

Question:

At Hebrews 9:15-22 it helps us to see that unless blood is poured out, obviously meaning death, there is no forgiveness of sins. And we know that Jesus died for our sins. Now some believe that God is Jesus, yet we know Jesus died. But the Bible says that God is indefinite, and obviously can't die. (Psalm 90:2) I have the utmost confidence in God's word and that it sets all things straight (2 Tim 3:16) and does not contradict itself. So if God is Jesus, in the flesh, and God could never die, how can they be the same? Therefore if the Trinity doctrine holds true, Jesus did not really die for our sins, then there is no forgiveness of sins according to that theory. As you can probably tell, I believe that they are completely separate. I am not looking for a fight of words or intelligence. (2 Tim 2:14) I am just curious what your thoughts are?

Answer:

Thank you for your questions. We believe and teach that Jesus and God are the same (or to be more precise, Jesus and the Son of God are the same after the incarnation). The reason we confess this is because the Bible teaches it in so many places, and as you have said, the Bible is God's Word and we can have the utmost confidence in it. We too, like you, are not looking for a fight about this. We simply believe and confess it to anyone who will listen.

Here are some Bible passages, for example, that teach that Jesus is God: 1 John 5:20, Romans 9:5, Matthew 1:23, Luke 2:11, 2 Peter 1:17, John 3:16, John 20:28, and Matthew 16:16.

I cannot argue with your logic, nor would I attempt to do so. But I can say some things about human logic. Logic is an amazing gift of God, but logic also has its limits, especially when we think about God and the truths he gives us in the Bible.

For example, the very book you are studying makes it clear over and over again that Jesus is God, in the flesh. It is the main point of the first chapter of Hebrews. And the book of Hebrews also makes the point over and over again that Jesus died. I agree with you that God cannot die – otherwise how could he be the everlasting God? These are all Biblical truths, but then our human logic steps in and makes this very logical deduction --that all this means that Jesus cannot be God. That deduction may be very logical, but it is also very false.

Here is the truth: God cannot die, but God did die on the cross. How those two truths can both be true, my logic will never be able to figure out. But the Bible makes both truths very clear, and so I must put my logic to the side and simply believe them because God says so.

Yes, you can take the Biblical doctrine of the Trinity and "prove" logically that there is no forgiveness of sins. But why use logic in that way? Why not believe the doctrine of the Trinity because the Bible teaches it, and also believe God's teaching about forgiveness of sins, too, because the Bible teaches it, and leave human logic out of it? Don't take teachings of the Bible and use them to logically contradict other teachings of the Bible. When they seem to contradict, throw your logic out the window at that moment and have the faith of a little child. Believe what the Bible says because God said it, whether you understand how it can be true or not; believe it because he has proven faithful in everything he says by keeping every promise he makes and by giving you your Savior.

God cannot contradict himself. Nor can his Word, the Bible, contradict itself. You are right about this. But God's logic can contradict human logic and does in fact contradict human logic many, many times.

This is a serious subject you bring up. If Jesus is just a man and not God, his death on the cross cannot pay for any of your sins or my sins. It is just because Jesus is God that he can take away the sins of the world. Human logic, if it is not held in check, can prevent and destroy Christian faith. May the Lord God work in us his truth.