

Summary of Scripture Words.

Forgiveness.

.Forgiveness.

The greek words used have the meaning of "to send off" or "to send away," this translation is used throughout Scripture, it has the basic meaning of "to separate the sin from the sinner." We have to note that there could be a difference between a divine forgiveness and a human forgiveness.

The human forgiveness has the meaning of the taking away or remission of a penalty which is deserved. While a divine forgiveness, which is the same for Old and New Testaments, always has an execution of the penalty, for example lev.

Leviticus 4:35b

"the priest shall burn them upon the altar, according to the offerings made by fire unto the LORD: and the priest shall make an atonement for his sin that he hath committed, and it shall be forgiven him. "

Or in the New Testament

Matthew 26:28.

"28 For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission (sending away) of sins."

Or

Hebrews 9:22b

"22 and without shedding of blood is no remission. (sent away)"

Forgiveness of others

The forgiven sinner must forgive others, this is shown in :- Luke 6 37

"36 Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful.

37 Judge not, and ye shall not be judged: condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned: forgive, and ye shall be forgiven:

38 Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again."

From the Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:11,12.

"11 Give us this day our daily bread.

12 And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors."

A readiness to forgive others is one of the indications that they have truly repented.

Colossians 3:13

"13 Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye."

Human forgiveness normally rests upon divine forgiveness, this is often assumed rather than stated.

The act of "forgiveness" is not always linked to action which is due to the cross, for example here:-

Ephesians 1:7

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

Ephesians 4:32

"32 And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you. "

Mark 2:10.

"9 Whether is it easier to say to the sick of the palsy, Thy sins be forgiven thee; or to say, Arise, and take up thy bed, and walk?

10 But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins (he saith to the sick of the palsy,)

11 I say unto thee, Arise, and take up thy bed, and go thy way into thine house."

Forgiveness, it arises from all that Christ has done for us and is. This means that it should be connected with the cross, especially as it is often said that His death was "for sin" It also has connection with the atoning action of Christ. Forgiveness rests basically upon the atoning work of Christ, an act of complete grace. There are two difficulties,

1) A persons sin against the Holy Spirit, which can never be forgiven,

Matthew 12:31,32.

"31 Wherefore I say unto you, All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men: but the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men.

32 And whosoever speaketh a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but whosoever speaketh against the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, neither in the world to come."

The second difficulty is John 20:23

"23 Whose soever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; and whose soever sins ye retain, they are retained."

It is difficult to believe that Jesus would leave us the choice of whether a persons sins are forgiven or not. It seems to suggest that the person is being led by the Holy Spirit, as suggested by verse 22.