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[Introductory video featuring Lead Pastor Sal Sberna and Teaching Pastor Lance Witt having a conversation over breakfast at a diner:]

[Sal:] So, did you get enough, man?

[Lance:] Oh, man!—way more than enough. I am so done.

[Sal:] Well, not me. I love this place, but [to the waitress] I could use a little bit of dessert.

[Waitress refilling his water glass:] I'll bring you the dessert menu right out.

[Sal:] I'd love for you to do that. Ooooo! [Water glass was filled to overflowing, so Sal mops it up with his napkin.]

[Waitress:] I will be right back.

[Sal:] Don't worry about it.

[Lance:] Man, can you believe this economy? I mean, this economic recovery thing—we keep throwing billions of dollars at this thing; and I just wonder when is it finally going to be enough?

[Sal:] Dude, who knows? I was watching TV the other night. And I know we're pulling troops out of Iraq, but now we're putting more in Afghanistan. And I'm wondering: when's it going to be enough to win the war on terror?

[Lance:] I know. It just seems like today it's never enough no matter what you throw at it. I think about people I know who are looking for a second job—trying to make ends meet. And people I know who are looking at retirement—their nest egg has shrunk down. It's just not enough.

[Waitress hands Sal the menu and another napkin for water spill.]

[Sal:] Thank you. [While looking the menu Sal responds to Lance:] Yeah, I'm thinking about taking a second job, but don't tell the church, you know? [Addressing the waitress and pointing to the menu:] Uh okay. Uh, I can't pronounce it, but I'd like this one; it's got a lot of ice cream, a lot of chocolate, and my wife can't get enough chocolate, so make it to go.

[Waitress:] I'll be right back.

[Sal:] Thanks, I appreciate it.

[Lance:] You know, you're going to make some major brownie points. But have you ever noticed that no matter how much you think is enough, it is never enough?

[Sal:] Just between us guys, even if you did enough today, tomorrow you start all over again. No points carry over, man.

[Lance:] That's not just true with your wife; it's also true with your kids.

[Sal:] Oh yeah, no doubt.

[Lance:] I mean, you spend time with them, but it seems like you can never find the time to really adequately meet their needs. It just doesn't seem like it's ever enough.

[Sal:] I feel so guilty when I think about the time I spend with my family versus the time that I spend at the church. Have I done enough at the church so I can feel good about going home and doing stuff with my family? Or do I need to go back to the church? Because it seems like, no matter what you do, it's never enough.

[Lance:] You know, through the years, I've counseled with a lot of people who are always wondering: Is what they've done for God enough? Is what they've done enough to please Him? And it just seems like there's no peace in their life.

[Sal:] Yeah, it's almost a universal struggle of man. [Responding to waitress who just handed him his to-go order:] Thank you so much.

[Waitress:] There you go, guys. Y'all have a good afternoon.

[Sal:] You bet. [As waitress turns to leave] Whoa, whoa, whoa—wait. We need the check. We need to get out of here.

[Waitress:] Someone's already paid that for you.

[Sal:] Oh, man!

[Lance:] Really?—Wow! [Waitress nods to confirm.]

[Sal:] I'm pleasantly surprised on that, but at least let me know how much it was so we can give you a tip.

[Waitress:] He paid more than enough.

[Lance:] Cool!

[Sal:] Pffft! Great, because I knew you weren't paying for this.

[Lance:] And you're right. [They get up to leave and the video's next scene is at the outside door of the restaurant.]

[Sal:] All right, man— [they shake hands]

[Lance:] All right, man, see you later.

[Sal:] You bet, dude.

[Lance:] Bye. [They leave going in opposite directions.]

[Sal speaking to the camera:] We all struggle with how much is enough to please God. And the question today is: Can you know for sure that you have done enough to please God? [Video ends.]

And that's a question that has been asked by mankind—that's the eternal question ever since the Fall [of man in the Garden of Eden]:

- Have we done enough to make God happy?
- Have we done enough to pay for the wrongs that we've done?
- Have we done enough that when we die we know for certain that we're going to go to Heaven?

