

# Answering The Religious Errors Of Our Family, Friends, and Neighbors 1

## “A Christian’s Sins Are Continually Cleansed!”

### Lesson 37

#### INTRO:

- A. This statement if it’s not the same it sure sounds the same as the popular denominational belief of “once saved always saved”.
  - 1. In reality, about the only difference is that one is stated by ‘gospel preachers’ and members of the Lord’s church while the other is stated by denominational folks.
- B. While the former denies any hint of Calvinism’s ‘security of the believer’ (once saved always saved), that does not take away from the facts in the matter that if they are not twins they are at least in the same family.
- C. The real issue of this teaching is:
  - 1. Are there some sins that separate us from God and some that don’t?
- D. Those who believe a Christian’s sins are continually forgiven believe there are some sins that do not separate us from God.
- E. One brother takes issue with the statement: “A child of God falls from grace every time he sins, and it matters not whether the sin was committed inadvertently or in ignorance.” (**Searching The Scriptures**, Vol. XXVII, No. 1, pages 6-8.)
  - 1. He went on to say that such a statement “...gives him (the Christian, erh) no hope”.
- F. This brings up the question: What sin can a child of God commit and not stand condemned before God?
- G. The reason I say this doctrine is a close relative to the denominational doctrine of ‘once saved always saved’ is because in a debate between A.U. Nunnery (Baptist) and Guy N. Woods (gospel preacher), Nunnery made this statement: “According to his proposition (I don’t know, whether every Christian that was here yesterday, whether you are a Christian today or not). He might have so lived or so acted last night, that he’s a sinner this morning.” (**Woods-Nunnery Debate**, p. 244)
  - 1. Nunnery went on to say, “They will have their names rubbed out every day and have them rewritten the next day, that will be a mess.” (**Ibid**, p. 302)
- H. There is no difference in believing a Christian’s sins are continually forgiven and the denominational Calvinist teaching of the security of the believer (once saved always saved).
- I. **SOME QUOTES FROM “THE SECURITY OF THE BELIEVER” by Robert Waters** (a 36 page booklet by a gospel preacher):
  - “Some sins result in spiritual death and some do not”. p. 10
  - “Sins that are committed, ‘as we practice the truth’, are sins that God does not consider rebellion against Him and for which He does not sever fellowship.” p. 11
  - “Since some sins are an abomination to God, we must deduct that some are not as detestable.” p. 14
- A. **QUESTION:** If it is a sin of ignorance or weakness that the blood of Christ will continually cleanse us of, what is an example of those sins of ignorance or weakness?

## Answering The Religious Errors Of Our Family, Friends, and Neighbors 2

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1. What about a Christian that might commit fornication in a moment of weakness?
  - a. According to this teaching, the blood of Christ will automatically cleanse the Christian.

## II. WHAT DO THE SCRIPTURES TEACH?

### A. Galatians 6:1

1. How many are involved in “*a fault*” or “*a trespass*” (NKJV)?

### B. James 2:10

1. Despite the numerous conclusions many have reached on what James is teaching, the one point that is obviously certain is that to “offend” in one point makes us “*guilty*”.
  - a. “*One point*” is all it takes to made a sinner!
  - b. If this is not so, how many ‘points’ does it take to make a sinner?
2. **QUESTION:** If one sin doesn’t separate us from God, how many does it take?
  - a. How many sins did Adam and Eve commit? (Genesis 3)
  - b. How many sins did Nadah and Abidu commit? (Leviticus 10)
  - c. How many sins did Achan (Joshua 7), Uzzah (2 Samuel 6), Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5), Peter (Galatians 2:11 - the ASV says he “*stood condemned*”), or Simon the Sorcerer (Acts 8) commit?

### C. Those who believe in continual cleansing offer as a ‘proof text’ **1 John 1:7** “*But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.*”

1. There are those who take this verse and say it teaches the blood of Christ is continuously applied to the Christian.
  - a. This is an assumption!
2. Verse 9 says, “*If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*”
  - a. The blood of Christ cleanses as we “**confess**”!
  - b. The ‘explanation’ they give of verse 9 is that it is only referring to a general statement of one’s manner of life.
    - 1) Again, that’s not what the verse says.
    - 2) The verse says we are to confess our “**sins**”, not the fact that we are sinners.
3. There is nothing in the context that limits sins to those of ignorance and weakness.
4. If 1 John 1:7 means one type of sin doesn’t separate from God, it means that no sins separates from God.
  - a. If it includes sins of ignorance and weakness why will it not also include willful sins?

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- D. If a Christian’s sins are continually cleansed by the blood of Christ, without any conditions being met on his part, why did Peter tell Simon to “**Repent therefore of this your wickedness, and pray God if perhaps the thought of your heart may be forgiven you.**” (**Acts 8:22**)
- E. If the doctrine of continual cleansing is so, why was the church at Corinth commanded to “...**Therefore "PUT AWAY FROM YOURSELVES THE EVIL PERSON."** (**1 Corinthians 5:13**)
- F. Why withdraw from the disorderly, if they are continually cleansed by the blood of Christ without any actions on their part? (**2 Thessalonians 3:6**)
  - 1. There would be no need for church discipline if this teaching is true!

**III. THE CHARGE MADE ABOUT ‘PERFECTION’!**

- A. Most who teach the blood of Christ continually cleanses the sins of Christians, made the charge that to deny such is to demand perfection on the part of a Christian.
  - 1. Do they not realize imperfection is not necessarily sin?
    - a. Some, in regards to their knowledge of the Scripture, may or may not do a certain thing.
      - 1) Lack of understanding doesn’t necessarily mean they are guilty of sin when it is a matter of indifference with God to begin with. (**Romans 14** - eating or not eating of meat or observing or not observing a day; **1 Corinthians 8** - eating or not eating of meat offered to idols; **Galatians 5:6** “*For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love.*”
  - 2. However, when we do sin and we repent and confess that is not teaching that we must be perfect.

**CONCLUSION:**

- A. The Scriptures teach the cleansing of a Christian’s sins is conditional.
  - 1. 1 John 1:9 specifically states that condition and Acts 8:22 is the example we have of a Christian’s sin being forgiven.  
**1 John 1:9** “***If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.***”  
**Acts 8:22** “***Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee.***”
- B. Our sins are cleansed when we confess our sins, repent, and pray.
  - 1. No confessing; no cleansing!
- C. To believe a Christian’s sins are continually cleansed by the blood of Christ without any action on their part, is the same as teaching the denominational doctrine of ‘once saved always saved’ or a Christian ‘cannot fall from grace’!