

Sin, Righteousness, Judgement & the Cross

Good Friday: We remember Jesus on the cross. The cross is the sign / symbol for Christianity.

There is a danger that we are so used to the message of the cross that we do not value it as before.

JESUS FOREWARNED THE DISCIPLES ABOUT THE CROSS

John 12 v 27 - Heading: Jesus Predicts His Death on the Cross

²⁷ "Now My soul is troubled, and what shall I say? 'Father, save Me from this hour'? **But for this purpose I came to this hour.** ²⁸ Father, glorify Your name." Then a voice came from heaven, *saying*, "I have both glorified *it* and will glorify *it* again." ²⁹ Therefore the people who stood by and heard *it* said that it had thundered. Others said, "An angel has spoken to Him." ³⁰ Jesus answered and said, "This voice did not come because of Me, but for your sake. ³¹ Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out. ³² **And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all *peoples* to Myself.**" ³³ This He said, **signifying by what death He would die.**

- The reason for Jesus' coming to earth, was to meet His death on the cross.
- May you be drawn to Jesus, when you see Him LIFTED UP.

Topic: SIN, RIGHTEOUSNESS & JUDGEMENT.

- Unpopular topic. Many don't preach it. Heavy, brings conviction. Angers people.

What about the GRACE, MERCY & LOVE of God? We want to speak about these things, but neglect to mention the hard truths of the Gospel.

The Gospel message includes the HOLINESS, RIGHTEOUSNESS & JUDGEMENT of God.

We need to preach the full Gospel. You cannot understand the cross, without understanding the reason for it. Without understanding sin, righteousness and judgement, there is no reason why Jesus' death on the cross makes sense. (example: playing all the strings of a guitar)

The Gospel message is where God's love, grace, mercy, righteousness and judgement came together at the cross.

John 16 v 7-11: Nevertheless I (*Jesus*) tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper (*Holy Spirit*) will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you. ⁸ And when He has come, **He will convict the world of (1) sin, and of (2) righteousness, and of (3) judgment:** ⁹ of sin, because they do not believe in Me; ¹⁰ of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; ¹¹ of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

- May Holy Spirit reveal these things to us today, and bring revelation about these things.
- May our hearts be full of GRATITUDE & THANKSGIVING when we see Jesus lifted up.

OLD TESTAMENT ANALOGY TO EXPLAIN THE CROSS

John 3: Jesus is explaining to Nicodemus that he must be BORN AGAIN to enter the Kingdom of God.

- He again uses the term: LIFTED UP.

John 3 v 14: And as Moses **lifted up** the serpent in the wilderness, even so must **the Son of Man be lifted up**,¹⁵ **that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.**¹⁶ **For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.**¹⁷ For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

- Jesus tells Nicodemus the old story of Israel's history in the desert - Numbers 21:

Numbers 21 v 4: Then they journeyed from Mount Hor by the Way of the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; and the soul of the people became very discouraged on the way.⁵ **And the people spoke against God** and against Moses: "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For *there is* no food and no water, and our soul loathes this worthless bread."⁶ **So the Lord sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people; and many of the people of Israel died.**

⁷Therefore the people came to Moses, and said, "**We have sinned**, for we have spoken against the Lord and against you; pray to the Lord that He take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people.

⁸Then the Lord said to Moses, "Make a fiery *serpent*, and set it on a pole; and it shall be that everyone who is bitten, when he looks at it, shall live."⁹ So Moses made a **bronze serpent, and put it on a pole**; and so it was, **if a serpent had bitten anyone, when he looked at the bronze serpent, he lived.**

- REBELLION (SIN) against God.
- LEADS TO DEATH (bitten by serpents)
- GOD PROVIDES A WAY TO LIVE (looking at the Bronze serpent)

CONTEXT & BACKGROUND: of Jesus' discussion with Nicodemus.

- Jesus must be lifted up on a cross, in a world dying of sin and rebellion against God.
- Jesus on the cross is God's plan to save the world, and bring life to it.

SIN, RIGHTEOUSNESS & JUDGEMENT

God made mankind in His image to have a relationship and covenant with us.

The fall of man and sin cause a separation between God and man (Adam)

- We are sinners by BIRTH and ACTION

SINNERS BY BIRTH (INHERITED SIN)

- Result of the fall of man (Adam & Eve in the garden)

Romans 5 v 12: Therefore, just as **through one man sin entered the world**, and **death through sin**, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned.....

Romans 5 v 19: For as by **one man's disobedience many were made sinners**, so also by one Man's obedience many will be made righteous.