Have we done enough for God to say: You're just great the way that you are, don't change a thing?

(And) ever since the Fall, that's what man's been trying to do. We've been trying to do enough—to make amends—to cover over the bad that we've done. It started way back in the garden when God had to take innocent animals. And for the first time man [is] experiencing death physically—watching these innocent animals die and God wrapping their warm skins around them. And ever since then, man's trying to say: Okay, how much is enough? Have I done enough now?

In fact some of you are here this morning and the reason why you don't like going to church and you don't like to think about your relationship with God is because it doesn't seem like you could ever do enough. (And) maybe you've had some failures in your life. You've had those failures where you're trying to do good. (And) you did the formula that they told you to do, but then all of a sudden the formula didn't work. And these bad things are starting to happen to you. So in your mind: I'm just not good enough. Or, you will have some victory for awhile, and then it seems like you slip right back in. And certainly God isn't happy with you because you promised you would never do that again. And yet over and over and over again:

- You find yourself breaking promises
- You find yourself doing things that you said you would never do again (and)
- Finally it just gets to be a little too much (and)
- Why hassle with that, because if I can't do enough, why [do] I keep trying?

(And) that's what they must have felt like in the *Old Testament* after God prescribed to them a sacrificial system. (And) the sacrificial system was redundant. I mean it was day after day, week after week, month after month, year after year. (And) God was trying to drive home a point to them that:

- No matter how much sacrifice is made
- No matter how much you try to do
- It's never going to be enough until I say it's enough

In fact the writer of *Hebrews* picks up on the whole system of sacrifice in the *Old Testament*. Which—if you really read and study about it—most scholars say that when they were wandering in the wilderness and they had a tent that they met in to meet with God, where the sacrifices were given; literally from underneath that tent, there would be so much blood because of the number of sacrifices time and time and time again, day after day, week after week, that a small little creek (or river) of blood would start to run out from underneath that tent. So much so when they picked up and left and wandered some more, if you could take an aerial photo you would see a trail where they were walking away. But then you would see where they walked away from. It looked like a giant, dark, dried lake bed because of the deep staining of that desert sand after so many repetitive sacrifices.

(And) the writer of *Hebrews* picks up on that, and he's talking about how much is enough to finally make God say that's enough. In *Hebrews, chapter 10, verses 1 through 4*:

The law is only a shadow of the good things that are coming {In other words, it's a lesson to teach us. This isn't it, but it is coming, they are} – not the realities themselves. For this reason it can never, by the same sacrifice repeated endlessly year after year, make perfect those who draw near to worship.

*Hebrews 10:1 (NIV)*

Do you know what the definition of insanity is?—Doing the same thing over and over again expecting a different result. (And) God was helping these people understand: Keep doing this, keep doing it, keep doing it—and you will find that the more you do it the more you're going to have to do it. It's never going to be enough.

If it could, would they not have stopped being offered?...

*Hebrews 10:2a (NIV)*

I mean, if that lamb, if that goat, if that bull, if that pigeon—whatever the offering was—if that could do it, if that could take it away, they would have stopped. But it didn't. It kept on and on and on and on.

...For the worshipers would have been cleansed once for all, and would no longer have felt guilty for their sins.

*Hebrews 10:2b (NIV)*

Man, how about that? How about not feeling guilty any more? Oh! What sweet relief that would be. But every time they brought a sacrifice: guilty! Why did I bring it? I'm guilty! Why am I going to bring it tomorrow?

- I'm guilty tomorrow.
- I'm guilty next week.
- I'm guilty the month after.
- I'm guilty the year after.
- I'm guilty from here until my life ends.

That's why I continually have to bring these sacrifices.

<sup>3</sup> But those sacrifices are an annual reminder of sins, <sup>4</sup> because it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.

