

## **SACRIFICE NEVER PRODUCED FORGIVENESS OF SIN FOR INDIVIDUALS**

### **SACRIFICE INAUGURATED THE OLD COVENANT AND THE NEW COVENANT**

The Old Testament sacrificial system did not produce forgiveness of sin for individuals but rather the cleansing of the land, the nation, and the tabernacle from the uncleanness created by their sin.

Personal forgiveness, as in release from offending a holy God, was what God offers independently of the sacrificial system. God freely forgives without exacting payment for sin and frees from bondage of sin by “changing” the repentant believing sinner. Release from bondage to sin is available to all who cooperate with Holy Spirit conviction and allow the Spirit to bring them to faith in Jesus for sin removal. Jesus saves us by starting the process of our sin removal. Believers are born again to spiritual life and relationship with God. The sinless death of Jesus provided the way for us to be cleansed so that we may begin being the people we were created to be. The sinless death of Jesus condemned sin to execution and He arose with all power to remove sin from the life of those who receive Him.

Romans 8:3 Matthew 28:18

The process of sin removal in the believer is sanctification and ultimately glorification.

Just as God liberated Israel from the Egyptians in order to bring them to a land where they could live as God’s people, Jesus’ sinless death was liberating people from the power of sin in order that they may live and reflect the image of Christ. Jesus, our Passover Lamb, liberates from sin those who receive Him. And in receiving Him, His Spirit lives in the believer to produce righteousness.

Just as the Old Testament Sacrificial System did not produce personal forgiveness, the Cross of Jesus does not (in itself) produce personal release from sin for anyone. God freely forgives without exacting payment. The resurrected life of Jesus produces new life in those who receive Him. Romans 5:10

Those who receive Christ are freely forgiven and are saved by His life. God promises completion in the work He began in that believers enter God’s heaven totally sinless and totally righteous. The Cross did not change God’s attitude toward humanity. God loves people and desires that they freely come to Him on His terms and be saved from sin. God changes those who come to Him into new creations in Christ.

The shedding of the sinless blood of Jesus inaugurated the new covenant. When a person engages in the New Covenant in His blood, then there is release from the bondage of sin. To be forgiven is to be released from sin. First, God freely lets go of the sin committed against Him. Second, God releases believers from their bondage to sin by making us new creations indwelt by His Spirit. Third, God promises to complete the work of releasing us from all sin and making us totally sinless and totally righteous. Philippians 1:6 Hebrews 9:11-28

