

Salvation, Forgiveness & the Confession of Sins

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Many Christians have questions regarding the confession of sins before God (1 John 1:9) and whether or not confession of sins is related to a person's salvation. Some teach that confession means that a Christian needs to be resaved after they have sinned. This study will clear up the questions related to salvation, Christ's priestly ministry on the believer's behalf, and how it all ties in to confession of sin within the Christian life. Open your heart and mind to the wonderful truth you are about to study. If you do, God will give you the assurance of salvation, which is rooted in grace and the saving work of Jesus Christ.

Justification & Forgiveness

The Bible teaches that every Gospel believer has eternal forgiveness before God's throne through the death of Jesus Christ which results in a legal standing of acquittal and justification before God's presence.

Ephesians 1:7

"In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace."

Colossians 1:14

"In whom we have redemption through his blood, *even* the forgiveness of sins."

1 John 2:12

"I write unto you, little children, because your sins are forgiven you for his name's sake."

God has a big eraser! Forgiveness means that He takes away all our sins (past, present, and future) and provides us with eternal acceptance before God's presence. This is because Jesus paid the penalty of judgment for every one of our sins when He died on the cross and then clothed us in His perfect righteousness and gives us a perfect standing of acceptance in God's presence (Rom. 5:9; Heb. 7:25; 10:14). This is sometimes called **POSITIONAL** forgiveness which every believer has before God. It is

unchanging and permanent since the Father always accepts the Son's sacrifice as the necessary and final payment for all of our sins.

The Bible does not distinguish between sins of our past and future. This is because all of our sins were in the FUTURE when Christ died on the cross. This means He died for every one of those sins (1 Cor. 15:3 - bearing the penalty or judgment of God for every one of them!) and provided forgiveness before God for EVERY sin that we would commit throughout our ENTIRE lives on earth.

Here is the message of amazing grace! We are already judicially forgiven before God (forgiven in the courtroom of God's presence) of every sin that we have committed and every one that we will commit in the future.

Romans 5:9

"Much more then, being now justified (declared forgiven and legally righteous in God's presence) by his blood (through the sacrifice of Christ on the cross), we shall be saved from wrath (hell) through him (Jesus)."

The word "justification" means that we are fully pardon, acquitted, and declared legally righteous in God's presence through the saving work of Jesus on the cross. FORGIVEN! Do you believe what the Bible says? If you have believed in Jesus Christ, you are ALREADY forgiven of ALL your sins which results in your eternal deliverance or salvation from hell and your eternal acceptance in God's presence (Romans 4:5). The slate has been wiped clean forever and God accepts you forever.

God loves you unconditionally and accepts you unconditionally based upon Christ's death on your behalf and His continuing priestly ministry in Heaven, which maintains your acquittal, forgiveness, and righteous standing of acceptance before God.

Assurance & Forgiveness

We find absolute assurance of salvation in Romans 8:33-39!

"Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect?"

No sinful charge of wrongdoing can ever come against God's children in Heaven. Even when we sin in our Christian life no charge will be brought against us!

Why is this? How can this be? The answer is now given.

"It is God that justifieth (declares us legally righteous in His presence). Who is he that condemneth?"

This means we will NEVER be found guilty and condemned before God even when we sin in our Christian life. We will NEVER have to face God's wrath and condemnation again for any sins that we commit (John 3:18, 36). No person, not even Satan himself (Rev. 12:10), will be able to bring a hurling accusation against us that will result in our condemnation and judgment. This is because we are forever set free from God's wrath and condemnation.

The reason for our legal declaration of justification and freedom from God's wrath is now stated.

"It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us."

The Bible teaches that Jesus "died" on the cross, bearing the penalty or judgment for every sin that I have committed and will commit in my life, and then rose again from the dead, in order to become my eternal priest declaring my forgiveness in Heaven (Heb. 7:25). I possess eternal life because I have an eternal Savior!

Jesus died on the cross once (Heb. 10:14) in order to pay sin's price or penalty for every sin that I would commit. He then rose from the dead ("risen again") to represent me in Heaven, as being eternally forgiven, justified, and free from condemnation through His sufficient sacrifice on my behalf. This means we can be reassured of our eternal justified standing in God's presence, our eternal release from God's condemning sentence, and our eternal salvation.