Psalms 51 v 5: Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, And in sin my mother conceived me. (Born sinfill)

SINNERS BY ACTION

Romans 3 v 10: There is **none righteous, no, not one....**

Romans 3 v 23: for **all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God....**

SIN IS REVEALED BY THE LAW

Because God is holy, He gave us commandments to live holy before Him. (Ex 20 v 1)

Exodus 20 – Ten Commandments (Moral Law):

And God spoke all these words, saying: ²“*I am* the LORD your God.....(1) **“You shall have no other gods before Me. (*worship nothing else*).**

(2)⁴“**You shall not make for yourself a carved image (*idols*)**—any likeness of *anything* that is in heaven above, or that *is* in the earth beneath, or that *is* in the water under the earth; ⁵you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the LORD your God, *am* a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth *generations* of those who hate Me, ⁶but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.

(3) ⁷“**You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain (*blasphemy*)**, for the LORD will not hold *him* guiltless who takes His name in vain.

(4) ⁸“**Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.** ⁹Six days you shall labor and do all your work, ¹⁰but the seventh day *is* the Sabbath of the LORD your God. *In it* you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who *is* within your gates. ¹¹For *in* six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that *is* in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.

(5) ¹²“**Honor your father and your mother**, that your days may be long upon the land which the LORD your God is giving you.

(6) ¹³“**You shall not murder.** (*Jesus – if you hate your brother, angry without cause... – Mat 5 v 21*)

(7) ¹⁴“**You shall not commit adultery.** (*Jesus – If you look at a woman with lust... – Mat 5 v 28*)

(8) ¹⁵“**You shall not steal.**

(9) ¹⁶ **“You shall not bear false witness (*Lying*)** against your neighbor.

(10) ¹⁷ **“You shall not covet (*desire, envy, long for*)** your neighbor’s house; you shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, nor his male servant, nor his female servant, nor his ox, nor his donkey, nor anything that *is* your neighbor’s.

- 613 laws in the Old Testament (Torah)
- If you break one of these commandments, you break them all (James 2 v 10)

Romans 3 v 19: Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, that every mouth may be stopped, and **all the world may become guilty before God.** ²⁰ Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law *is* the **knowledge of sin.**

Galatians 3 v 24: Therefore the law was our **tutor to bring us to Christ**, that we might be **justified by faith.** ²⁵ But after faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor.

SIN SEPERATES US FROM GOD

- God is Holy, therefore sin cannot be in His presence.

Isaiah 59 v 2: But your iniquities have **separated you from your God;** And your sins have hidden *His* face from you....

SIN WILL BE JUDGED & CARRIES A PENALTY – DEATH

Romans 6 v 23: For the **wages (payment) of sin is death,**

James 1 v 15:sin....brings forth death.

Romans 1 v 18: For the **wrath of God** is revealed from heaven against all **ungodliness** and **unrighteousness** of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness....

2 Tess 1 v 7 - The Day of the Lord.... when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, ⁸ in flaming fire taking **vengeance** on those **who do not know God**, and on those **who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.** These shall be **punished with everlasting destruction** from the **presence of the Lord** and from the glory of His power, ¹⁰ when He comes, in that Day, to be glorified in His saints and to be admired among all those who believe....

WE CANNOT SAVE OURSELVES

Isaiah 64 v 6: But we are all like an unclean *thing*, And all **our righteousneses** *are* like filthy rags.....

Galatians 2 v 16:for by the **works of the law** no flesh shall be justified.

Galatians 3 v 11: But that no one is justified by the law in the sight of God....

Psalm 51 v 6: For You do not desire **sacrifice**, or else I would give *it*; You do not delight in burnt **offering**. ¹⁷ The sacrifices of God *are* a broken spirit, A broken and a contrite heart— These, O God, You will not despise.

THE GOOD NEWS – GOSPEL: JESUS CAME TO PAY THE PRICE

(LOVE, GRACE, MERCY part of the Gospel)

Romans 5 v 8: But God demonstrates His own **love toward us**, in that **while we were still sinners, Christ died for us**.

God's Plan: To sent His Son (Jesus), to take the punishment for your sin upon Himself

John 3 v 16: For **God so loved** the world that **He gave** His only begotten **Son**, that **whoever believes in Him** should not perish but have **everlasting life**.

- The Son of God, Who is also God (John 1 v 1), came to earth as a man (John 1 v 14)

Jesus did not inherit the sin nature from Adam

- Born of a virgin woman, conceived by the Holy Spirit of God (Luke 1 v 27, 35)

Jesus lived a completely sinless live here on earth

- Went through all the trials, tribulations, and temptation that we go through – never sinned (Hebrews 4 v 15)

THEREFORE, He was the perfect, blameless, holy sacrifice for your sin.

