

The wall above my office desk is called, "The Wall of Coffee". On this magnificent wall are two gunny sack coffee bags, a set of three, square, coffee-themed signs and a sign below those three that reads, "coffee| *noun*. 1. liquid that smells like fresh ground heaven". I like that. But the center piece of this coffee wall is another sign. This one is a long, rustic, wooden sign that reads, "C.O.F.F.E.E. – Christ Offers Forgiveness For Everyone Everywhere". I like that one even more.

As I write this article, I had just spent some time staring at that favorite sign and found myself fixated on the word "Offers". We receive offers all the time. Offers for "must have" products. Offers for credit cards. Offers for low interest loans. Offers to help you pay off your debt. We make offers on a home we are trying to buy. We offer our help to people. There are offers everywhere. Some are scams, of which we need to be careful but there are some that are legitimate. The problem is sorting through all the offers to determine which ones we are going to pursue, which ones we are going to take seriously.

But there is one offer that is not a scam. It is not too good to be true. You will never be denied because you have been pre-approved. **You're pre-approved because you are a sinner, and the offer is forgiveness.** Why is this so important? Because as a sinner, you have been separated from God like Adam and Eve being expelled from the garden. The only way back to the garden is through God's grace. And His plan for reconciliation began as soon as sin entered the world.

You see, this offer of forgiveness is not some marketing gimmick for God. It is not some fallback position for Him. It is not something God just thought up in an effort to improve the world. When God created this creation, God meant to be in relationship with you and He is not going to let anything, or anyone get in the way. And therefore, when Adam and Eve disobeyed, God set his plan of reconciliation into motion. And when the time came for Jesus, the offer of forgiveness, and thus redemption, drew near. Jesus then died on the cross and rose from the grave sealing the deal and extending the offer to sinners - YOU. It is an offer to everyone everywhere.

You have been pre-approved, and the offer is still here. Will you accept?

To God be all glory and honor, now and forever, Amen.