

Micro Meditations - The Miracle of Personal salvation

There are about 25 key words in the Bible that answer the question, « What happens when a person trusts Jesus Christ at His Word and asks Him for salvation ? » Here is one key word ! Take the time to meditate each Bible text that defines this key word and describe this miracle which is beyond human capacity according to the verses below.

Forgiveness

"The next day Moses said to the people, "You have sinned a great sin. And now I will go up to the LORD ; perhaps I can make atonement for your sin." Exodus 32:30 ESV

"Then the priest shall take some of the blood of the sin offering with his finger and put it on the horns of the altar of burnt offering and pour out all the rest of its blood at the base of the altar. And all its fat he shall remove as the fat of the lamb is removed from the sacrifice of peace offerings, and the priest shall burn it on the altar, on top of the LORD's food offerings. And the priest shall make atonement for him for the sin which he has committed, and he shall be forgiven." Leviticus 4:34-35 ESV

"Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts ; let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon." Isaiah 55:7 ESV

"Repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem." Luke 24:47 ESV

" 'Who can forgive sins but God alone ?' " Mark 2:7 ESV

"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." 1 John 1:9 ESV (cf. Matthew 6:12)

"Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin." Hebrews 10:18

"In whom (Christ) we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins." Colossians 1:14 ESV

"Then his master summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant ! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me.' " Matthew 18:32 ESV

"This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins." Matthew 26:28 ESV

In summary of the 187 times the ESV Bible uses the terms "Forgiven" or "Atoned" it is evident that the believers before the Cross had their sins forgiven or atoned in the same way the believers after the Cross : forgiveness is obtained by repentance and faith enough to call on the Name of the Lord to obtain it.

The miracle of forgiveness is accomplished by capital punishment, that the Eternal God declared at the Creation of the world (cf Gen2:17 & 3:21), by a substitute for the repentant believer (cf Heb9:22 & 1Cor15:3).

The believers before the Cross looked forward to the coming of Messiah (Christ) Who would blot out once for all their sins "atoned" until that time. The believers after the Cross have the certainty that their sins **are** blotted out once for all (Heb9:28). In both cases, there must be personal faith (confidence) in God that He will keep His Word. Salvation before the Cross and after the Cross is the same, by grace through faith (Eph2:8-9).

This being said, the key word about salvation "take away sins" merits another meditation of other Bible texts, because this miracle **blots out all trace of sin**. This miracle goes even further than forgiveness. To be continued in our *Micro-Meditations*...