

None of us fully realize the tremendous debt that we owed as sinners, and that Christ paid for us to set us free. We sometimes think in terms of making up for or negating our sins. But God in the Old Testament required Restitution for sins that had been committed; not just a repayment for damages, but 1.2, 2, or 4 times the cost of the sin. A stolen lamb, for instance, was to be repaid by four lambs in order to make things right. So our real debt may be much more than we had first thought! Wouldn't you hate to see an itemized bill for your account! We should consider this when we think of the real cost of our sins.

It is sobering, I think, to ask ourselves the question: Did not Christ pay our entire debt; even as the laws of restitution required? If so, then Christ made up for much more than the cost of our sins. The bill that we owed because of our sinful nature has been marked 'paid in full', because we are following Christ, and as more debts are charged to us, they too are marked paid and are forgotten. By seeing the magnitude of the damage that we have done in God's eyes when we sin, we can be motivated to try even harder to be what God wants us to be. And we can be even more grateful for the Christ who canceled our debt with the cross.