

“Drink out of it, all of YOU; for this means my ‘blood of the covenant,’ which is to be poured out in behalf of many for forgiveness of sins.— Mt. 26:27-28 (New World Translation)

**What good news
-by means of Jesus we can
be declared righteous!**

forgive sins that occurred in the past. Thus, Abraham and other men of faith in pre-Christian times are in line for a resurrection.—Read Romans 3:24, 25; Ps. 32:1, 2.

Enjoy a Righteous Standing Now

¹⁹ The fact that the God of love counted Abraham as righteous should be heartening for true Christians today. Jehovah did not declare him righteous in the sense that he does those whom he anoints with spirit to be “joint heirs with Christ.” **The limited number of that group are “called to be holy ones” and are accepted as “God’s sons.”** (Rom. 1:7; 8:14, 17, 33) In contrast, Abraham came to be “Jehovah’s friend”—and that before the ransom sacrifice was offered. (Jas. 2:23; Isa. 41:8) **What, then, about true Christians who hope to live in the restored earthly Paradise?**

²⁰ **These have not received “the free gift of righteousness” with heavenly life in view “through the release by the ransom paid by Christ Jesus.”** (Rom. 3:24; 5:15, 17) Nevertheless, they exercise deep faith in God and his provisions, and they manifest their faith by good works. One such work is that of “preaching the kingdom of God . . . and teaching the things concerning the Lord Jesus Christ.” (Acts 28:31) Thus, Jehovah can view these as righteous in the sense that he did Abraham. **The gift such ones receive**

¹⁹ Why should God’s view of Abraham be heartening to many today?

²⁰ God expects what of those whom he today views as righteous, as he did Abraham?



You see, the New Covenant* symbolized by the Cup for forgiveness of sins is not meant for us.

How can the gospel be changed?

I can be declared righteous by disobeying Jesus?

—friendship with God—differs from “the free gift” the anointed receive. Yet, it certainly is a gift that they accept with deep gratitude.

²¹ If you hope to enjoy everlasting life on earth, you should realize that this opportunity has not come to you because of a capricious act by a human ruler. Rather, it reflects the wise purpose of the Universal Sovereign. Jehovah has taken progressive steps to accomplish his purpose. These steps have been in line with true justice. More than that, they have reflected God’s great love. Well could Paul say: “God recommends his own love to us in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”—Rom. 5:8.

²¹ What benefits are available because of Jehovah’s love and justice?

Do You Recall This Warning?

- **However, even if we or an angel out of heaven were to declare to YOU as good news something beyond what we declared to YOU as good news, let him be accursed. — Gal. 1: 8 (NWT)**

The Watchtower is saying that you can be God's friend while rejecting the New Covenant which is for forgiveness of sins.

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- Article text is original. Highlights, scriptures and conversation text are added.