*Hebrews 10:3-4 (NIV)*

Do you know what God was trying to teach?—You need a covering. You need a payment for the offenses committed. It's called an atonement. It's an arrangement of an innocent third-party paying the penalty for the guilty party so that the one who is offended can say: Okay, I accept that. That's enough. You can go free. So an intermediary—a mediator—is introduced. (And) that's why the sacrificial system, because the essence of sin is man substituting himself for God. The essence of salvation is God substituting himself for man.

So the sacrifices were to picture: there's going to be an ultimate sacrifice one day. There's going to be a lamb that will take away these sins. And that's why when John the Baptist saw Jesus, he said, "Behold, the Lamb of God [who] takes away the sin of the world!" [*John 1:29 (NASB)*] (And) as they kept offering these sacrifices and offering these sacrifices, it never was enough until Jesus came and He died on the cross. And do you know what Jesus said from that cross? In *John, chapter 19, verse 30*—very interesting words—here's what He said:

When he had received the drink, Jesus said, "It is finished." With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

*John 19:30 (NIV)*

Jesus said on that cross—after He expended his blood, after He expended His suffering, after He took the last drink from that sponge—He looked up into heaven and said: It's enough! It's finished. It's done. It's complete.

The Apostle Paul picks up on that and he tells us in the book of *Colossians* that when we were dead in our sins, when there was nothing we could do to deal with our sins, God did. And here's what he says:

<sup>13</sup> ...he forgave you {in Christ} all your sins, <sup>14</sup> [and] blotted out the charges [proved] against you, the list of [his] commandments [which] you had {broken and} not obeyed. He took this list of sins and destroyed it by nailing it to [Christ's] cross.

*Colossians 2:13c-14 (TLB)*

First of all it says Jesus' cross is enough for us to be completely forgiven. Now I want you to think about it for a moment. What is the thing in your mind that you think—when you think about God—God is not going to forgive me for that? That's what the Bible says is forgiven. What is it?

- Is it an illicit sexual behavior?
- Is it an addition?
- Have you killed somebody?
- Have you cheated?
- Have you stolen?
- Are you angry?
- Are you abusive?

What is it that—when you think of my life before God—there is no way I could ever do enough to make amends for what I've done in this particular situation?

Jesus said when He died:

- That is enough
- You are completely forgiven
- I lift it up
- I take it away from you (and)
- I choose to remember it no more

Jesus' death is more than enough.

The ordinances, the list of things that were against us—it means an IOU—everything we've ever done against God:

- Everything we did
- Everything we should have done that we didn't do
- Things we omitted
- Things that we committed

There it is—a big list of it. It's got my name at the top. Here is what Sal Sberna has done all of his life [pantomimes a long list spitting out as if on a computer print-out of continuous paper]. I mean, I have filled up a lot of hard drives. But it's just not *my* list, it's *your* list. It's all of our lists. And on that list, that when Jesus died on the cross, it was that list that we were in debt for.

How many of you have ever just paid the minimum amount due on your credit card bill? Don't raise your hands. Because you're still paying on it, aren't you? And chances are, not only will you be paying on it—if all you do is your minimum—your kids are going to pay on it, and their kids are going to pay on it. Because the minimum is designed to keep you paying and paying and paying. (And) it's never going to do enough when you do the minimum.

And when we try to show God that we are worthy enough and we are going to try harder, you're paying the minimum payment. (And) that minimum payment you're going to pay throughout eternity because it's not enough.

When Jesus was on the cross and He did something for us, He blotted out—He erased—that list that was against us, the IOU. It's the big bail out! Only He didn't have to go and print money with silver and gold. In fact, you know what Peter says? Peter said:

<sup>18</sup> [For you know] that it was not with [perishable things such as] silver and gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, <sup>19</sup> but [with] the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or [defect].