God loves you unconditionally forever, has already forgiven you forever, and declares you perfectly righteous in His presence forever through the heavenly High Priestly ministry of Jesus Christ on your behalf. Right now Jesus is at the right hand of God the Father declaring your eternal acquittal,

forgiveness, righteous standing, and freedom from condemnation. He's making intercession for you right now!

Since this is true, we can conclude:

“Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? *shall* tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?”

In other words, nothing will ever undo the love that Jesus has for us, which was fully displayed on the cross, when He died in our place, and His love that is now being displayed in Heaven for each one of us today, in His High Priestly ministry on our behalf. No matter what we face in this life, we can be reassured that Jesus will always love us. After all, He died for us and lives for us today! Think of it. We are loved with everlasting love!

“Loved with everlasting love, led by grace that love to know;
Gracious Spirit from above, Thou hast taught me it is so!
O this full and perfect peace! O this transport all divine!
In a love which cannot cease, I am His, and He is mine.
In a love which cannot cease, I am His, and He is mine.”

Christ's death on Calvary's cross and His ongoing priestly ministry in Heaven for each one of His children, to maintain their forgiveness before God, reminds us of the tremendous love that He has for us. Jesus not only died for us, He lives for us to represent us in Heaven as being eternally acquitted and forgiven of all our sins.

Jesus Christ shows the efficacy (value) of His sacrifice before the Father and the Father continually and forever declares us forgiven justified in His presence. What a tremendous love that Jesus has for His children! Right now Jesus Christ is performing His High Priestly ministry on your behalf in Heaven which maintains your salvation and acceptance before God. Without this ministry of Christ we would have no hope of salvation and eternal life.

Paul now illustrates some of the tribulation, distress, and persecution that believers face in their Christian life.

“As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter (Satan's attitude and desire to destroy God's

children). Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors (super conquerors) through him (Jesus Christ) that loved us.”

Although Satan and his demonic hordes want to defeat us, we can be reassured that Jesus has already given us the victory over them. We are victors through Christ. This is because Jesus Christ has already won the victory over Satan and demons when He died on the cross (Col. 2:15). The point is this; in Christ’s amazing display of love for each one of us (the cross), we can be reassured of our victory over Satan (1 John 2:13).

In the remaining verses, the reason is now stated why we don’t have to be overcome by Satanic persecutions and tribulations in this life. It’s because God’s children are NEVER separated from Christ’s wondrous love for them. In essence, we can possess victory in our Christian life knowing that Jesus Christ has demonstrated His love for us. In summary, His love that was demonstrated on the cross provides us with victory over Satan’s power (Col. 1:13) and His constant and unchanging love for us as our Great High Priest in Heaven provides us with a “no condemnation” victory before God amidst the many sinful accusations that Satan hurls against us (Rev. 12:10). Hallelujah for the cross! Since God loves us in this way, we can be sure He always accepts us, forgives us, and wants to grant us victory in our Christian life. Don’t believe Satan’s lies.

And now the believer’s emancipation of Eternal Security!

“For I am persuaded, that neither death (when a Christian dies), nor life (when a Christian is still alive), nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers (the angelic world of Satan and demons that are seeking to defeat and destroy our Christian life), nor things present (any sins or failures in our life right now!), nor things to come (any sins or failures in the future!), Nor height, nor depth (wherever we might go), nor any other creature (no created being in the entire universe - including the behavior and belief of His own children as well), shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Christ’s death on the cross to pay the penalty for every one of our sins and His priestly ministry in maintaining our standing of acceptance before God in Heaven).

