

What We Really Need Life

God has paid our debt (Romans 7:19-25, 8:1). If heaven had a spiritual debt clock (like the national debt clock established by Seymore Durst in 1989), the numbers would be astounding and impossible. In fact, because all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God – He is the standard of heaven – the price for our spiritual debt is death, judgment, punishment, and hell (Romans 3:23, 6:23). We owe more than we could ever pay. Who can rescue us from this death? The answer: Easter! Thank God that Jesus has paid our debt for us, if we have given our lives fully to Him with a heart of surrender. If we say yes to be His follower, if we go all in with absolute allegiance, He pours out His grace and mercy lavishly upon us. He pays our debt.

GETTING STARTED

What did you do growing up as part of your Easter traditions and celebrations? Were these meaningful for you, or more a pain?

GO DEEPER

1. In Romans 7:19, Paul writes that what he does is not what he wants to do, and the evil he does not want to do is what he keeps on doing. What makes Paul's plea so relatable? Why do you think it's easier for us to err on the side of sin rather than righteousness?
2. From Romans 3:23, 6:23, what are the eternal, spiritual consequences or wages for our sinfulness? What are the mental, emotional, and relational affects of sin? What is the standard of heaven by which we're judged?
3. According to 2 Corinthians 5:10, who will appear before the judgment seat? Why is this both a good yet sobering truth?
4. What does Jesus accomplish for us on the cross, according to Romans 7:24-25, 8:1 and John 19:30?

MAKE IT PERSONAL

1. Pastor David says that Jesus' death and resurrection is so extreme that it demands an extreme response – nothing half-hearted. How would you rate your response to Easter at this point? Has it lost its meaning or significance for you? What needs to change in your perspective of Easter and what Jesus did for us through His death and resurrection?
2. Why is modified behavior or improved performance not the right reaction to the reality that Jesus has paid our debt? What should your goal and motive of the heart be?
3. How have you felt or experienced condemnation despite what Jesus has accomplished for you? How does Romans 8:1 – that there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus – change the way you view God and your relationship with Him?

PRACTICE IT NOW

Take time as a group to purposefully say yes to Jesus! Declare to Him to that you are all in, giving your full heart in absolute allegiance. Allow time and space, in an attitude and atmosphere of prayer, to let your heart be overwhelmed by what God has done for you in and through Jesus.

BLESS

Eating a meal with a neighbor, friend, coworker, or family member is powerful way to build a relationship, to tear down a wall, and to convey to that person how much you value them. Take intentional steps with someone unsaved or unchurched this week to develop a stronger connection by inviting them to eat with you.