*1 Peter 1:18-19 (NIV)*

And so, I don't have to look to the Federal Reserve—I don't have to look to anybody else—my bailout comes from Jesus Christ:

- The unpaid debt turned over to a bill collector
- My conscience crying out
- God's Spirits saying: Pay Me (and)
- I cannot even pay the minimal amount

And Jesus comes and He says: It's finished. It's enough. I've paid it in full. That's why the death of Jesus is more. Listen to what God says—the Bible says Jesus blotted out our sins—listen to Isaiah:

I, [even I,] am He who blots out your transgressions for My [own] sake; [and] I will not remember your sins {anymore}.

*Isaiah 43:25 (NKJV)*

"I have wiped out your transgressions like a thick cloud, [and] your sins like a heavy mist. Return [to] Me, for I have redeemed you."

*Isaiah 44:22 (NASB)*

When the Bible uses that word *blot out* and when it uses that word to forgive, it literally means to obliterate eliminating any evidence at all that it ever existed. The only thing you can find in the *Old Testament*—when the Jewish people got up and they moved and they wondered away—the only reminder is this large, very large, blood-stained lake as a remembrance [that] we were there.

When God thinks about your sin and my sin, all He remembers is a little rocky hill outside of Jerusalem named Calvary, soaked with the blood of Jesus Christ. (And) it is there that God said:

- I choose to blot out the memory of your sin.
- I choose to bail you out of the debt that you owe Me.
- I choose to release you from prison.
- I choose to remember your sin [no] more; so why are you trying to remember it?
- I choose to do something about what you can't do anything about.

But, it is not just our sin. It's everybody's sin. Listen to what John says in *1 John*:

He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, [and not only ours but also for the sins of the whole world.]

*1 John 2:2 (NIV)*

Jesus is the covering—the payment—for our sin and it's more than enough. He said, "It is finished!" [*John 19:30 (NIV)*] He paid our debt.

I don't know if you know what a trillion dollars is, but there's (like) trillions of dollars being pumped right now into the economy; and it's not enough. Your good works and your promises and everything that you do is never going to be enough.

But with Jesus it's enough not only for our sins but for the sins of the whole world. That means if you're here today and you've got in your mind: Oh, God can't forgive me—then that verse isn't true. But I'm telling you: As sure as Jesus came up out of that tomb, as sure as the story I told you right now is the story about God's love and God's forgiveness to you. I'm telling you, whatever you've done, if today you will trust in Jesus Christ:

- Your sin will be obliterated
- It will be cancelled
- It will be removed (because)
- It's not just for me (and)
- It's not just for good people (or)
- White people (or)
- Black people (or)
- Asian people
- It's for the entire world
- All of the sin
- All of the debt collected all over the world

Jesus Christ paid for it.

Now we started out talking about what you could do to be right with God. There's nothing you can do to be right with God, because God has done it for you. He did enough in Jesus to cover your sin and to prove His true love for you—His true love for me. What are you going to do with that?—because everybody's got to make a decision. Everybody has got to come to the point where they really believe Jesus did enough.

How do I know that Jesus did enough? How do I know that what Jesus did on that cross, God really said that's enough? When Jesus said it was finished, how do I know that God the Father said I agree with You; it's done?

Well it's just like when I go buy something at the store and they always—when I walk away—they say: Sir, don't you want your receipt? Well yes I do. Why?—because that's proof that I paid enough to walk out of that store with what I have.

Do you know what the resurrection is? It's God's receipt. Here you go Jesus. You've paid enough for everybody to go free. The resurrection is the receipt from God the Father that God the Son did everything that was necessary to go free.

So if today we choose to continue to do on our own what we can never do for ourselves and say no to what God has done for us, then certainly we will die in our sin. But you don't have to:

- You don't have to stay in the darkness.
- You don't have to be guilty anymore.
- You don't have to be shamed about the things that you have done.

