

Paying My Way  
By Paul R. Blake

A young married couple obeyed the gospel. At their first Sunday worship service, they observed the communion and offering with the rest of the disciples. Their little boy watched them closely as they ate the Lord's Supper. But when they placed their offering in the tray, he could no longer keep quiet; he tugged on his mother's sleeve and whispered, "Who's paying for me?" The lollypop logic of children is amusing. We understand that the contribution is not a payment Christians make for eating the Lord's Supper; rather, they are two distinct parts of the New Testament instructions for worship. Yet perhaps there is some accidental wisdom in the child's question.

What debt must every man pay? "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Rom. 3:23). "For the wages of sin is death" (Rom. 6:23). All men sin, and all men die. We do not have the resources to pay for our sins and purchase eternal life; someone has to pay our way. "And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins... But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ" (Eph. 2:1, 4-5). We had nothing to offer, and so God sent Jesus to pay our way. "For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly" (Rom. 5:6). And by the death of Jesus, the price for our sins was paid. "Who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness--by whose stripes you were healed" (1Peter 2:24). Jesus paid our way.

And if he had not paid our way? We would not be worshiping today. We would not be singing of our Redeemer, nor praying to God through Jesus' mediation, nor listening to a Gospel sermon, and especially, we would not be eating a supper to remember that Jesus paid for us. If Jesus had not paid our way, there would be no Gospel, no prayers, no hymns of praise to our Savior, no offering to build up the Kingdom, and no Supper at the Lord's Table. There would be no purpose for coming together in fellowship, we would still be in our sins and outside the family of God.

So as you sit this day with the family of God eating at the Lord's Table, ask the Father, "Who's paying for me?" The answer will be, "Jesus paid it all."

### Keep On

"And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart" (Gal. 6:9).

There was a young man who ran for the legislature in Illinois, and was badly defeated. He then entered business and failed and spent 17 years of his life paying up the debts. He was in love with a beautiful young woman to whom he became engaged - then she died. He re-entered politics, ran for congress, and was badly defeated. He then tried to get an appointment to the U.S. Land Office, but failed. He became a candidate for the U.S. Senate and was badly defeated. Two years later he was defeated by Douglas. One failure after another, bad failures, great setbacks, but in the face of all this he kept on trying and became one of the greatest men in history. His name was Abraham Lincoln.

We are challenged, as God's children, to keep on doing good because in due time we will reap the eternal reward. God "...Will render to each one according to his deeds: eternal life to those who by patient continuance in doing good seek for glory, honor, and immortality..." (Rom. 2:6-7).

### Falling Back

(A poem written by Dallas Yoho regarding his struggles with temptation)

I am always trying to win it all;  
Gambling is my biggest downfall.  
I just want to win my windfall,  
So I can pay off all of the malls.

I know it's a sin I have tried to quit  
But I'm always falling back into the pit  
Oh what a hypocrite!  
So it seems I've tried to redeem  
What qualities, if any, are left in me.

Maybe someday I'll see those Pearly Gates  
That seem to wait for righteous saints.  
I'll have to clean up my act  
And follow that straight and narrow path.

### Worried?

We often worry about things which are unlikely to occur. There is a story told of a man standing on a crowded bus. A young man standing next to him asked, "What time is it, sir?" The man refused to reply. The young man moved on. The silent man's friend, sensing something was wrong, asked, "Why were you so discourteous to the young man asking for the time?"

He answered, "If I had given him the time of day, next he would want to know where I am going, and then we would talk about our interests, and if we did that, he would invite himself to my house for dinner, and if he came, he would meet my daughter, and if he met her, they would both fall in love, and I don't want my daughter marrying someone who can't afford a watch."

Let's not worry about something that might happen in the future. We have enough on our plate in the present without adding tomorrow's fears. I can think of only one kind of person who needs to fear tomorrow: the one who is unprepared to meet God. (Matt. 6:31-34; Phil. 4:6-7)

### A Moments Wisdom

Courage is not the absence of fear, but simply moving on with dignity despite that fear. Our envy of others devours us most of all.

A person without a sense of humor is like a wagon without springs. It's jolted by every pebble on the road.

A successful marriage requires falling in love many times, always with the same person. What counts in making a happy marriage is not so much how compatible you are, but how you deal with incompatibility.

A good teacher must be able to put himself in the place of those who find learning hard. Never seem more learned than the people you are with. Wear your learning like a pocket watch and keep it hidden. Do not pull it out to count the hours, but give the time when you are asked.