PAID IN FULL BY JESUS!

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The only way to be *right* with God; the only way to be *ready* to meet Jesus; and the only way to *enter* the gate to Heaven is for our sin-debt to be paid off in full. 1 Peter 2:24 "Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed."

The total cost for our sin has been covered so what change has it brought about in us; in our attitudes; and in our life—that is the question to ask and answer honestly. Some do not think any payment is necessary—that they have not created a debt to be paid. 1 John 1:8 "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us; 10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us."

Any right-thinking person will admit that they have sinned in many ways—and therefore they owe a debt to the God who gave them life. The solution is straightforward—first admit that we have sinned and that we owe a debt—then 1 John 1:9 "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

If we had incurred a large debt and a close friend would say to us: *I had this money I wanted*

to get rid of, so I paid off that debt you had. We would say: I don't know how to thank you; I'll be forever indebted to you. Jesus is saying to us: I paid a debt I did not owe; for those who could not pay. We would have to say: Thank you Lord; I am forever grateful to You for covering that cost for me!

Now that our sin-debt is paid, how has it *changed* our heart; our attitudes; the way we treat people; and the choices we make—what *impact* has it *had* on our life! *They* are important questions to ask and answer.

We should feel forever obligated to the One who can save us from God's wrath. Romans 8:12 "Therefore, brothers, we have an obligation [we are debtors]—but it is not to the sinful nature, to live according to it. 13 For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live." Our new heart attitude should be evidence enough of our gratefulness for the payment of that huge debt.

Jesus told us—John 8:31 "If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed;" the apostle told us Romans 8:14 "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God." And Jesus promised John 8:32 "Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." Free from those attitudes we had held on to—but now free from them by living our life led by the Spirit.

The Koran was written many years *after* Mohammed's death and quotes Mohammed saying: I am in *need* of forgiveness; but the Bible quotes *Jesus* as saying: John 14:6 "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." Since Jesus is the *only* way to Heaven, then we have to *know* who Jesus is and why He is the only One able to do what no one else can do.

Jesus made such a tremendous *impact* on 2,000 years of history that His birth separated B.C. from A.D. Jesus has been quoted through the ages, and His words ring with truth to all believers—even His enemies could find no fault in Him Luke 23:4.

Jesus spoke words that are the greatest moral teachings the world has ever known. His gospel Truth and His deeds on earth have had more *impact* on this sinful world than has anyone else before or since. He is telling the *truth* and He *knows* He is the only way to enter His kingdom.

We are obligated to the One who paid the full cost to save our soul from Hell. The *plan*; the *way*; and the *Truth* are plainly written for anyone who is willing to read and heed the truth of those words. Isaiah 1:19 "If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land: 20 But if ye refuse and rebel, ye shall be devoured with the sword: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it."

The claims of Christ are much different from the claims of other religious leaders. Mohammed never claimed to be God; Buddha remained silent on God; Confucius refused to discuss the idea of God; and Moses just claimed to be a prophet of God. Only Jesus claimed to be God in Person.

People of His day said He was a wise teacher and a great prophet, but He was much more than a prophet—He is God incarnate! His words and His miracles set Him apart from all others. John 10:37 "If I do not the works of my Father, believe me not. 38 But if I do, though ye believe not me, believe the works [miracles]: that ye may know, and believe, that the Father is in me, and I in him."

Now that the total *cost* has been covered; now that the *debt* has been paid, what evidence does our life *show* that we appreciate what Jesus did for us! *Jesus* means *Salvation*—He is the only way to Heaven. The *pathway* has been found; the

mystery has been solved—He alone makes us be right with the Father—He alone can forgive our sins and change our heart.

The search for Truth has always been a *narrow* search, because Truth *is* what it *is*—and it *excludes* every other way or plan or doctrine. The road is *narrow* because it is *exclusive*. Matthew 7:13 "Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: 14 Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it."

Everyone—absolutely *everyone* gets a one-way ticket to eternity—and that ticket will take us to either eternal *suffering* with the devil and his demons in the Lake of Fire; or to everlasting *happiness* with Jesus and the saints in a place of indescribable beauty and grandeur 1 Corinthians 2:9.

Our one-way ticket to Heaven must be stamped with the Blood of Jesus. There will be just one right answer when we face God on Judgment Day. We must know; be able to say; and to give evidence in our life that we really appreciate the gift—Jesus paid it all; all to Him we owe!

1 John 1:7 "If we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin."

Only the Blood of Calvary can cleanse us of all sin—100%! The only way a holy God could let anyone into Heaven is—if they were cleansed of all past sins. Good works offers *no payment*, but our Savior paid the *entire* debt. It is vitally important then, that we keep our *trust* on that *sacrifice*. John 3:18 "He who trusts in Him does not come up for judgement. He who does not trust has already received sentence, because he has not his trust resting on the name of God's only Son."

Nothing unclean is allowed into Heaven. Our sin cannot just be covered temporarily with good

deeds; they must be atoned for completely. Our faith in the precious Blood of Jesus is the only way that our sins can be deleted. Isaiah 1:18 "Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool."

Now that the *cost* for sin has been *paid*, we should daily remind ourselves of that payment He made for us. Before repenting Ephesians 2:12 "Ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world: 13 But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ."

When we stand before the White Throne Judgment, we *can* be dressed in the righteousness of Christ—but that is our choice and *that* is what pays the entrance fee. The *cost* is covered because the *Blood* is shed— 1 John 1:7 "The blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin."

That *trust* on the shed Blood of *Christ* covers every aspect of life—faith in God for health and healing; for change in our attitudes; for financial needs each day; for correcting every injustice met; for loved ones treating each other in a right and scriptural way; and trusting God for all work-related issues every day—for the success we need in completing the tasks that are set before us.

Good energy yields no payment; but a perfect sacrifice does—it is nothing in us, but everything of the Cross. Romans 5:6 "For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. 8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. 9 Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him."

We may have experienced walking out of a store with the security tag still on the item and tripping an alarm. If the gates of Heaven had sensors, one on each side—and as we walk through, only *one* thing would set off the alarm—which would be *sin*. If our sins were forgiven and cleaned out, however, we could walk through the gates and *not* set off any alarm.

No one wants an alarm to go off when they walk out of a store; and we most definitely do not want an alarm to go off when we go in thru the gate. If our faith and trust have always been on the Blood of Jesus, we are cleansed of all sins—then no alarm would go off as we enter the gates.

We must say in our *heart* what the thief said on the *Cross*—Luke 23:42 "Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom. 43 And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise."

No alarm was tripped! And may we be able to say to all those who have wronged us; harmed us; or said spiteful things about us—what Jesus said to those who wronged Him Luke 23:34 "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do."



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