

If Sin Is Forgiven For The Believer in Christ, Why Must a Believer Sometimes Suffer The Fruits of What He Has Done?

All who believe in Christ receive at once (at the time they receive Him as Savior) the forgiveness of sins (Acts 10:43; 13:38-39) and eternal life (Jn 3:16, 36). They are born again (Jn 1:12-13). But we who are believers are left in this world which is suffering the effects of sin, and we continue to share the groaning of creation (Rom 8:19-25). We do not become immune to the adverse effects of sin. If there is an epidemic, Christians become sick as readily as anyone else. In times of financial depression, Christians lose employment and money as quickly as anyone else. If there is drought, or famine, or whirlwind, Christians suffer with the rest.

By the same token, if a Christian has committed an offense against the laws of the land, or against another person, this offense is not canceled by the fact that he has now become saved. He must still face the consequences of what he has done. And if, in his life before conversion to Christ, he lived in a way which damaged his body, often the consequences of these acts remain after conversion. Of course, the changed life will help to overcome some of these things, and no doubt God sometimes grants recovery from some of the effects of sin. But we cannot expect the complete removal of the effects of sin until the Lord comes. Then, as we read in 1 John 3:1-3, "We shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is." Then we shall be completely delivered from the presence of sin and all its adverse effects.

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