



July/August 2007 Newsletter

Clothed in His Righteousness, Covered in His Blood

It is wonderful to know that, as believers in the Lord Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven; past sins, present sins, and future sins.

When we first became believers in the Lord, we had the blessed assurance that our past sins were forgiven and our eternal life was assured. As we live our lives and walk after the Spirit, if we sin (or "stumble") in our walk, our sin is forgiven and our eternal life is assured. This fact covers any sin done in the present OR done in the future, sin is forgiven and our eternal life remains assured.

- (Rom 10:9 ESV) "because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved."
- (Jn 3:16 NLV) "For God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life." (emphasis added)

When we sin, we no longer need to run and hide from God as Adam and Eve did in Genesis 3. When they sinned, they knew they were uncovered or naked before God. They felt and knew they were uncovered, unclothed, fallen, or naked in God's presence. This must have been so strong and serious a condition that they wove fig leaves in an attempt to cover their nakedness. Yet, that wasn't enough; they

also tried to hide from God. Before they sinned, they had no knowledge of any nakedness. God asked them, "Who told you that you were naked?" (Gen 3:11) They had to confess to God their condition. In their confession, they blamed others for enticing them yet they acknowledged their error. We are in the flesh truly their descendents because we all respond the same way they did when we do wrong. We avoid God or hide and we find things that are not of God's divine plan to cover our wrong.

God's divine plan for our salvation was shown to us from the beginning. Adam and Eve sinned and tried to cover their sin with leaves and hid from God, God sought them out. This is evidenced when after God rebuked them for their sin and stated the consequences of their sin, he clothed them with animal skins. They confessed their sin and God clothed them with animal skins so they could stay in His presence. Their new clothing or covering required the shedding of innocent blood, the blood of animals.

Their children must have known God's requirements for the covering of sin. God rejected Cain's grain or vegetation offering and God accepted Abel's offering of the first fruits of his flock of lambs. Again, innocent blood was necessary and accepted. God even admonished Cain, before he was cursed, that he could have given the right kind of offering:

- Gen 4:6 The LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry, and why has your face fallen?"
- Gen 4:7 If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is for you, but you must rule over it."

God's plan for our salvation was fulfilled in the divine birth of Jesus Christ. His only Son, Jesus, was born into the world to live in this world and eventually this same Son was slain to remove or remit our sins, once and for all. It is written in John 3:16, "For God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life." (NLV)

If we ask for forgiveness, we are saying with our actions that we do not believe what God has done. We are also asking him to once more go to the cross and shed his blood. How this must sadden God to hear us express unbelief in what he did. How nice it is to know that we are eternally forgiven. God forgave everyone thru the actions of Jesus Christ on the cross, from eternity past to the present to the end of time. God forgave all humanity because man could not come to him and believe without first dealing with the sin issue. Now that sin is not the issue, we can come freely to him and believe in this glorious Gospel. We never need to hide from Him or try to "cover" or "hide" from our Savior's presence. Those that do not believe are condemned already because they have not believed on the name of Jesus. We that accept the ministry of reconciliation come boldly before God, agree that he has already forgiven us, and believe unto salvation.

- (Heb 10:14 ESV) For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.
- (Heb 10:15 ESV) And the Holy Spirit also bears witness to us; for after saying,

- (Heb 10:16 ESV) "This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my laws on their hearts, and write them on their minds,"
- (Heb 10:17 ESV) then he adds, "I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more."
- (Heb 10:18 ESV) Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin.
- (Heb 10:19 ESV) Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus,
- (Heb 10:20 ESV) by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh,

Therefore, the Christian should no longer ask for forgiveness that God has already provided. When we sin, we should agree with God that it was wrong and then repent (turn from it). This acknowledgement of our sin through confession to God strengthens our fellowship with Him. This is pleasing to God, we are agreeing with God and his Word. His shed blood never loses its power to keep us covered, cleansed, and secured with His righteousness alone. We know that sin is not pleasing to God and He has cleansed us with the blood of His precious Son Jesus Christ, once and for all.