God’s love was demonstrated for us when Jesus died on the cross (Rom. 5:8; 8:34), bearing the penalty for all our sins, and God’s love continues to be demonstrated to us, while Christ represents us in Heaven before God’s

throne, as being eternally justified, righteous, and forgiven (Rom. 8:34; Heb. 7:25). Beloved, are you persuaded of this? When you fully grasp and claim God's unconditional love for you, as found in Jesus Christ's saving work on your behalf, you will stop doubting your salvation. You will be absolutely certain that you will NEVER be separated from God's love and that God, through the saving work of Jesus Christ, has "freely" given us the spiritual blessings of forgiveness, salvation, and justification in God's presence (Rom. 8:32). Grace and salvation are freely given to sinners (Rom. 3:24; 6:23).

Scanning the entire universe, nothing is found that will ever be able to separate us from God loving us unconditionally and forever as His children (Rom. 8:38-39). Again, this was a love that was demonstrated when Christ died on the cross for us and a love which is continually being expressed for us today, through Christ's High Priestly and intercessory work on our behalf, providing us with eternal acceptance in the presence of God. This is a climactic way to affirm the certainty of a believer's salvation! Christ died for us and keep us through His intercessory work in Heaven.

Hebrews 7:25

"Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost (completely and forever) that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them."

In essence, through Christ's continuing priestly ministry on your behalf in Heaven, He represents you before the Father as being eternally forgiven, justified, and righteous through His finished work (John 19:30). Christ possesses an eternal priesthood (Heb. 5:6; 6:20; 7:21) and "ever liveth to make intercession" for us (Heb. 7:25). Therefore, we possess eternal life because we are constantly being represented before the Father as forgiven of all our sins. The Bible says we are "saved by his life" (Rom. 5:10) which is a reference to the resurrection and high priestly ministry that Christ performs for us on a constant basis, providing us with eternal freedom from condemnation and an unending perfect standing of legal acquittal and righteousness (justification) before God's holy throne.

"No condemnation now I dread;
Jesus, and all in Him, is mine!
Alive in Him, my living Head,
And clothed in righteousness Divine,
Bold I approach the eternal throne,

And claim the crown, through Christ my own.
Bold I approach the eternal throne,
And claim the crown, through Christ my own.
Amazing love! how can it be
That Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?
Amazing love! how can it be
That Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?"

Nothing will ever separate us from “the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord” (meaning the demonstration of Christ’s saving work on our behalf and our standing of acceptance before God in Him). God’s amazing love has been demonstrated to us through Christ’s death on the cross and His ongoing priestly ministry in Heaven for us, which declares us legally righteous and acquitted in Heaven. This is not a promise with conditions attached: “If you do this, God will do this.” This security in Christ is an established fact, and we can claim it for ourselves because we are “in Christ,” which means we possess a spiritual union with Jesus Christ in Heaven and actually share in all the saving benefits of His work on our behalf. Nothing can separate you from this kind of love. Nothing can separate from God’s love. Believe it and rejoice in it!

Confession & Forgiveness

God’s amazing love and grace demonstrated through Christ’s finished and sufficient saving work results in our salvation. Salvation truth must be fully understood if one is going to grasp what confession of sin means within the Christian life. First, every sin that we commit after we are saved has ALREADY been forgiven before God on the basis of Christ’s death on our behalf, since He paid the penalty for every sin that we would commit in the future (POSITIONAL forgiveness before God). Second, when we sin as a Christian we CANNOT lose our judicial and eternal forgiveness before God, since Jesus already paid the price for every one of our sins (1 Cor. 15:3) and provided forgiveness for every one of our sins (Col. 1:14).

This means Christians do not repeatedly confess their sins (1 John 1:9) in order to regain their salvation and acceptance before God, since this has already been provided. Furthermore, we must remember that we are saved as a result of placing *faith* in Christ (John 3:16; 6:47; Gal. 3:26; Eph. 2:8-9) and not by *confessing* all of our known sins to God over and over again. *Salvation is based upon a one-time act of faith in Christ – not a repeated*

confession of our sins throughout the span of our entire lifetime on earth. How can a sinner with a lifetime of sin ever really know if he actually has confessed all of his sins? What about sins of omission (James 4:17) and ignorance (Lev. 4:2, 13; Numb. 15:24, 27)? Furthermore, confessing our sins to God is not presented in the Bible as the way to possess eternal life.

