

JESUS' BLOOD KEEPS ON CLEANSING

Many years ago, when I was a very young preacher, I believed that unless one specifically named every sin he committed and specifically asked forgiveness of each one, as he became aware of such sins, God would not forgive them. Eventually, I came to see that this was an untenable (and unscriptural) position for more than one reason:

1. One would have to be omniscient to even know all of the sins he commits. Surely, we all sin without even knowing we sin, and we likely do so every day.
2. On numerous occasions, faithful saints have died without warning, having no time to reflect upon or ask for forgiveness of a sin or of sins they may have very recently committed, even if they are conscious of having committed them.
3. My former understanding of this matter would make it practically impossible for the most godly person on earth to be saved.
4. The Bible teaches that, as long as we constantly “walk in the light” (i.e., live our lives devoted to God and in obedience to His Word to the best of our abilities) the blood of Christ constantly “cleanseth us from all sin” (1 John 1:7; cf. Rom. 8:1, KJV). The present tense form of *cleanse* in the Greek language demands this understanding.

Note that this cleansing is conditioned upon the definite and unvarying dedication (not sinlessness) of our lives to the Christ and His Truth. Note also that the resultant continual cleansing covers “**all** our sin”—even those sins of which we might not be conscious and those for which we might not have an opportunity to ask specific forgiveness. Surely, this wonderful and comforting promise is an expression of the

wonderful grace of God, apart from which none of us who are saved at last will be saved.

My change of convictions on this subject several decades ago does not mean that I am now indifferent to temptation or careless about sin and its consequences. Nor does it mean that I have in any way abandoned the Bible's teaching concerning the need to confess my sins as I become aware of them and, if they are against a person, to the respective party against whom I have sinned (1 John 1:9, et al.).

Let us, as God's children, "walk in the light" as fully as humanly possible, knowing that, at our best, we will sometimes fail to do so and thereby sin. To deny this fact means that we have lied and that we have implied that God is a liar (v. 10). Let us also, however, enjoy the comfort and hope the Scriptures afford in the assurance that, by continuing to live in harmony with the will of God ("walking in the light") as much as it is possible for dedicated saints to do, the blood of Christ will keep on cleansing us of sin and thus keep us ready (and able) to enter the heavenly portals at last. This principle, I have long been convinced, the Bible teaches.

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