

Who is Carrying Your Sins?
Paul Before Agrippa: Part 3
Acts 26:14-20
July 30, 2023

Most words, whether Greek, English, in the Bible, or in ordinary conversation, carry meanings that depend not only on the word itself, but also on the context in which the word is used. Some examples from the Bible show the different potential meanings of words:

Salvation—saved from penalty of sin, power of sin, presence of sin; of your life; of your soul unto eternal life
Justification—before God (faith); before men (works)
Sanctification—positional, progressive, ultimate

When interpreting the Bible, avoid the “illegitimate totality transfer,” in which a context specific meaning, along with the intrinsic meaning, is transferred from one passage to another.

Example:

Matthew 14:30 “. . . ‘Lord, save me!’”

Acts 16:30 “. . . ‘what must I do to be saved?’”

In both cases, *sozo* (Gr save) is used, but in one case, Peter means “Don’t let me drown,” and in the other case, the Philippian jailer means “How can I have the eternal life that you have?”

Acts 26:18 to open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the dominion of Satan to God, that they may receive *forgiveness of sins* and an *inheritance* among those who have been *sanctified* by faith in Me.’

In this verse, forgiveness, inheritance, and sanctification are used in the context of eternal salvation. However, each of these concepts also has a different sense in the life of the believer.

“Once for all” sense for the new believer:

Forgiveness of sins—for salvation
Inheritance—as a gift
Sanctified—positional
By faith

“Ongoing sense” for the life of the believer:

Forgiveness of sins—for fellowship
Inheritance—as a reward
Sanctified—progressive
By faith

“Once for all” sense for the new believer:

Forgiveness of sins—for salvation

Ephesians 1:7 “trespasses” = offense, wrongdoing, sin, false step, slip, blunder

Colossians 2:13,14 God nailed the laws that made us guilty, to the cross; that is how forgiven we are; the laws that convict us have been crucified in Jesus.

Psalms 103:11-14 The psalmist David understood how forgiven he was.

“Ongoing sense” for the life of the believer:

Forgiveness of sins—for fellowship

1 John 1:3-2:2 The context is fellowship with other believers and by extension, fellowship with God; there cannot be one without the other, and the product of fellowship is joy.

Colossians 3:12,13 and **Ephesians 4:30-32** The basis for our fellowship with each other is us forgiving one another, based upon the forgiveness God has given us in Christ.

Psalms 32:1-7 King David understood that the Law required that he be stoned to death for his sins. But he also understood that God forgives sins, based upon His goodness and grace. David was saved by faith the same way you and I are. After he sinned, he languished in agony until he confessed his sin to God, and his fellowship was restored.

Pot Luck next Sunday; church will provide the chicken; please bring sides and desserts.