

## DAY 29 MONDAY

### HEBREWS 10:15-18 TOTAL FORGIVENESS

<sup>15</sup> *The Holy Spirit also testifies to us about this. First he says:*

<sup>16</sup> *“This is the covenant I will make with them after that time, says the Lord. I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds.”*

<sup>17</sup> *Then he adds:*

*“Their sins and lawless acts I will remember no more.”*

<sup>18</sup> *And where these have been forgiven, there is no longer any sacrifice for sin.*

Forgiveness no longer depends upon the acts of others because of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. It is total forgiveness because it does not depend upon an elite but is directly available to all who believe in Jesus. Nor does it depend upon travel to a particular location or even on the correct performance of a specific ritual or rite. God’s will as expressed in his commandments is available to us through the indwelling Spirit. In addition, forgiveness is total because Jesus provided the absolutely perfect sacrifice for human sin. The only requirement to receive total forgiveness is to repent and believe in Jesus.

God has done his part in providing us with salvation and reconciliation with him. To complete the equation we must do our part. There is no work that we can do to earn our salvation, but that does not mean that we do not have work to do. Our work is summed up in the phrase “repent and believe.” Neither repentance nor belief are simply intellectual assents, a nod of the head, to what Jesus has done. To repent and believe is to turn away from the way we have been living and turn toward the perfect will of God. Such action takes discipline and effort. On the medical scene, your surgeon may have successfully provided you with a new hip, but you do not realize the benefit without the sweat and toil of physical therapy. If you never leave the bed or the walker and learn to walk again, the surgeon wasted his time and your resources.

Our Cosmic Surgeon has done his work. Today and every day we must “*Get up, take your mat and walk*” (Mark 2:9).

**As I stand before your cross, Lord Christ, I acknowledge how you willingly suffered so that I might have access to total forgiveness. How little my self-denials seem in view of your cross. Yet even here I recoil at the thought of dying to my precious desires and attitudes. May I be guided by your Spirit so that I might overcome my aversion and truly live the new life you have willed for me. Amen.**