The point is this; we should never ask an unbeliever to confess his sins before God in order to be saved. We should ask the sinner to express faith in the Son of God and receive the promise of eternal life (1 John 5:13) since Christ is the only One that can forgive an individual of all of his sins forever and provide him with justification before God. The Bible says that faith results in justification before God – not confession of our sins (Rom. 3:28; 5:1; Gal. 3:24).

But some conditional salvationist (those who claim they can lose salvation) will reason that not every sin causes one to lose his or her salvation, just the more serious and prolonged sins. If this were the case, who decides which sins are the ones that results in a loss of salvation and how much sinning results in the loss of salvation? And furthermore, did not Jesus provide forgiveness for all sins when He died on the cross? Isn't Jesus death or finished work on the cross (John 19:30) and High Priestly ministry in Heaven (Heb. 7:25) sufficient to maintain a Christian's acceptance in God's presence in spite of their sins? We can rest reassured that salvation is not on a percentage basis of "goodness" or "badness" but is rooted in the glorious truth that Jesus paid the full price for every one of our sins upon the cross (Gal. 3:13) and that He now represents us before the throne of God as eternally forgiven and justified (Rom. 8:30).

When we begin to view our salvation as something that we can lose, based upon our lack of performance or not living according to God's standard, we are actually telling God that salvation is in part by our works, which involves maintaining a certain amount of goodness and lesser degree of sinning, in order to keep one's salvation. Remember that you can't lose something unless you really believe you can do something to keep it! Whenever confession is viewed as regaining one's salvation, it means that the Christian has failed to do something to keep it. This is legalism. This Bible vigorously condemns any works-approach to salvation.

Ephesians 2:8-9

“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.”

Titus 3:5

“Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost.”

“Nothing in my hands I bring
Simply to the cross I cling.”

The Bible teaches that our salvation has nothing to do with the confession of our sins but believing on the One (Jesus Christ) who can provide forgiveness for all of our sins forever (John 3:16; 6:47). I can NEVER apply God’s forgiveness, which is related to salvation, through my repeated acts of confession, since the Bible says we cannot be saved by confessing our sins before God. Salvation does not come to us through confession but by believing in the death of Jesus Christ to save us once and for all and forever from eternal damnation and hell (John 5:24).

So what happens when we do sin in our Christian life? John provides us with the answer.

1 John 2:1 declares:

“My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.”

Notice that when we sin we are still called God’s children. This is because we can NEVER lose our son and Father relationship with God (“And because ye are sons” - Gal. 4:6). God is always our spiritual Father just like an earthly father is always a biological father.

The Bible teaches that Jesus Christ in Heaven is our Advocate or lawyer. An advocate is someone who argues for a cause or pleads on behalf of another person. He is like a lawyer, mediator, and helper. When we place our faith in Christ the penalty related to our sins is paid in full and all of our sins are erased forever in God’s sight (Eph. 1:7).

This means that when we sin in our Christian life, we are not condemned to hell over and over again, since we have an Advocate, Jesus Christ, who

pleads our case over and over again before the Father. Christ presents the value of His atoning death as the legal ground for casting out of the court of Heaven all of Satan's accusations that are hurled against us (Rev. 12:10). In Heaven Jesus *reconfirms* the value or efficacy of His sacrifice on the cross before the throne of God. Christ's work as a lawyer is not a *resaving* work but a *reconfirmation* of His finished Work on the Cross and it's on this basis we stand forever cleansed, forgiven, and righteous in God's presence.

John is teaching that Christ's finished work on the cross and His ongoing priestly ministry in Heaven provides our POSITIONAL forgiveness before the throne of God in Heaven (1 John 2:12). This forgiveness that we already possess in Heaven before God's throne is the foundation or basis of the Christian's restored fellowship with God while living on earth. It can be viewed as our PARENTAL forgiveness that pertains to the family of God. It is a forgiveness that occurs in the life of the Father's "children" (1 John 2:1) to restore their fellowship with Him while they are still dwelling on earth. Communion is restored to the Christian through confession and results in a forgiveness that is related to the Christian life - not the salvation of a lost sinner (1 John 1:7-9). This is because the matter of salvation has already been dealt with through Christ's saving work on the cross and in Heaven (Rom. 5:10). Beloved, we are "kept by the power of God" (1 Pet. 1:5). Salvation is by 100% grace (Eph. 2:8-9).