If you're here this morning and you say: Yeah that's true, but— There are no buts in the Kingdom of God. (Don't take that personally.) There are no buts—none! Yeah, but... No! Yeah, done! Every time I say Yeah, but... God goes: Open tomb! Yeah, but... Open tomb! Yeah, but you don't— Open tomb! Open tomb! Open tomb! Open tomb! It's enough. It's finished. It's more than enough. Why do you keep arguing with Me? It's enough. It's more than enough.

Jesus had a friend named Lazarus. Lazarus is a great picture of where a lot of us are this morning—where I was years ago. Lazarus got sick and died. He got sick and died. Jesus comes and everybody is mourning. They said: Lord, if you'd only been here Lazarus wouldn't have died. (And) now Lazarus has been three days inside of a tomb:

- He's all bound up with grave clothes.
- He's been anointed for his burial.
- His body is stiff.
- He is in darkness.
- He is lifeless.
- He is cold.
- He can't respond to the people that love him.
- He can't have a future.
- It doesn't matter what his past was.
- He is dead.

(And) Jesus, standing outside of his tomb, begins to weep over the situation of Lazarus.

Jesus does the same thing this morning as He looks at our lives:

- We're bound up in grave clothes.
- We're bound up in sin.
- We're bound up in our shame.
- We're living in darkness.
- We hope nobody finds out about our secrets (and)
- We try and try (but)
- The more we try the more we're convinced that it's never going to be enough (so)
- We just cocoon ourselves (and)
- We say we are dead to God.
- We're dead to people.
- I have nothing in my heart left to give.

Then all of a sudden you hear a voice, like Lazarus heard a voice. You've been hearing a voice this morning. It's the voice of the God who died for you and who loves you. It is the voice that you have been leaping for. It is the voice that has made your heart beat faster. It is the voice that's made you respond to the truth that you heard this morning.

That voice one morning—you know what it said to Lazarus? Three words [is] all it took: "Lazarus, come forth!" [*John 11:43*] (And) all of a sudden it wasn't dark anymore. All of a

sudden his heart started beating. All of a sudden not only did he have a past, not only did he have a present, now he has a future. (And) do you know what he did all bound up in those grave clothes? He did exactly what Jesus said, he came forth out of the grave. (And) Jesus said, "Unbind him, and let him go." [*John 11:44 (NASB)*]

You know what Jesus says to Satan, who holds you captive today? Unbind him, let him go. But—No buts. Empty tomb!—Okay, okay.

Have you ever been stung by a bee? I've been stung by a bee and the sting hurts. In fact, the Bible has a metaphor. Paul says, "Death, where is your sting?" [*1 Corinthians 15:55 (NASB)*] In other words, when death stings you die—you die. Death's sting is so powerful, everyone that gets stung—and that's everybody who has ever been, one out of one still die today—ultimately you're going to die.

When death put its stinger in Jesus and it started to fly off, it fell down because death died when Jesus died. (And) death stayed conquered when Jesus came alive.

So [if] you have any hope of any life after death, you've got to get life right now. You have to come to Jesus right now. I can't think of any better place, any better time, [or] any better way.

Remember that bulletin that I had you make sure everybody had? All the way to the right hand side, would you turn to there now? As you turn to there, I want to show you something. All the way on the back—the front says Connection Card, all about you—and then it has these little dots right here where you can check some boxes one, two, three, four, five, six: I just prayed to follow Christ.

Now here's the choice:

- Follow death to the grave—eternal separation from God
- Follow Jesus out of the grave—eternal bliss in Heaven with God.

I don't know about you, but that's a no-brainer choice this morning.

[You might say:] Well, you know, I'm a religious person and I follow these teachings and that teaching. Great! Follow every teaching that you want, but where is the teacher of the teaching? Dead in a tomb. Where's the Son of God? Alive on the throne, coming back, and living in my heart! Choose the right teacher along with your teachings.

If you're here this morning and you've never given your heart to Christ or:

- You've tried before and you've failed (and)
- You feel miserable (and)
- How can God love me?

You know what? All of those questions are answered. The only question is: Now are you ready?

Or do you want to live in death and sin?

