



**SERIES: August / September Series “HE IS ENOUGH”**

**SPEAKER: NAT CRAWFORD**

**Tuesday, 08/31/2021**

**Scripture: Colossians 2:13-14**

**TITLE: Nothing Else Like It**

Have you ever had a debt erased? Or maybe not a large debt, but just a bill that was picked up by a friend or stranger. Has this ever happened to you? I’ve seen a lot of the “paying it forward” over the Christmas season. The drive-thrus are always being blessed by these random blessings.

There is something so meaningful about having a bill or debt paid for by someone else. I’ve had it happen. And I bet the same is for you. But there is one debt elimination that trumps all others.

This is what the Apostle Paul has to say about it today in Colossians 2:13-14 (NLT).

“You were dead because of your sins and because your sinful nature was not yet cut away. Then God made you alive with Christ, for he forgave all our sins. He canceled the record of the charges against us and took it away by nailing it to the cross.”

There it is. You may have had a utility bill covered, a car paid for, or a meal covered by a stranger. Each one is a special, gracious gift. But there is no greater gift than the gift of forgiveness of sins.

When we are born, we are born enemies of God. We are spiritually dead with no hope and no desire for God. Colossians 1 says that we were God’s enemies separated by our evil thoughts and actions. We didn’t want God. We hated God. But God loved His creation, so He sent Jesus to save us.

In the act of unmatched sacrifice, Christ died on the cross for our sins. God offers freely peace with Him through His Son. He canceled our sin debt. You see, when Christ sees you, he only sees Christ’s perfect record. Psalm 103:12 says our sins are as far as the east is from the west. The debt is paid in full and can never be returned or added to.

This forgiveness is gracious, complete, permanent, transformative, and compelling. So this is my challenge for you today: fully receive God’s forgiveness and then pass it on.

Many of us today feel like we still need to rub our noses in the dirt, but our forgiveness is complete and sure. Let’s live like it. This forgiveness is also compelling. It should compel us to forgive others freely and completely. Who is it that you need to forgive? Do it today.

Friends, we are blessed beyond all measure the scandalous gift of forgiveness. So let’s embrace it give it away freely. When we do this, we will win the day.