There is a vast difference between *salvation* forgiveness which results in our eternal forgiveness and justification in God's presence (Rom. 8:33-34) and *Christian* forgiveness (pardon that relates to the Christian life) which results in our restored fellowship with God (1 John 1:7-9; 2:1). Salvation forgiveness is only once but Christian forgiveness occurs many times (John 13:10). However, Christian forgiveness is based upon the salvation forgiveness we already possess before God's throne in Heaven.

The text of 1 John 2:1 teaches that Christ's continuing work as our advocate (heavenly lawyer) reassures us that He is working on our behalf to maintain our standing of acceptance before God and so we can be restored to fellowship with God. This work is one of *defense* and is based upon the work He has already accomplished on Calvary (Heb. 10:10). The advocacy work of Christ does not *repeatedly* provide judicial forgiveness or legal acceptance before God. This is provided only once (Heb. 10:14). Christ's advocacy work is not the sacrifice itself but a *reminder* of that sacrifice. It is not a repeated sacrifice (Heb. 10:26) but a confirmation of Christ's one-time sacrifice. We

are saved completely and forever because Jesus Christ is in Heaven (Heb. 7:25) representing us as forgiven and justified based upon His death (Rom. 5:9). Oh what a salvation this!

“My hope is in the Lord Who gave Himself for me,
And paid the price of all my sin at Calvary.
No merit of my own His anger to suppress.
My only hope is found in Jesus' righteousness.
And now for me He stands Before the Father's throne.
He shows His wounded hands and names me as His own.
For me He died, For me He lives,
And everlasting life and light He freely gives.”

Beloved, just trust in Christ from the start of your Christian life and right up to the finish line, when God calls you home. Cast your total faith upon Him and His saving work. It's only then that you can be reassured of eternal salvation and freedom from condemnation forever. He will keep you. This is His promise to you (John 10:28-29).

Once again, confessing our sins within our Christian life CANNOT mean that we must confess every known sin in order to once again regain our judicial forgiveness before God (forgiveness in the courtroom of God's presence). This is because God has already and eternally declared us forgiven and righteous in His presence through Jesus Christ.

The Blood of Christ and Forgiveness

The Bible says that God is “faithful and just to forgive us our sins” (1 John 1:9). This is God's response to our confession. If a Christian is going to stay in fellowship with God, he must remember that God is faithful and will always forgive his sins. Dearly beloved, let us never forget that “God is faithful” (1 Cor. 1:9). What a wonderful promise for us to claim as believers!

How is God's faithfulness and justice seen in His forgiveness? In short, God expresses that He is “faithful” (trustworthy in his dealings with the Christian who sins) and “just” (righteous in His dealings with the Christian who sins) as He looks upon the precious blood of Jesus Christ His Son.

1 John 1:7

“But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.”

John includes the last part of this verse regarding Christ’s blood for the simple reason that Christians need the cleansing of Christ’s blood to restore their fellowship with God when they sin. In order for us to be cleansed from daily defilement, we need the continual work of the cleansing blood of Christ, declaring our righteous stand before God’s presence (Rom. 5:9), so we can have our fellowship restored with God.

The word “cleanseth” (vs. 7) is in the present tense and connotes continuous action. The blood of Jesus “keeps on cleansing” us from all sin. The translation “all sin” can be understood as “sin of every kind” or “sin in its every form” (sins of omission, commission, and even ignorance). John is teaching that the blood of Christ can continually cleanse us from sins that we commit in the Christian life and restore our fellowship with God because it’s Christ blood that maintains our standing before God.

Romans 5:9 declares:

“Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.”

The Bible teaches that we have been forgiven and therefore justified before God’s presence through the blood of Christ. His cleansing blood provides the basis for our righteous standing and acquittal before God’s presence. Through His blood all of our sins are forever washed away in the sight of God and we are judicially forgiven and saved from God’s wrath. In other words, God, as the Judge, sees us as being completely and forever pardoned of all our sins in His holy presence. The blood of Jesus Christ speaks for me! It writes me down as righteous where there was no righteousness.

