

# SERMON TITLE: "PAID IN FULL: THE GIFT YOU CAN'T Improve"

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**Text: Colossians 2:9–15**

<sup>9</sup> For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, <sup>10</sup> and in Christ you have been brought to fullness. He is the head over every power and authority. <sup>11</sup> In him you were also circumcised with a circumcision not performed by human hands. Your whole self ruled by the flesh was put off when you were circumcised by Christ, <sup>12</sup> having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through your faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead.

<sup>13</sup> When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, <sup>14</sup> having canceled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross. <sup>15</sup> And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.

## CLEANSE. CANCEL. CRUSH.

### *Christmas Is About a Finished Gift*

**Text: Colossians 2:9–15**

We're living in a world that feels:

- Fractured
- Tense
- Worn down

And it's not just *out there* it's in here.

Christmas is not God ignoring the brokenness of the world. Christmas is God **entering it**. The message of Christmas is simple but staggering: **God saw what was broken and He came to fix it.**

Before we talk about what Christ *cleanses*, *cancels*, and *crushes*, we have to be honest about what we're all dealing with.

There are **three universal realities** we carry that are the opposite of Clean, Canceled, and Crushed.

## 1. WE FEEL DIRTY — SHAME AND GUILT

No one taught us how to feel shame. It came naturally.

## 2. WE FEEL INDEBTED — PRESSURE AND STRIVING

Most people don't walk around saying, "I feel guilty." They say, "I feel tired."

## 3. WE FEEL DEFEATED — FEAR AND OPPRESSION

So many people live under something they can't shake:

- Fear
- Anxiety
- Addiction
- Temptation
- Cycles they can't break

## 1. CHRIST CLEANSSES YOU — THIS IS HEART-LEVEL SALVATION

### Colossians 2:11

"In Him you were circumcised... with a circumcision not performed by human hands."

Paul says Jesus didn't just clean you up externally. He performed **heart surgery**.

This is not behavior modification. This is not religious polish. This is not moral improvement.

This is **spiritual rebirth**.

## 2. CHRIST CANCELS YOUR DEBT — PAID IN FULL

### Colossians 2:14

"He canceled the record of debt... nailing it to the cross."

Paul shifts from surgery to courtroom language.

In Roman culture, every charge was written on a certificate of debt. Every failure. Every violation.

Paul says Jesus didn't negotiate it. He didn't delay it. He didn't put it on a payment plan. He **canceled it**.

Not postponed. Not minimized. Canceled.

When Jesus cried, "*It is finished*," He wasn't announcing a pause. He was proclaiming a payment.

Your sin wasn't put on layaway. Your forgiveness isn't in installments.

**Paid. In. Full.**

### **3. CHRIST CRUSHES THE POWERS OF DARKNESS**

#### **Colossians 2:15**

"He disarmed the rulers and authorities and made a public spectacle of them..."

Christmas is not cute. It's cosmic.

It's not just a manger scene It's a military invasion.

Jesus disarmed the enemy. Publicly defeated him. Stripped him of authority.

The devil still talks loud But he has no weapons.

*The enemy isn't undefeated he's unarmed.*

You don't fight for victory. You fight from victory.

The cross is not Christ's defeat It is His coronation.

#### **YOU DON'T LIVE IN FEAR — YOU LIVE IN AUTHORITY**

Fear loses its grip when you realize the enemy has no weapons.

#### **YOU STOP FIGHTING FOR VICTORY AND START STANDING IN IT**

Most believers are exhausted because they're fighting battles Jesus already won.

#### **YOU DON'T LET ACCUSATION DEFINE YOU**

The enemy's primary weapon *used to be* accusation.

#### **YOU WALK THROUGH LIFE WITH QUIET CONFIDENCE**

Victory in Christ doesn't make you arrogant it makes you steady.