

PAID IN FULL

by

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So many times in my life, when I had been paying on a debt for a long time, the day came when I made the last payment and the bill was marked "*Paid in Full.*" Oh, that was a time of rejoicing.

Dear friends, do you realize that when our Savior gave his life on Calvary and shed all of his precious blood for our sins, our debt was marked "*Paid in Full*"? What a price was paid that we might have this wonderful salvation! God gave Heaven's best to a lost and dying world. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).

This thought has come to my mind many times: it was not the nails that held Jesus to the cross but the love he had for lost humanity, because he could have come down from the cross. "Do you think that I cannot now pray to My Father, and He will provide Me with more than twelve legions of angels? How then could the Scriptures be fulfilled, that it must happen thus?" He was willing to die this shameful death that we might have this wonderful plan of salvation.

It brings tears to my eyes when I read the account in God's Word how Jesus suffered for your sins and mine, that we might go free. "Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole garrison around Him. And they stripped Him and put a scarlet robe on Him. When they had twisted a crown of thorns, they put it on His head, and a reed in His right hand. And they bowed the knee before Him and mocked Him, saying, 'Hail, King of the Jews!' Then they spat on Him, and took the reed and struck Him on the head. And when they had mocked Him, they took the robe off Him, put His own clothes on Him, and led Him away to be crucified" (Matt. 27:27-31).

This is the terrible way they treated the Son of God. His life was sinless; he never committed a wrong or shameful act. His life was without spot, and pure.

You may say, "He was divine," and this is true. However, he was also human, and he felt the thorns when they put the crown of thorns on his head. They were not gentle with Jesus, but pushed the crown of thorns on his brow until the blood ran down his face. The scripture tells us they spat upon our Blessed Lord, and struck him on the head. They made fun of him. He endured all of these dreadful things and did not complain or say one word in protest. All these things he suffered that our salvation might be marked "*Paid in Full.*" It was only the love of God and the willingness of Jesus to die that shameful death on the cross that our salvation was "*Paid in Full.*"

In Isaiah 53:7 we read, "He was oppressed and He was afflicted. Yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so He opened not His mouth." And in verse 12 it says, "Therefore I will divide Him a portion with the great, and He shall divide the spoil with the strong, because He poured out His soul unto death, and He was numbered with the transgressors, and He bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors."

In Hebrews chapter 9 we read, "Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption" (vs. 12). "According to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission" (vs. 22). "He then would have had to suffer often since the foundation of the world; but now, once at the end of the ages. He has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself" (vs. 26). "So Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation" (vs. 28).

I heard a minister say not long ago that Jesus' flesh was so torn that you could see the bones in his back. If they beat our Blessed Lord in that manner, think of the terrible pain he suffered. But he never complained at all. What a horrible way to treat the Son of God. "For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's" (1 Cor. 6:20).

What a price was paid for our salvation! "After this, Jesus, knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the Scripture might be fulfilled, said, 'I thirst!' Now a vessel full of sour wine was sitting there; and they filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on hyssop, and put it to His mouth. So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, 'It is finished!' And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit" (John 19:28-30).

After our Savior had suffered and had been treated in such a shameful manner, they took him to a cross and crucified him. When he said "It is finished," our salvation was *Paid in Full*.

I wish to make an appeal to any sinner who may read this tract. Why don't you repent of your sins, ask God to forgive you and make you his child?

I've been a child of God since October, 1942, and let me tell you I have never been sorry for this decision. The years I have served the Lord have been the happiest years of my life. As the song poet says, "It gets sweeter every day, serving Jesus really pays."

This song was written by L. Chancellor, and it seems to fit in with the message of this tract. So in closing, I shall write a portion of it.

*As I viewed my life of sin, and how wicked it had been,
Then I thought how Jesus died upon a tree.
By his love and saving grace, He has lightened up my face.
Yes, my Savior did this kindness just for me.*

*Yes, He did it just for me, went to rugged Calvary.
There He paid the price to set my spirit free.
He has filled me with His love, borne my troubled soul above.
Yes, my Jesus did this wonder just for me.*

Those of you who may be reading this tract, why don't you repent and ask God to forgive you for your sins and be born again? Where will you spend eternity--Heaven or Hell?