

THE WORK OF GOD IN FORGIVENESS OF SIN

First, being forgiven of sin means that I believe that God is letting go of the wrongs that I have committed against Him. Every sin I commit is a sin against God. God says that He was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself not counting men's sins against them. 2 Corinthians 5:19
God demonstrated His love toward us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us. Romans 5:8
God does not hold anyone back from receiving eternal life in Christ.

Second, being forgiven of sin means that I believe that God is rescuing me from bondage to sin. Having seen my sin as the atrocious thing that it is, I turn from sin and turn to Christ for deliverance from sin.

Acts 3:19 1 John 1:9 Matthew 3:8

Being rescued from sin is the process of sanctification.

Third, being forgiven of sin means that I believe that God will complete the work He began in me when I believed and called upon Him to save me. Philippians 1:6

These three are our forgiveness of sin from God's point of view. God is doing everything necessary for taking away our sin and preparing us to live in His presence. It is the resurrected life of Jesus that enters our being and makes us a new creation fit for eternal life. Romans 5:10 We are saved by His life.

Has God forgiven my sin? Yes. God has let go of the wrongs I have done against Him. God is rescuing me from bondage to sin. God promises to complete the work of rescue and make me totally sinless and totally righteous in glory.

What did Jesus do on the Cross to reconcile the world to Himself? Jesus died sinless and condemned sin to extinction. Then God raised Jesus to life giving Him all authority to judge all things in heaven and earth with the ultimate goal of removing all sin and death from Creation. Romans 8:1-39
Revelation 5:1-14; 21:1-27

To be forgiven of sin truly means to be released from sin.

Jesus is able and willing to save repentant people who believe in Him for sin removal. Jesus saves by changing the believer into a new creation. The blood of Jesus, His death, justifies God in reconciling Creation to Himself. Romans 5:10 The resurrected life of Jesus enters the repentant believer in the person of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit regenerates the believer, seals the believer, and indwells the believer eternally. Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

Jesus paid the cost for earning the right to take away our sin and for taking away all sin from creation. Jesus is the successful Second Adam. He earns the right to undo what Adam caused when he sinned against God.

Jesus died a sinless death by which sin is condemned for killing Him.

Sin is condemned to removal from all creation.

Forgiveness of sin for the believer means that Jesus is in the process of taking away the believer's sin.

What forgiveness of sin does not mean:

Not that your sin is okay because you are human.

Not that your sin is hidden.

Not that when you sin your sin will not hurt you.

Not that your sin is okay because Jesus paid for your sin.

Not that Jesus paid for your sin in your place. You still reap consequences for your sin in this life.

So, you still pay for your sins.

Not that Jesus paid the penalty for your sin. You still reap consequences (loss of reward) in eternity for your sin. So, your penalty still awaits you.

Not that Jesus was punished for your sin in your place. Sin has its own punishment and so sin has its own infliction of consequences and is self-induced. You still punish yourself when you sin.

All of these false narratives are insinuated when the above phrases are used to describe the Cross. The Bible never uses these phrases: Jesus was punished in your place, or Jesus paid the penalty for your sin. These ideas come from the traditions of men, misrepresent the Cross, and cause believers to misunderstand the forgiveness of sin.

Some theologies teach that God does not freely let go of sin, but demands payment for sin by punishing someone for sin. These false teachings say that God punished Jesus in the place of those He chooses but that He wasn't punished for all people. They teach that God's justice demands a payment before He can let go of sin and not count it against us. This is just the exact opposite of what Scripture says. Scripture never says that God punished Jesus.

The sinless death of Jesus condemned sin. What is the end result of sin throughout creation?

Ultimate extermination

Jesus arose and lives in those who believe and receive Him. What have these believers become?

New Creations

God freely forgives, not holding back anyone from receiving eternal life? What condition does God place upon a person for receiving eternal life? Cooperation which leads to saving faith

God's provisional forgiveness makes salvation possible for those who will receive Jesus for sin removal. Can a murderer be given eternal life through Christ? Yes. Paul, David

For the believer, forgiveness of sin means that God is rescuing from our bondage to sin. What means does God use to rescue us? Our paying our own consequences for sin, discipline, people who hold us accountable, direct intervention, conviction from the Bible through the Holy Spirit

Are there eternal consequences for sin in believers? Yes. Loss of reward.

Sin has its own punishment. What do you do to yourself when you sin? You punish yourself.

John 3:19-21 Men love their sins and resist God's authority and His willingness to take away their sin.

Summary: What is the meaning of God has forgiven your sin?

1 God has let go of my sin committed against Him. 2 Cor. 5:19 Romans 5:8

John 8:31-32 God does not hold anyone back from receiving eternal life.

This is provisional forgiveness. It saves no one.

Calling on God to save me through Christ results in eternal life and rescue from sin.

John 8:33-36 2 God is rescuing me from bondage to sin. Acts 3:19 Matthew 3:8 1 John 1:9

Receiving eternal life results in judicial forgiveness and parental forgiveness

3 God will complete the work He began in me. Philippians 1:6 PROMISE

Matthew 5:38-48 Colossians 3:13 Forgive as God forgives you