

QUESTION 25

DOES CHRIST'S DEATH MEAN ALL OUR SINS CAN BE FORGIVEN?

YES, BECAUSE CHRIST'S DEATH ON THE CROSS FULLY PAID THE PENALTY FOR OUR SIN, GOD WILL REMEMBER OUR SINS NO MORE.

READ 2 CORINTHIANS 5:16-21

At the cross, Jesus achieved all that was necessary for the complete forgiveness of sins for those who turn to him in repentance and faith. We have confidence and joy in the imputed righteousness of Christ. At this point in Paul's letter, he is explaining the difference between being in the flesh (a non-Christian) and being in Christ (a Christian). Paul was seeking to correct some false teaching that the Corinthians had heard. Paul instructs the Corinthians to regard Jesus as not only as a man, but as fully man and fully God. He is the perfect Redeemer who can deal with the sins of human kind once and for all.

Anyone who has been redeemed by Christ is a new creation; God welcomes believers into his family and makes us citizens of heaven. The old ways of hating and rebelling against God are gone, and a new life of loving God and living for God begins. Take Paul's life as an example of how radical the change should be. Paul changed from a man who hated Jesus and became a man who lived his whole life to tell people about him. Paul emphasizes that God is the one who is at work redeeming and reconciling people to himself. **Why would God do this? Why would he want to be friends with those who had sinned against him and broken his laws?**

God is holy and just, as well as forgiving. Paul explains once again in this passage that God cannot just dismiss sin. He has said that for sin to be dealt with, a price must be paid. For justice to be done, the penalty must be paid. Jesus, who was sinless, became sin so that people could be righteous before God.

If people are to be right with God, what must happen to their sin? Can even a little sin remain? For people to be presented righteous before God, their sin must be fully removed. When Jesus died on the cross, God inflicted on him the punishment our sin deserved. He fully experienced God's anger and fully received God's just penalty. This is how Christ's death means that all our sins can be forgiven.

MEMORY VERSE

"For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God." 2 Corinthians 5:21