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6-1-2021

INSTALLMENT CHRISTIANITY

Most of us have heard of a lay-a-way plan, or installment plan for the purchase of items that we can't pay for all at once. You put a little down, then pay monthly until it is paid off then you get your merchandise. As a young mother I bought several things this way. It was before credit card debt, and it was a much better program. You didn't go into debt. If you couldn't pay off the lay-a-way you were out the item you wanted, unless someone else paid it off for you.

Some people get the idea that when they become a Christian that they have to pay their sin debt over time. They think that every time they "mess up and sin" that they have to start over by getting saved again. They often never come to realize that the price of their salvation has already been paid by someone else, Jesus Christ. When Jesus put his blood on the altar it was a "one time" event. Hebrews 9:12 says, ***"neither by the blood of goats and calves (Old Testament sacrifices for sin) but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us."***

In the Old Testament, once a year your sin was placed upon a goat, lamb, or calf and it "covered" the sin for a year. It was not a permanent covering. It had to be done over and over with the animals' blood being the sacrifice. Under the New Testament, Jesus became that sacrifice and paid the sin debt once and for all. It took care of all sin from Adam until the end of the ages. There was no "installment plan" where he continuously had to apply his blood to sin. There is absolutely nothing more that can be done to atone for our sin other than Jesus' sacrifice. We receive that cancelled debt of sin by placing our trust in Jesus as our savior.

Many live in the fear that they won't make it to heaven, but God in His mercy sent Jesus to die "once" and put his blood on Heaven's altar "once" to take care of all your sin. Now you are born again of "incorruptible seed" that never sins. Yes, you have an old nature that sins, but not the new nature. This is why you receive the "one time gift" and then put under subjection the old nature to the new nature, daily dying to the fleshly desires of sin.

If you are looking for an installment type of salvation, you won't find it in Christ. He paid the debt in full! Your "account" has been paid off by Christ, so quit beating yourself up trying to pay it yourself. Yes, when you sin you must repent, but God is faithful to forgive you. You don't lose your salvation every time you sin. You lose fellowship with a Holy God. If you are living a defeated life because of your past, let it go! It is paid off. Don't let Satan mess with your thinking that it is any other way! We don't have to wait to get to Heaven to have eternal life. We have it already through Jesus Christ. Rest in that promise.