



Grace Snap Shot

"Viewing life through the lens of God's grace!"



Already Paid

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Cynthia stood anxiously in the checkout aisle of the local grocery store. Her basket contained basic items that she needed for her children's school lunches. It wasn't a phobia of checkout aisles that made her anxious, it was the fact that she wasn't sure if she had enough money to pay for all the items she had collected. She was a hardworking single mom that often seemed to come up just a little short.

While she waited in line to be served, she spent a moment glancing through a magazine, until from the corner of her eye she caught a glimpse of someone familiar. It was her neighbors that lived just down the street from her. They were just going through the till in the next aisle when they noticed each other. A few pleasant words were exchanged and then off they went.

As Cynthia reached the till, she informed the cashier that she might not be able to purchase all the items in her basket due to her finances. She was a little taken back when the cashier looked up at her with a smile on her face and said, "I wouldn't worry about that if I was you. Someone has already paid for your groceries." The cashier went on to say that Cynthia's neighbor friends had slipped her a \$100 bill as they walked past on their way out of the store. They had whispered, "This is to go towards our friend's grocery bill."

Cynthia couldn't believe what she was hearing. Why would they do that? She hadn't done anything to deserve such generosity. She was even more shocked when the total of her grocery bill came to \$73.63 and the cashier handed her the change. Her neighbors had actually over paid her bill. As a result she was able to leave the store with all the items she desired and a great sense of relief.

Did you know that Jesus has paid the debt for mankind's sin? Yours included? Matter of fact, he overpaid for your sin. No longer is there a need to stand in line and feel the pressure of having to come up with a payment that you have no way of meeting. Jesus has done it all for you.

Now, what would you say if despite her neighbor's generosity, Cynthia insisted on using her own funds to try and pay for her groceries? What if after finding out what the bills total was, she ended up deciding to put a few items back on the shelf? What if she insisted on working off her bill by helping around the store? If you're like me you'd say, "That's totally unnecessary!"

As foolish as that might sound, there are many church people doing the exact same thing when it comes to the issue of their sin. Although Christ has more than paid their debt, they still feel compelled to try and pay it off themselves or at least contribute something. Many needlessly function under an endless sense of duty. Jesus says, 'That's totally unnecessary!'

Friends, the bill has been paid. It is finished. It's time to live without self obligation and enjoy the benefits that are provided in Christ. He took care of it all and more. He's that good of a friend.