

# Good Friday

Good morning to everyone one who has joined us this Good Friday of 2020.

It is such a joy and privilege to share with you this morning.

There are so many things we could talk about this morning, so I'm hoping that what I have chosen for us to consider this morning will bless and encourage you.

★ Over the next number of minutes

- I am believing that the living God is going to touch our lives
- that the Holy Spirit will speak to us through the Word and
- Help open our eyes to show us Jesus in all His glorious majestic splendour.

We may be apart, but we are not alone. In these current days we have a great opportunity to learn and know more about the realm of the Spirit, life in the Kingdom of God, our God's closeness and His presence.

**1 Corinthians 15:6 (Passion Translation NT)**

**He also appeared to more than five hundred of his followers at the same time, most of whom are still alive as I write this, though a few have passed away.**

## Pray...

★ May I say as I begin...

- Today is not a repeat of a funeral service
- It is a solemn reminder of what took place on this day over 2000 years ago
- It is a time to give thanks
- It is a time to rejoice for all that Jesus has accomplished

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## 1. Why is it called Good Friday

- There are no 'Good Friday' services in the Bible
- There are different opinions, but the origin is unsure
- I believe this one is a good summary of why we call it Good Friday.

*Though Jesus had to suffer and die, God's goodness and love for mankind was displayed in Christ's crucifixion and death, therefore it is a good day and good news for all mankind.*

***The Gospel - Good News - is simply that, it is good news !***

- Man and God can now be reconciled forever more

### Isaiah 59:2

But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden His face from you so that He does not hear.

- Jesus paid the price for our sin and the separation has been removed

### 1 Peter 3:18 (Passion Translation NT)

Christ suffered and died for sins once and for all—the innocent for the guilty—to bring you near to God by his body being put to death and by being raised to life by the Spirit.

- The apostle Paul states.... “According to the Scriptures”

### 1 Corinthians 15:3-4

For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,

“According to the Scriptures” In other words, God kept His promise, He sent us a Saviour.

***In doing this the intrinsic nature of God is revealed; His goodness displayed !***

### Romans 5:8 (Passion Translation NT)

But Christ proved God’s passionate love for us by dying in our place while we were still lost and ungodly!

- This is Who He is, a good, good God.

### 2 Peter 1:3 (Passion Translation NT)

Everything we could ever need for life and complete devotion to God has already been deposited in us by his divine power. For all this was lavished upon us through the rich experience of knowing him who has called us by name and invited us to come to him through a glorious manifestation of his goodness.

- Some translations use terms such as “His moral excellence”, others “virtue” & “goodness”

King David writes....

### Psalms 34:8

O taste and see that the Lord is good; how blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him!

NOTE: (Passion Translation NT) 34:8

Many translations read "Taste and see." The Hebrew root word for "see" is taken from a word that means "to drink deeply."

- For us who believe, we know that God is good
- He is our refuge, our ever present help in the time of trials and difficulties
- He is our hope, our fortress our stronghold and He is our joy

1 Peter 1:8 (Passion Translation NT)

You love him passionately although you did not see him, but through believing in him you are saturated with an ecstatic joy, indescribably sublime and immersed in glory.

- That's why I believe it's called, Good Friday

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## 2. Victory at the cross

Here are four significant realities of the finished work of Christ on the cross, those from which we have been separated from in Jesus name.

### i. Sin

Romans 6:6 (Passion Translation NT)

Could it be any clearer that our former identity is now and forever deprived of its power? For we were co-crucified with him to dismantle the stronghold of sin within us, so that we would not continue to live one moment longer submitted to sin's power.

On the cross Jesus paid once and for all our penalty for sin. We have been acquitted, sin's stronghold should not dominate us anymore. We are free to live in righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

### ii. World

Galatians 6:14

But may it never be that I would boast, except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.

At the cross our citizenship has been changed, we are now children of the Kingdom. We are no longer dominated by the world's values. We live our lives free from the entanglements of this world, but instead we adhere to the godly principles of the Kingdom of God.

### iii. Death

Hebrews 2:14

Therefore, since the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil.

At the cross the devil was stripped of his power of death over our lives. We live without fear having the confidence that it is God who has numbered our days and Jesus holds the keys of death and of hell.

#### iv. **Self**

Galatians 2:20

I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.

At the cross our old life is exchanged for the new. We are not just better versions of who we were, but we are made brand new in Christ, the old has gone.