“When the harvest has been gathered
And all my work is done,
When the last mile is traveled
And I’ve sung my final song.
When I’m called to give an answer
At Heaven’s judgment seat
Then let the blood of Calvary speak for me.

May it write me down as righteous,
Where no righteousness has been.
Shielding me from wrath and judgment
As it covers all my sins.
There's no work that I've accomplished
Nor my goodness I would plead.
Just let the blood of Calvary speak for me.”

Romans 5:9 speaks of SALVATIONAL forgiveness and acceptance before God's presence but 1 John 1:9 speaks of FAMILY forgiveness and our fellowship in God's presence. The Bible declares that “the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin” in relation to the sins we commit in our Christian life because Christ's death (the shed blood of Christ) maintains our justified standing before God. Since this is true, I can receive repeated cleansing from sin and forgiveness for breaking God's law and have my fellowship restored with God.

Salvation or judicial cleansing is something that has taken place in the past and cannot be repeated. I am not justified over and over again before God. However, my fellowship needs to be restored to God over and over again. 1 John 1:7 is talking about family cleansing and maintaining our fellowship with God, which is based on the eternal and saving forgiveness we already possess before God. The cleansing of 1 John 1:7 and 9 is referring to the kind of cleansing that is needed and repeated many times in the Christian life for restored fellowship with God. Jesus illustrated the need for this type of cleansing to His disciples.

John 13:10

“Jesus saith to him, He that is washed (already taken a full bath – speaking typically of the complete cleansing and forgiveness of salvation through Christ) needeth not (does not have to take another bath – be cleansed of all his sins again for God to accept him) save (except) to wash *his* feet (only needs to cleanse himself from defilement in his daily life in order to have fellowship restored with God), but is clean every whit (has been totally forgiven and justified in God's presence): and ye are clean (salvation's cleansing), but not all” (Judas was not saved).

The Biblical teaching is this; since the blood of Christ always maintains our justified standing before God, God can continually cleanse us and provide us with restored fellowship with Himself. Let us never forget that family

cleansing (1 John 1:7) and forgiveness (1 John 1:9) is available to us on the basis of our judicial cleansing and forgiveness before God (Rom. 5:9). We might conclude that the blood of Jesus maintains our judicial standing before God and because of this, the blood of Christ grants us the repeated privilege of forgiveness within our own Christian life, so we can have fellowship and communion with God on a daily basis.

Our justification before God never changes (Heb. 7:25), but our fellowship or communion with the Lord does change, and needs restoration (John 13:8). Why is this? It's because our forgiveness is based upon God's faithfulness and justice, which is related to the shedding of Christ's blood and our justified standing before God (1 John 1:7 – "and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin").

Christ paid the penalty for all our sins once and for all through the shedding of "the blood of his cross" (Col. 1:20). It's this same blood that maintains my standing before God (Rom. 5:9; 1 John 1:7) so I can receive forgiveness in my Christian life and have my communion restored with God. The blood will never lose its power! Christ's blood continually maintains my standing of acquittal and forgiveness before God. This occurs as Christ declares the value of His sacrifice before the throne, which results in the believer receiving cleansing, forgiveness, and restored fellowship with God.

What God said in Exodus 12:13 is still true: "when I see the blood, I will pass over you." The blood of Jesus has turned away God's wrath from us forever! Furthermore, as the Father sees the blood (Exodus 12:13), we are repeatedly cleansed from spiritual defilement and our fellowship can be restored to God (1 John 2:1). However, we must confess our sins to receive this cleansing and restored fellowship with God (1 John 1:9).

God is "faithful" (reliable, consistent, dependable, trustworthy) and "just" (acts in accord with His impeccable nature) in forgiving our sins in view of the cleansing blood of His own Son (1 John 1:9). The Father looks upon the offering of His Son, as the ground of our judicial forgiveness, which saves a person from hell, and on this basis, that same blood provides the forgiveness we need to bring a believer back into restored fellowship with Himself. The blood of Christ keeps the way of fellowship open for Christians when they break God's laws and need forgiveness and restored communion with Him.

