

TAKE UP YOUR CROSS AND FOLLOW JESUS THE LAMB

Pour out your life in self-giving, forgiving, and co-suffering love. Power in the blood of Jesus means that His sinless death has gained Him power to remove sin in the life of the believer and empower your life in the Spirit to live sacrificially. Christ lives in me is a powerful truth of sanctification. God wants a broken and contrite heart, a life of humility and obedience, and a life marked by justice and mercy. Psalm 51:16,17 Jeremiah 7:21-23 Amos 5:21-24 Micah 6:6-8

The book of Hebrews does not say that Jesus is merely a superior sacrifice or even the ultimate sacrifice. God did not need a more potent blood sacrifice of Jesus, certainly not a sacrifice for any punishment for sin in any retributive sense. What God wants is the offering of sacrificial obedience given in self-giving love and forgiveness. Jesus lays aside the first covenant which never took away sin and never pleased God because it failed to produce obedience, love, and forgiveness. Jesus established the new covenant which changes the heart, and produces obedience, love, and forgiveness. The sacrificial system of Moses was repetitious reminding the people of their guiltiness and it never took away sin (Hebrews 10:4).

Chapter nine of Hebrews speaks of the sacrifice which initiates the Old Covenant and the sacrifice which initiates the New Covenant. The sacrifices of Moses cleanses the old temple to initiate the covenant, whereas Jesus' sacrifice purifies the people of the New Covenant. Hebrews 9:22 does not speak to forgiveness of personal sin at all. Verse 22 refers to the role of blood in the inauguration of the priestly ministries; Moses the earthly, and Jesus the heavenly.

Without the shedding of blood there is no deliverance or release from the captivating power of sin in our lives. We needed deliverance from the Old Covenant and inauguration of the New Covenant which truly takes away the sin of the world. The shedding of blood of Jesus releases us from living in bondage and enslavement to sin in life now. Verse 22 is not talking about going to heaven when you die. It is not talking about forgiveness of sin that enables you to go to heaven. Forgiveness of sin is not the issue. Being changed by the New Covenant is the issue. God freely forgives sin and does not need blood to forgive your sin. But the blood of sinless Christ is necessary to change you, to remove your sin. And the blood of verse 22 is for release from the Mosaic covenant and the installation of the New Covenant. And the New Covenant does remove sin.

Translations of the Bible which add to Scripture and make statements totally out of context, change the glorious Gospel and shred it of its power to produce obedience, love, and forgiveness.

Hebrews 9:22 does not say that without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sin.

Translations which say this are interpreting rather than translating and they are implying something which is not true. The truth is God's forgiveness is always freely given.

Hebrews 9:22 does say that without the shedding of blood there is no remission (meaning deliverance). And the deliverance is from the Old Covenant which does not take away sin. The deliverance is to the New Covenant which does take away our sin.

God's forgiveness is always freely given. There are three kinds of forgiveness in the Bible. Provisional forgiveness is freely given to all people allowing them to cooperate with the Spirit and be brought to saving faith in Jesus. Judicial forgiveness and parental forgiveness are freely given, but there are conditions in us for receiving these kinds of forgiveness. Our conditions for receiving involve confession, humility, dependence in God, and faith in God to forgive freely with no conditions upon Him. God never has to be changed in order for Him to forgive. God does not need someone to be punished. God does not need to be appeased of His wrath.

To take up our cross and follow Jesus the Lamb, requires an understanding that we are to be changed. We must have a change of heart. In humility and dependence on God, we become self-giving, loving, forgiving, and obedient.

False interpretations of Scripture dwell on God being changed by the blood of Christ. But God never changes and has no need to be changed. God always freely forgives and never needs to be changed in order to forgive.

We are the ones who need to be changed so that we can truly follow Jesus the Lamb.

By One sacrifice, He has made perfect forever those who are being made holy. This is the covenant I will make with them after that time, says the Lord. I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds. Their sins and lawless acts I will remember no more. Hebrews 10: 14,16,17