- (Heb 9:12 CEV) Then Christ went once for all into the most holy place and freed us from sin forever. He did this by offering his own blood instead of the blood of goats and bulls.
- (2Co 5:21 KJVR) For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

Finally, except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. We are born of the Spirit when we believe unto salvation. This birth is essential for each

one desiring salvation. Belief in Jesus' shed blood enlivens us and is our eternal covering or clothing. His Holy Spirit quickens us with His power to represent him in the earth to reconcile the world to Himself. If we do not believe the good news, we are not saved. If we believe the good news, we are saved and filled with the Holy Ghost (Spirit of Christ). The Holy Ghost comes to lead, guide, direct, teach and point us always to the one true God-Jesus Christ.

- (Joh 3:3 KJVR) Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.
- (Joh 3:4 KJVR) Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?
- (Joh 3:5 KJVR) Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.
- (Joh 3:6 KJVR) That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.
- (Joh 3:7 KJVR) Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.
- (Joh 3:8 KJVR) The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it

goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.

- (Joh 3:13 KJVR) And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man which is in heaven.
- (Joh 3:31 KJVR) He that cometh from above is above all: he that is of the earth is earthly, and speaketh of the earth: he that cometh from heaven is above all.
- (Joh 3:34 KJVR) For he whom God hath sent speaketh the words of God: for God giveth not the Spirit by measure unto him.
- (Joh 3:36 KJVR) He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.

Have you come to believe that Jesus died, once and for all to deal with sin? Not for us only but for the entire world? Do you believe that God's love demanded the sacrifice of Christ to take away the enmity between God and man? This ministry of reconciliation given to us is to tell the world that God is no longer far away due to our sins but has drawn nigh unto us so that we could come to him without guilt. He did this because of his love for his creation.

Now, let us share this Good News as we live our lives, thereby fulfilling God's loving call of reconciliation.



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Please email Elder Dennis Mann at dpmann@lmacc.org, if you have any questions or comments about this article. Your email would be greatly appreciated.

Here are some additional scriptures related to this topic that you may wish to study.

- (2Co 5:15 KJVR) And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.
- (2Co 5:16 KJVR) Wherefore henceforth know we no man after the flesh: yea, though we have known Christ after the flesh, yet now henceforth know we him no more.
- (2Co 5:17 KJVR) Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.
- (2Co 5:18 KJVR) And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation;
- (2Co 5:19 KJVR) To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.
- (2Co 5:20 KJVR) Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us; we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.
- (2Co 5:21 KJVR) For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.
- (Tit 2:11 KJVR) For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,
- (Heb 10:1 ESV) For since the law has but a shadow of the good things to come instead of the true form of these realities, it can never, by the same sacrifices that are continually offered every year, make perfect those who draw near.
- (Heb 10:2 ESV) Otherwise, would they not have ceased to be offered, since the worshipers, having once been cleansed, would no longer have any consciousness of sin?
- (Heb 10:3 ESV) But in these sacrifices there is a reminder of sin every year.
- (Heb 10:4 ESV) For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.
- (Heb 10:5 ESV) Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, "Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body have you prepared for me;
- (Heb 10:6 ESV) in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure.
- (Heb 10:7 ESV) Then I said, 'Behold, I have come to do your will, O God, as it is written of me in the scroll of the book.'"
- (Heb 10:8 ESV) When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law),
- (Heb 10:9 ESV) then he added, "Behold, I have come to do your will." He abolishes the first in order to establish the second.
- (Heb 10:10 ESV) And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.
- (Heb 10:11 ESV) And every priest stands daily at his service, offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins.
- (Heb 10:12 ESV) But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God,
- (Heb 10:13 ESV) waiting from that time until his enemies should be made a footstool for his feet.