Since Christ paid the penalty for our sins, through the shedding of His blood, we can have restored fellowship with God. God is “faithful” (trustworthy) and “just” (righteous) in His dealings with His children based upon Christ’s sufficient payment for sin. God can continually cleanse us (1 John 1:7) from the sins that defile our Christian lives and provide us with repeated cleansing and communion with Himself on the basis of Christ’s finished work. We may sometimes come to God and wonder if He will forgive us again. Oh my friend, God is faithful to His promise! God is faithful to the blood of His Son Jesus Christ. He sees the blood as paying the necessary penalty (Gal. 3:13) and ransom (1 Tim. 2:6) for us, and on this basis, God grants restored fellowship between Himself and the Christian. God is faithful! We are not as faithful, as we should be, but God is always faithful.

But what about those sins we commit without having the knowledge that they are sins? What about those sins we commit without really knowing we are committing them? Can we sin without knowing it and still have fellowship with God? For instance, as we have previously mentioned, there are **sins of ignorance** (Numb. 15:28) that we can commit because of our lack of knowledge and growth in the Christian life. Can such a person as this have fellowship with God? Can a young Christian who is still discovering about many of his sins have fellowship with God?

The answer is simple. Yes, since the blood of Jesus, God’s Son, keeps cleansing us from sins of every kind (1 John 1:7). Sins of omission (James 4:17), sins of ignorance (Lev. 4:2; Numb. 15:24), and sins of commission (Numb. 15:30) are included in this list of sins. These sins would prevent our fellowship with God, if the divine provision of constant cleansing were not provided by the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. We should pause and give thanks today for the blood of Jesus Christ that grants daily forgiveness and renewal with God.

Now let’s review Romans 8:33-34:

“Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? (God’s chosen children who in God’s reckoning and plan were declared justified in eternity past before they were ever born! – Rom. 8:30) *It is* God that justifieth (declares us acquitted of all our sins and legally righteous in Heaven). Who *is* he that condemneth? (there is no condemnation or future judgment for the believer since Christ was condemned in our place – John 3:18). *It is* Christ that died (paying sin’s penalty or judgment in full and finishing His salvation work for us – John 19:30; Rom. 5:9), yea rather, that is risen again (to give us eternal

life - John 11:25-26), who is even at the right hand of God (right now Jesus is in Heaven), who also maketh intercession for us” (representing us by constantly pleading before the Father the value of His sacrifice, which maintains our standing of justification before God in spite of our sins and failures in this life, and also allows the believer to restore his fellowship with God through confession – 1 John 1:9; 2:1).

The wonderful truth about grace is that we can never again be condemned for any sin that we commit in our Christian life. This is because Jesus Christ is at God the Father’s right hand declaring us eternally forgiven and justified (legally righteous) in God’s presence because of the sacrifice He made for us on the cross. When we sin in our Christian life, our sins are not brought against us, since they were already brought against Christ, when He died on the cross in our place. Jesus essentially says before the Father, “I’ve already paid the penalty for every one of those sins and therefore no penalty of judgment will come against my children for their sins. Amazing grace!

The confession of sins and forgiveness in relation to the Christian life has to do with our restored fellowship with God (1 John 1:7, 9) - not our regeneration (rebirth), salvation, and acceptance before God. The Bible never teaches we can be unborn from our spiritual birth any more than a person can be unborn from his physical birth (John 3:5-7). We are born once physically and the same is true spiritually and at the moment of our new birth we receive an eternal standing of forgiveness and acceptance before God through Jesus. Therefore, when I confess my sins, I receive a cleansing and forgiveness (1 John 1:7) that is needed in order to restore my communion and fellowship with God. This is sometimes called FAMILY forgiveness. In fact, we can be restored to a place of fellowship with God on the basis that all of our sins have ALREADY been forgiven!

