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The Blood Covenant

17. Three Big Words: Remission, Forgiveness, Atonement

This chapter defines three key words of the gospel and shows how each works. It explains what happens at the new birth and what happens afterward when a Christian sins, and it ties both back to the Old Covenant Day of Atonement.

Key takeaways

- Remission = sins wiped out as if they never existed. It happens once, at the new birth, when you take Christ as Savior and Lord. The old you stops being and you become a new creation.
- Forgiveness is a relationship word for after you are saved. Sin breaks fellowship with the Father, not your relationship as His child — like an unkind word between husband and wife. Confess it and fellowship is restored.
- Atonement means a covering. Under the Old Covenant the priest sprinkled blood on the mercy seat to cover Israel's broken law for one year; it could not give eternal life.
- The scapegoat carried Israel's sins away into the wilderness — a picture of remission. Christ's blood does the real, permanent thing the yearly ritual only pictured.

Passages worth keeping

“When God remits our sins, they are wiped out as though they had never been.”

Defines remission — the total, once-for-all cleansing of the new birth.

How it connects

The yearly Old Covenant ritual — blood on the mercy seat plus the scapegoat — was a temporary shadow. What it pictured for one year, Christ made permanent: our sins covered and carried away for good.

Scripture referenced

- **Ephesians 1:7** -- Redemption and forgiveness through Christ's blood
- **1 John 2:1-2** -- Christ as our advocate when a believer sins
- **Leviticus 17:11** -- Blood given as atonement because life is in it
- **John 10:10** -- Christ came to give abundant life