1 Peter 2 v 21-24:who Himself (*Jesus*) **bore our sins** in His own body on the tree....

Jesus took our sins upon Himself – God punished Jesus on a cross. Poured out His wrath and judgement on Jesus. For you and me.

Isaiah 53 v 1

⁴ Surely He has borne our griefs

And carried our sorrows;

Yet we esteemed Him stricken,

Smitten by God, and afflicted.

⁵ But He *was* wounded for our transgressions,

He was bruised for our iniquities;

The chastisement for our peace *was* upon Him,

And by His stripes we are healed.

⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray;

We have turned, every one, to his own way;

And the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

The Blood of Jesus – spilled on the cross

- We have **redemption** through His blood, the **forgiveness of sins**. (Col 1 v 14, Eph 1 v 7)
- Through Jesus we are **reconciled** to Father God, having made **peace** through the blood of His cross. (Col 1 v19)
- The church of God which He **purchased** with His own blood. (Acts 20 v 28)
- The blood of Jesus Christ His Son **cleanses us from all sin**. (1 John 1 v 7)
- having now been **justified** by His blood (Rom 5 v 9)

Romans 3 v 23:for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴being **justified freely** by His **grace** through the **redemption** that is in Christ Jesus,..... **by His blood**, through faith, to demonstrate **His righteousness**, because in His forbearance **God had passed over the sins** that were previously committed, ²⁶to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

1 Peter 1 v 18:you were not **redeemed** with corruptible things, *like* silver or gold, from your aimless conduct *received* by tradition from your fathers, ¹⁹but with the **precious blood of Christ**, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.

Jesus is the only mediator between God and man (1 Tim 2 v 5)

- He is the **way, the truth, and life**. No one comes to the Father except through Him (John 14 v 6)
- There is **no other name** under heaven given among men by which we must be saved (Acts 4 v 12)

That is the good news, the Gospel message

- Jesus was delivered up (died) because of our offenses (sin), and was raised because of our justification. (Romans 4 v 25)
- Jesus died once for all, the innocent for the guilty, to bring you to God (1 Peter 3 v 18)

2 Cor 5 v 21: For He (*God*) made Him (*Jesus*) who knew no sin *to be* sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

HOW DO WE SHARE IN THIS VICTORY OVER SIN AND DEATH?

RESPOND

On the cross Jesus accomplished victory over sin and death. Now we can share in this victory with Him.

1) Repentance of our sins, 2) putting our faith in Jesus for salvation (Calling on His name)

Acts 20 v 21 – Paul exhorting the elders: ...to (1) **repent toward God** and have (2) **faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ**.

Mark 1 v 15: Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. (1) **Repent**, and (2) **believe in the gospel.**”

REPENT

- Recognise our sinfulness.
- Change our mind, and lives.
- Decision to live according to God’s will for His chosen children.

1 John 1 v 9: But if we **confess our sins** to him, he is faithful and just to **forgive us our sins** and to **cleanse us from all wickedness**.

Psalm 103 v 10: He does not punish us for all our sins; he does not deal harshly with us, as we deserve. ¹¹ For **his unfailing love toward those who fear him** is as great as the height of the heavens above the earth. ¹² He has **removed our sins** as far from us as the **east is from the west**.

FAITH

- Put your trust in Jesus for salvation.

Ephesians 2 v 8: For by grace you have been **saved through faith**, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God.

Romans 10 v 9,10,13:if you **confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus** and **believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.** ¹⁰ For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation..... ¹³ For “**whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.**”

- **John 6 v 47:** Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me has **everlasting life**.
- **John 1 v 12:** But as many as **received Him**, to them He gave the right to **become children of God**, to those who believe in His name....
- **John 3 v 36:** He who believes in the Son has **everlasting life**; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.”
- Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved....”(Acts 16 v 31)

CALL THEM TO RESPOND

THE PROMISE - JESUS WILL MAKE YOU NEW

2 Corinthians 5 v 17: ¹⁷Therefore, if anyone *is in Christ*, *he is a new creation; old things have passed away*; behold, **all things have become new.** ¹⁸Now all things *are* of God, who has **reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ**

JESUS' EXHALTATION AS RESULT OF HIS WORK ON THE CROSS

Philippians 2 v 6: (*Jesus*) who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God,⁷ but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, *and* coming in the likeness of men.⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to *the point of* death, even the death of the cross.⁹ Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name,¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth,¹¹ and *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ *is* Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

AMEN