Remember that Christ is our attorney in Heaven (1 John 2:1) and therefore pleads the value of His own shed blood on our behalf, which in return results in our restored fellowship with God. The Bible teaches that God graciously grants us FAMILY FORGIVENESS resulting in a restored relationship and walk with Himself because of the FORENSIC FORGIVENESS we already possess in God’s presence through the work of Jesus Christ. Forensic forgiveness is an eternal forgiveness that is related to God’s courtroom and our eternal acceptance before Him in Heaven. FORENSIC forgiveness applies to my eternal STANDING (Rom. 5:2) through my unchanging pardon, acquittal, or forgiveness in Heaven (Rom. 5:9).

“Justified freely thru Calvary’s love,
Oh what a standing is mine!”

FAMILY forgiveness is related to my changing STATE as a Christian, the fluctuation between our spiritual and sinful living, and the need for repeated confession to restore my relationship and closeness to God. Our legal standing of acquittal or forgiveness before God’s presence never changes and is a non-repeatable event since our sins have been forgiven once and for all and forever through Christ’s death (Eph. 1:7). However, our confession of sin is a repeated process because defilement sets into our lives and we need to have our fellowship restored with God (1 John 1:7).

Remember that God ALWAYS and FOREVER accepts us through Jesus Christ because we have been eternally forgiven (Acts 26:18) for every one of our sins through His Son’s saving work on the cross (1 Cor. 15:3) and Christ’s priestly or intercessory work which guarantees our legal forgiveness and a constant standing of justification in God’s presence (Rom. 8:33-34; Heb. 7:25). On this basis or foundation, God can forgive us for every sin that we commit in our Christian life, while living on earth, in order to restore regain our fellowship with Himself (1 John 1:9; 2:1).

David confessed in Psalm 51:12:

“Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me *with thy* free spirit.”

You will notice that David’s confession was for the restoration of the *joy* of his salvation – not his salvation! Confession has nothing to do with our salvation and acceptance before God but with our communion and fellowship with God. My salvation is constant but my condition changes and therefore I need to confess my sins in order to maintain a close walk and relationship with God. However, we must always remember that our FAMILY forgiveness that brings us back into communion with God is based upon our FORENSIC forgiveness which we always and eternally possess before the throne of God in Heaven (1 John 1:9; John 2:1).

Dear Christian friend, it’s Christ that guarantees your eternal security. Will you fully believe ONLY in Jesus Christ and His finished work to save you forever? You may have initially asked Christ to save you by His grace and started off well by trusting in Jesus Christ only for your salvation (Gal. 3:1-3). However, you must also trust Him to maintain your salvation, since the Bible

clearly teaches Christ's keeps His own children through His intercessory work in Heaven (Heb. 7:25).

Dear friend, you can rest in the fact that Jesus Christ is in Heaven right now interceding for you to grant you full acceptance in the throne room of God. The Bible says at this very moment we are "accepted in the beloved" (Eph. 1:6) which means God accepts us in the saving work of Jesus Christ, His beloved Son (John 3:16). Remember that you don't go to Heaven by how you live but by what you believe (Romans 1:16). If you have trusted in Jesus Christ and His wonderful grace to initially save you from hell, why not continue to trust in Him for your salvation. Don't belittle His finished and saving work on the cross for you and His unending High Priestly ministry in Heaven for you. Believe it, accept it, and find complete assurance in the marvelous and gracious work of Jesus Christ.

Romans 8:30 declares:

"Moreover whom he did predestinate (in eternity past), them he also called (in eternity past): and whom he called, them he also justified (in eternity past): and whom he justified, them he also glorified" (in eternity past).

The tense and teaching of this verse is that in God's reckoning and sovereign plan, His chosen children were destined to receive eternal forgiveness and justification, even before they were born. Now this is security!

We were given a promised salvation and security in eternity past, within the counsel of the Godhead. We are then given the promise of salvation and security in eternity present, through Christ paying the penalty for all of our sins and finishing the work of redemption (John 19:30), and providing us with eternal acquittal and justification (Rom. 5:9) through His ongoing priestly or intercessory work on our behalf in Heaven. What more can we say but this. "Salvation is of the LORD" (Jonah 2:9).