- Shame
- Agony

- Self-pity
- Loathing yourself and those around you

Or do you want to come alive? Do you want to take that receipt and cash in what Jesus has paid for you?

- Your freedom
- Your future
- Your eternal destiny

And everything that He wants you to enjoy right here, right now, can be yours. Just take the receipt—take the receipt.

So I'm going to pray and in my prayer I'm going to say a very simple prayer that asks Jesus to come into my life. If that's what you want to do when we pray in a moment—we're going to do it silently; no one's going to hear you but God, who even knows what you're thinking right now—then I want you to pray and ask Christ to come into your heart.

Then I want you to take a pencil, a pen, a piece of lipstick—doesn't matter—and check that box. Let me know that you did that. And:

- If you want more information about the life that you can have in Jesus
- If you want to know what it means to walk in freedom
- If you want to know what it means to be loved, to be cared for; for God to bail you out of every situation in life

—give us a name and an address. We'll send you information.

Maybe you're looking for a church home—whatever the need is—there's like (you know) eight or nine boxes there. Check one. This is it. This is brand—do over—new start. Do you know why?—Here's what the Bible says. Here's what the Bible says—when you give your heart to Christ—what happens.

What this means is that those who become Christians become new [persons]. They are not the same anymore, {Thank God they're not the same anymore} for the old life is gone. A new life has begun!

*2 Corinthians 5:17 (NLT, 1996 edition)*

You want a do-over? This is do-over time. This is the ultimate:

- I'll forget about your past and everything that you have done (and)
- We're going to move on together.
- I am never going to bring that up (and)
- Every time you bring it up, I am going to blot it out like I did when you first came to Me.

Now is the time to give your heart to Christ.

After I pray ushers are going to be standing in these aisles. We're going to be passing the plate for our morning offering. This is what I want you to do: if you pray and ask Christ into your heart, tell me. Let us pray for you. Give us the information. Check that box. Put this in—everybody put this in—no matter what you do, please. If you want more information about any of the things that you've heard about today, if any of these other boxes apply, please-please-

please check it and let us know. And after I pray and the offering plates begin to be passed, I want you to put this card in the offering plate, everybody please, whether you checked one or filled one out or not.

So let's pray together. As our heads are bowed and our eyes are closed, if you are here this morning; you want the do-over, you believe Christ did more than enough, you want Christ Jesus to save you, then I am asking you right now to pray this prayer silently inside your heart as I do aloud. It goes like this:

Dear Jesus, I believe that You did more than enough to save me. I believe Your blood cleanses me from my sin. I believe Your resurrection was the receipt that what You did was more than enough. And so I come to You this morning, and I ask You [to] forgive me, come into my heart. I want to follow You. I want a do-over.

For the rest of us that are here, maybe you know Christ but you need a do-over—ask Him—He'll give it to you. Maybe you aren't attached to a church. You need to be in a church. You need to be with God's people. You check that box and let's get the process rolling. Let's get on with God and enjoy life and quit living in guilt, shame, doubt and darkness. For my brothers and sisters who fit in that category:

God, I pray that today You do such a work in their heart that they are never going to be the same. And as powerful as salvations was, this moment would be just as powerful as they renew their commitment to You.

Now God, as we, get ready to give—many of us have given our lives for the first time this morning, and if that's you, check that box, fill that out and put it in the plate that's getting ready to come in just a second. And for the rest us, that means we love You. We're so glad that You took care of us this week. We give You our tithe and Your offerings because what we believe, and what we know—that Jesus is more than enough—the whole world needs to know, Lord. So take these offerings and spread this Good News aground the world...in Jesus' name. Amen.

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For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

*1 Corinthians 1:18 (NIV)*

Legend:

(words in parentheses) = spoken by the preacher but unnecessary to the core sentence idea  
{ words in curly brackets within indented quote } = spoken explanation not part of the quote  
(words in parentheses) = spoken by the preacher as an aside to the core sentence idea