

Are We Forgiven Of Sins Past, Present, & Future?

II Pet 1:9 But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his **old sins**.

II Pet 1:9 NIV But whoever does not have them is nearsighted and blind, forgetting that they have been cleansed from their **past sins**.

If all sins were forgiven at the death of Christ, then that would mean even atheists are going to be saved, since Jesus died for all:

- I Tim 1:6 who (Christ Jesus) gave himself a ransom for **all** ...
- I Tim 4:10 ... God, who is the Saviour of all men, **especially** of those that believe.
- Heb 2:9 But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should **taste death for every man**.
- I John 2:2 And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the **whole world**.

If sins were forgiven at time of the death of Christ, then why do these passages say they are forgiven when a sinner obeys the gospel?

- Acts 2:38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.
- Acts 3:19 Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord.
- Acts 22:16 And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.

I think people are confusing Jesus paying for all sins at His death with all sins being forgiven at his death:

- Acts 20:28 Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.
- I Cor 15:3 For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures

For example, Jesus died for David's sins in the first century, but David was forgiven long before that when he repented:

- II Sam 12:13 And David said unto Nathan, I have sinned against the Lord. And Nathan said unto David, The Lord also hath put away thy sin; thou shalt not die.

And Paul's sins were forgiven when he was baptized many years after Jesus died

- Acts 22:16 And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.

If future sins are forgiven when a person becomes a Christian, then why do these passages say a Christian who sins needs to do something to be forgiven?

- Acts 8:22 Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee.
- I John 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Since repentance is necessary to being forgiven, how can one honestly repent of a sin before he commits it? Isn't that like the Catholics selling indulgences, the right to sin – what caused Martin Luther to start the reformation movement?

- Luke 13:3 I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.
- Ezek 18:21 But if the wicked will turn from all his sins that he hath committed, and keep all my statutes, and do that which is lawful and right, he shall surely live, he shall not die.
- II Pet 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

Let's look at some more translations of II Pet 1:9:

- ESV For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his **former sins**.
- CSB The person who lacks these things is blind and shortsighted and has forgotten the cleansing from his **past sins**.
- HCSB The person who lacks these things is blind and shortsighted and has forgotten the cleansing from his **past sins**.
- NET But concerning the one who lacks such things—he is blind. That is to say, he is nearsighted, since he has forgotten about the cleansing of his **past sins**.
- I count 27 of the 40 or so translations at BibleGateway.com have “**past sins**” (excluding future sins)