

Why is Good Friday SO Good? 30/3/2018

Why is this day called good Friday? How can a day when we gather to remember an innocent man's brutal murder be called anything but awful? We are here to remember that Jesus of Nazareth was betrayed, falsely accused, unfairly tried, spit on, mocked, whipped with whips that had metal embedded in them, crowned with sharp thorns and fixed to a wooden cross with iron nails hammered through the flesh of his hands and then hung there until he could no longer breathe. After all that he died. Why?! What good is there in that? There is nothing but horror there!

BUT I love Jesus! I love Good Friday because of Jesus. I love Jesus because of what He has done and because he loves me. And I have been praying very often that you love Him as well! That you know that he loves you! He loves us so much that HE DIED for us! And He did it out of obedience to His Heavenly Father and Jesus went to the cross willingly. God has shown his love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us!

My desperate prayer this morning is that you would see with me why Jesus is worthy of all praise and honor and glory in His death on the cross, and that it is so good that that He gave himself up to death on a cross. And there are two main reasons that I want to show you:

By his death on the cross he was (as the old hymn says) 'for sin a double cure, to save from wrath and make me pure'

If anyone has faith in Him, he is saved from the just wrath of God, and is made pure by Christ's crucifixion! Praise God He has! And if any of you have not been saved and changed, may God grant you to come today and be saved by faith in Jesus.

Look with me at Romans 3 23 to halfway to 25.

for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith.

What does this mean? It means that every person without exception or distinction every tribe and nation and tongue has sinned. We have all fallen short of God, all have failed to know God as we truly could, all have failed to respond to him as we should. We have all acted in selfish rebellion against him, not just in one naughty act, or with a bad attitude after a hard day but our very being is naturally set AGAINST God. That is what sin is.

THAT IS A HUGE PROBLEM! Sin is a huge problem.

It is such an insurmountable problem that we cannot save ourselves, but we must be saved by someone. Someone perfect. Someone like Jesus. It is a problem because God hates sin, it is evil, and it angers him when his created people turn away from him to sin. The only escape from God's anger is if the judge of the universe himself justifies us, meaning declares that you and me are not guilty. For us to be able to survive the consequences of sin and the judgment of God, we must be justified, and declared innocent.

But there is more than hope! Look at the passage: We are justified by his grace as a gift through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith.

We can be justified in Jesus! He has given us grace which we do not deserve, and a gift that we could not earn.

What does the rest mean? What does propitiation mean? It means that God provides a way to make an end of His just anger against those he has justified. He must satisfy it, expire it, finish it. And God has made a way to exhaust it on himself in our place. This is what Jesus was doing in his immense suffering and death on the cross. God's righteous anger against sin (not against Jesus) was used up on Jesus in His death until it was finished. And for those who have been saved by Jesus taking our place on the cross, God has forgiven us our sin and remembers it no more. Praise God!

But hear this warning! If anyone neglects to receive Jesus as the bearer of God's wrath, and instead tries to make themselves right with God in ANY OTHER WAY they themselves will be the propitiation. They will bear God's holy wrath instead of Jesus.

But that is why this is such good news! If we have faith in Jesus; we the ones who have sinned are justified by his grace as a gift, Through the redemption that is in Jesus Christ whom God put forward to satisfy His righteous anger against sin so that it is finished by his blood in his death on the cross. And we can receive this salvation by having faith in Jesus.

DO you see how good that is? That God will forgive our sin and remember them no more because Jesus shed his own spotless blood, is amazing! Because Jesus died for us and took the wrath against sin so that we wouldn't have to.

I want so much to show you the second reason I am so grateful for his death on the cross, so look with me at Colossians 1: 22

he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him,if indeed you continue in the faith

Jesus has brought us back to God by dying. By the satisfying of God's wrath we can now be close with him, and he has made us pure and blameless and above reproach before God, if we continue in faith.

Here is what that means; because Jesus died and bore the wrath of God, instead of me getting what I deserve, I can right now stand before God holy and blameless and above reproach. Blameless! Holy! Above reproach before GOD! All because of Jesus! All because he suffered and died in my place! All because HE was a perfect person. And his holiness, his blamelessness, purity is counted to us, by faith. He has done it.

What grace. That He should do it for us! What amazing grace! For the whole world he did die. From the most squeaky clean unselfish on weekends person, to the worst most wretched hardhearted person who ever walked this earth! HE CAN SAVE US ALL! And He will save all who call upon him to save them. Whoever calls upon the name of the Lord will be saved.

So I leave you with this: Come to Jesus! All of you come! Close your eyes and pray! Thank you for what you have done Jesus! And if you haven't been saved yet, Come! Ask him to save you! Pray this: Jesus please forgive me my sins and save me! If you call on Him he will save you!

My brother and sisters, may you never lose sight of what He has done for you by his death on the cross.