



SERIES: August / September Series “HE IS ENOUGH”

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Tuesday, 08/10/2021

Scripture: Colossians 1:14

NC0225

TITLE: Does Your Past Define You?

I don't know what's a better feeling: having a bill paid by someone else, or paying someone else's account. When my wife was pregnant with our second son, she went on bed rest for over four months. I was trying to work in sales, in order to make ends meet. But many months, we came up short. But one day, a coworker handed me a check to pay for our utilities that were getting behind. This gift made us cry, because it was exactly what we needed in a tough time. By God's grace, we've been able to pick up the bills of other people who are struggling and need some help from God's people. That redemption is momentary, but has a lasting impact.

God offers all people redemption that is permanent, which results in a long-lasting impact. What am I talking about? Listen to Paul's words in Colossians 1:14 (NLT):

“Who purchased our freedom and forgave our sins.”

“Well, that was abrupt, Nat.” Yep, you're right. In verse 13, Paul says it's Jesus who rescues us from the Kingdom of darkness and transfers us into Jesus' Kingdom. That same Jesus purchased our freedom and forgave our sin. Your version may say, “redemption.” We, as the people of God, have been redeemed, or purchased, by the blood of Christ, according to Ephesians 1:7. Now, the question is, purchased from whom? Is it Satan? No. Satan may have authority over us when we're born, but our sin debt is to God alone. We sin not against Satan, but against God. So God sent Jesus to pay the price for our sin. He is our propitiation, or the appeasement, against God's righteous wrath. He paid our penalty for our sin debt. That's why Paul says, He [purchased our freedom and forgave our sins](#).

Too many Christians live in their past. They either forget, don't know, or are lied to about the power of their past sin. Yes, consequences do exist. They're a gracious reminder of the destructive nature of rebelling against God. But our sins are as far as the east is from the west (Ps. 103:12).

Isaiah wrote this about God's forgiveness, “[I have swept away your sins like a cloud. I have scattered your offenses like the morning mist. Oh, return to me, for I have paid the price to set you free](#)” (Is. 44:22, NLT).

Friend, today, if you're a follower of Christ, you are free. Your sins don't define you. Your past doesn't own you. Christ bought you at a high price, because He loves you. He defines you. He defines your future.

So this is my challenge for you today: If you're not a Christian, I implore you to ask yourself, "How well is my way working?" Is your way of doing life actually working for you? Jesus came to save you from your sins and yourself. He offers you life, and life to the fullest. Come to Him. Repent of your sins, and believe in His death, burial, and resurrection. Begin to really live in Christ.

For the rest of you, if you're being held captive by your past, remember and believe that your sins are gone. Your value and your life are defined by Christ - nothing more and nothing less.

So believe it, and then live like it. When we live like adopted sons and daughters of the King, we will win the day.