We activate His free blood gift through belief and acceptance.

Romans 6:14-15 AKJ

14 For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace. 15 What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid.

It says, for sin shall not rule over you. This is the reason, there is no need to repent of past sins for our salvation, and we do not have to confess our sins to keep our salvation. The sin is gone, erased, vanished, and wiped clean as if it had never happened. Thinking that we do is putting us back under law, not grace! Instead, begin thanking Him for removing your sins. Here is a quote by Derek Prince that further backs this up:

“First, let me address those who claim that there is no Bible verse stating that our future sins are forgiven. Let me put it to them that there is no Bible verse stating that only our past sins are forgiven! But there is a Scripture that clearly states, In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace (Eph. 1:7). In the original Greek text, the verb for (have) is in the present tense... meaning we are continually having forgiveness of sins, including every sin we will ever commit”.

<https://www.josephprince.com/bible-questions/sin-and-forgiveness/my-future-sins-be-for-given>

In fact, when you think about it, Christ removed our sins about two thousand years before we were born. Jesus Christ, as part of the triune God, operates outside of time, which is within eternity. Therefore, everything that He did for us is forever. Moreover, I believe a verse in Hebrews supports the idea that all our sins—past, present, and future—are forgiven. So let's go back to Hebrews.

Hebrews 10:12-14, 18 AJK

12 but this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God; 13 from henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool. 14 For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified. 18 Now where remission of these is, there is no more offering for sin.

In Hebrews 10:12, it states, but this man (Jesus), after He gave Himself up for sin (one time), sat down on the right hand of God. He will not arise again until His enemies are under His feet. Forgiveness is a finished work. A perfect offering done once and for all time. Verse fourteen reiterates that there is one blood offering which covers us forever. He does not stand back up and get on the cross every time we humans sin. If we confess our sins, we are trying to re-crucify Him all over again. Much like Moses, who tried to strike the rock twice for water. Jesus Christ defeated sin one time for all humanity. There is no beginning or end to His forgiveness. Verse eighteen confirms that there will be no more offering for the forgiveness of sins. Because we have been programmed to think otherwise, this point can not be reiterated enough. Since Jesus

died for our sins, once and for all, there is no more need to have an offering for sin. It is a done deal. That's grace. Christ said, "it is finished", so do you really believe Him?

The verdict is in, Christ was sacrificed one time for **all** and **all** our sins are erased forever. After paying mankind's sin debt, Christ sat down. Therefore saying, your sin debt has been paid in full. Upon salvation, your sins (past, present, and future) are forgiven for eternity as if you have never sinned. We become His righteousness, not ours. All we have to do is **confess our belief in the cross** and receive His free-gift (sin forgiveness). This in no way gives us a license to sin. Actually, we should sin less because sin has no power over us. When we believe in the finished work of the cross, the Holy Spirit seals us. This enables the Holy Spirit to guide us and empower us not to sin. Does that mean that we no longer sin? Of course not, but it no longer can be held against us (our debt is paid). Now, whenever we sin, our heart should convict us to change our ways, thank Him for what He has done, and run into His loving arms with a new desire to live for Him. That is true repentance!

Colossians 1:13-14 AKJ

13 who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: 14 in whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:

The (who) here is the Father. So the Father delivered us from a sin state to a righteous state. He did this by the blood of Jesus, which forgave all our sins (every kind for all time). When we received the Lord Jesus as our Savior, we received the total and complete forgiveness of past and future sins. That includes all! Likewise, His blood was applied upon salvation and we were translated into His Kingdom. Therefore, sin can no longer affect our righteousness. Again, if it could, there would be a swinging door into His Kingdom and we would rotate in and out when we committed sin. **We are not righteous because of what we do or don't do** (including repenting and confessing sins). We are righteous because of what Jesus did on the cross. In addition, Lauren Berg, of Thelife.com, provides a great analogy of this process. She states:

"Superhydrophobic coating repels almost any liquid. It is truly amazing! Jesus' sacrifice on the cross is like that for us. When a person receives his gift of forgiveness, condemnation for all sin just rolls right off — past, present, and future! It has nothing to do with the person who is coated by Jesus' forgiveness, but has everything to do with the perfection of what they are coated with — the blood and righteousness of Jesus Christ."

<https://thelife.com/forgiven-for-past-present-future>

You might ask, what about 1 John 1:9, which states that if we confess our sins, He is faithful to forgive us? It is important to understand that the four gospels, James, Peter 1, 2, John 1, 2, 3 and Revelation, are written to the Jew under the law. Paul's books are the only books in the Bible written specifically to the Body of Christ under grace. Once more, it has nothing to do with the person, but everything to do with what Jesus Christ did. It's not about what you did or

do. It's about Him and His free-gift. **Free is free!** You can refuse the gift that is your choice, but you can't earn it. Don't make it harder than it is. A child can receive salvation. Once again, it's not about you, it's about what He did for you!

The first step in receiving your salvation is knowing you're lost. If you don't know you're lost, you won't think that you need to be saved. Likewise, understanding nothing you do outside of Jesus Christ can save you. If you are unsure where you'll be spending eternity, receive His free-gift today by confessing out loud:

"Father, I recognize that I am totally dependent on You to save me. I accept Jesus' sacrifice as payment for my sins and make Him the Lord of my life. I believe that Jesus is alive from the dead and now living in me. I am saved! Praise God! I am saved!"

<https://www.awmi.net/reading/teaching-articles/whatchristian/>

Ephesians 2:8-9 AKJ

8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: 9 not of works, lest any man should boast.

Although miraculous, it's that simple. After you have accepted His free gift, thank Him for what He did, and tell someone. Seek the Lord in helping you walk in the Spirit and not in your own strength. Get in His Word (the Bible) and connect with a Bible based Church or Bible study for support. Unveiled Word Ministry is a free website that also assists you in your journey. The site has links to materials to assist you in gaining knowledge and understanding of God's Word at: <https://unveiledwordministries.org/>.

***All Scriptures are from the Authorized King James Version**

FOOTNOTES

https://www.awmi.net/reading/teaching-articles/what_christian/

https://www.awmi.net/reading/teaching-articles/grace_power/

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