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### 3 [Jesus finished the work](#)

Hebrews 12:2 (Passion Translation NT)

We look away from the natural realm and we fasten our gaze onto Jesus who birthed faith within us and who leads us forward into faith's perfection. His example is this: Because his heart was focused on the joy of knowing that you would be his, he endured the agony of the cross and conquered its humiliation, and now sits exalted at the right hand of the throne of God!

#### **Arrested, judged and crucified**

- Arrested and beaten      Guilty of love in the first degree
- Four different leaders examined Him      In the OT the Passover lamb was examined over four days
- Viciously whipped      By His stripes we were healed
- Wore a crown of thorns      So we can wear a crown of glory
- Nailed to the cross      Do you know what the only 'man made' things are in heaven?  
The scars on the body of Jesus.
- Lifted up put on display      Even when the enemy thought he had won, his foolishness was revealed and Jesus conquered him that day
- Suffering He had compassion      He thought of His mother's welfare

- Communicated with the lost      Grace is never in short supply
- Forgave His killers      Mercy is always in abundant supply
- Declared the victory      It is finished!
- Surrendered His spirit to God and died      Complete trust in His father

### John 19:30

Therefore when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!" And He bowed His head and gave up His spirit.

*Jesus went through to the end....*

- *He did not waver from the task*
- *He did not change His mind*

Why?

- *Because He had you in mind!*

- ★ In May 2020 I will celebrate 50 years of this becoming a reality in my life when I surrendered to Jesus Christ and turned my life over to Him. I am not talking to you about some theory, this is not some religious dogma, nor is it some fable. I am speaking to you about the reality of knowing Jesus Christ as my Saviour, Lord and Friend for 50 years.

### ***Listen to what the Bible says...***

#### Colossians 2:13-14 (Passion Translation NT)

This "realm of death" describes our former state, for we were held in sin's grasp. But now, we've been resurrected out of that "realm of death" never to return, for we are forever alive and forgiven of all our sins!

14 He canceled out every legal violation we had on our record and the old arrest warrant that stood to indict us. He erased it all—our sins, our stained soul—he deleted it all and they cannot be retrieved! Everything we once were in Adam has been placed onto his cross and nailed permanently there as a public display of cancellation.

#### Psalms 145:8-9 (Passion Translation NT)

You're kind and tenderhearted to those who don't deserve it and very patient with people who fail you. Your love is like a flooding river overflowing its banks with kindness. 9 God, everyone sees your goodness, for your tender love is blended into everything you do.

#### Titus 3:4-6

But when the kindness of God our Savior and His love for mankind appeared, 5 He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have

done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, 6 whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior,

## God is faithful, He will never fail us

- ★ Here is the summation of my testimony...

Lamentations 3:22-24

The Lord's lovingkindnesses indeed never cease, for His compassions never fail. 23 They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness. 24 "The Lord is my portion," says my soul, "Therefore I have hope in Him."

## Friends... Good Friday is about the blood

Ephesians 1:7-8

In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace 8 which He lavished on us.

- Only a few days ago a friend sent me a text message with this question....  
 "Still at times I wonder, will God ever forgive us for what we've done to each other...?"
- I replied....  
 The short answer, YES  
 God cannot deny His Word and when we ask for His forgiveness He forgives us or otherwise Jesus died for nothing

Colossians 1:14 (Passion Translation NT)

For in the Son all our sins are canceled and we have the release of redemption through his very blood.

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## Challenge & invitation

Believer and non believer let me encourage you to look to Jesus

- The one who **died** on the cross
- The one who **paid** the price that we **could not** pay
- The one who sets us **free**

2 Corinthians 5:21

He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

If you were to die today where would you go? Heaven or hell?

- The answer to that question must be taken very seriously.
- The Bible tells us to choose life and live.
- Jesus is the way, the truth and the life!

## **Pray**

Heavenly Father,

Thank you for your love for me, thank you for sending Jesus.

I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of the living God, that He died to pay the penalty for my sin and on the third day rose alive from the grave.

I confess I have sinned against you, please forgive me and set me free from my sin.

I surrender to Jesus Christ inviting Him to come into my life and I receive Him as my Saviour.

By God's grace I will follow, obey and serve Jesus as Lord; the leader of my life, all my days.

Jesus, I thank you for forgiving me, setting me free, coming into my life and giving to me eternal life.

I am now a child of the living God, in Jesus name, Amen.