

Matthew 26:28 FORGIVENESS EQUALS RELEASE FROM SIN

“For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the forgiveness of sins.” Matthew 26:28

The word “forgiveness” in this verse is about our relationship with sin, not our relationship with God. This “forgiveness” is the release from the power of sin, remission of sin, breaking free from sin, and eventual total sin removal.

Hebrews chapters 9 and 10 are commentary on Matthew 26:28. Jesus is talking about a Last Will and Testament. The blood of Jesus enacts the new will, the new covenant. Jesus is talking about how His death (shed blood) and His resurrection breaks us free from the power of sin in our lives and ultimately removes us from the presence of sin at our physical death.

Through His blood and His resurrection, we gain deliverance and release from the sin that has enslaved us. The new covenant speaks of grace, mercy, and release from sin. Jesus came to take away the sin of the world. “God was in Christ, reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their sins against them.” God became human and died as a sinless human in order to condemn sin to the utmost, and become the Second Adam, the Substitute, and enact the Last Will and Testament.

Forgiveness (remission, release) in Matthew 26:28 is not about getting forgiveness from God. Remission is about breaking free from the destructive power of sin and ultimately being removed from our sin

nature. The blood of Jesus and His resurrection has the power to take away our sin. Jesus changes the believer through sanctification and glorification. Jesus is not changing God's mind about us. God freely forgives. Jesus is not talking about how He is getting God to forgive our sin. The blood of Jesus did not buy forgiveness of sins from God. The new covenant is not a legal contract whereby Jesus is paying our debt to sin, being punished for our sin, paying the penalty for our sin, or experiencing the wrath of God in our place. The Last Will and Testament brings believers every spiritual blessing including inheritance. Jesus changes the believer, not God. Sins are remitted when the offender is treated as though the offense had never been committed. The old things passed away; behold, new things have come. 2 Corinthians 5:17

Romans 5 gives the same account. In verse 18, at the cross, Christ the Prophet did one act of righteousness, sinless death, which gives justification for the free gift of eternal life to be available to all men. In verse 1, saving faith in Jesus results in peace with God and being saved from the penalty of sin. Saving faith in cooperation with the Spirit yields regeneration, life in Christ, and justification for peace with God and release from the penalty of sin. Today, Christ the Priest saves us from the power of sin through sanctification. In the future, Christ the King will save us from the presence of sin through glorification.

Belief in Jesus, receiving the gift of eternal life, and regeneration by the Spirit starts the process of taking away our sins and making us into new creations in Christ. The process certainly changes our relationship with God. The new relationship with God is due to the new covenant changing the believer to a new position, a new fellowship, and a new destiny. The new covenant is not about changing God's attitude toward us or appeasing the wrath of an angry God. God's forgiveness is always free whether it is provisional forgiveness, judicial forgiveness, or parental forgiveness. Matthew 26:28 is not talking about God's forgiveness toward us. It is talking about our new relationship with sin and its remission.