**Paying It Forward**

**Scriptural references: 1Peter 2:9; Colossians 3:23; 1 Corinthians 6:20;**

**1 Corinthians 7:23; Ephesians 1:7; Galatians 3:28.**

**By Barbara Spencer**

The idea or concept, ***Paying It Forward***, whether viewed as new or ancient, was actually created by God, and has been practiced since the beginning of time. It was manifested through His Son, Jesus Christ’s sacrifices. His obedience to His Father made it possible for believers, to become “a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, and a peculiar people. A Holy nation, and His own special people; that we may have the opportunity to proclaim the praises of Him who called us out of darkness into His marvelous light.” (1Peter 2:9). **Christ** **Paid It** **Forward!**

We are in the season when we celebrate the birth of Jesus and His declarations.

Jesus declared that He was the Messiah, the promised and expected deliverer, the Savior of mankind from their sins. As we now know, Jesus was condemned and crucified for His claims, but the grave could not hold Him. So, we celebrate that after three days and nights, He rose from the grave alive, as He said He would, with all power in heaven and on earth.

Jesus the Christ paid the debt for our sins. He completed His mission to seek and to save the lost by dying on the cross. The point is not the function of the persons in the body of Christ, but equal acceptance of all into God’s family.

**Christ Paid it Forward!** It is our gratitude and responsibility to respond to His sacrifices and to follow His patterns. That is, to ***Pay It Forward*** by sharing our faith, sharing our love, sharing our resources, our kindness and more.

 The simplest way to define **Pay It Forward** is when someone does something for us, instead of or in addition to paying that person back directly we pass it on to another person or to other people. We can never pay Christ back, we can never pay love back directly, but we can pass it on or **Pay It Forward**. There are many ways to **Pay It Forward**, and **paying it forward** can be part of anyone’s life.

 “And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, ” Colossians 3:23.

**What if Jesus the Christ had not been obedient to His Father?**