

Thoughts from Pastor Rodney

April 10, 2020

Good Friday

Today I sit and reflect on the phrase “Good Friday”. Most people know this day commemorates a day of suffering and death for Jesus. Christians celebrate it as a pivotal point in the most momentous weekend in history. It is the fulfillment of one of the first prophecies in the Bible.

Genesis 3:14-15 - So the Lord God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, “Cursed are you above all the livestock and all the wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life. And I will put enmity between you and the woman and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head and you will strike his heel.”

Surely the day of Jesus’ crucifixion was a day that Satan saw as a victorious strike against God’s desire for relationship with his creation. But as Joseph told his brothers who had sold him into slavery:

Genesis 50:20 - You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.

The very day that Satan intended to forever harm our relationship with God, the very day that was intended to cripple any hope by which we could approach a Holy God, that day began a path which was paved with the blood of Jesus Christ whereby we may approach the very presence of God. Jesus suffered, bled and died. Jesus conquered death, the grave and hell (all of which intend to separate us from God). And ***God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.***



Acts 2:23-24 - This man (Jesus) was handed over to you by God's set purpose and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross. But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him.

2 Corinthians 5:21 - God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Jesus, the only entirely righteous one, took our sin upon himself and endured the punishment we deserve. When this marvelous exchange was made at Calvary, Jesus made it possible for us to receive his righteousness and thereby be reconciled to God. This was all part of God's plan to give us the opportunity to freely accept his grace and have eternal relationship with him. It was all done for us.

Isaiah 53:4-6 - Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

Romans 5:8 - But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

The events of Jesus' crucifixion are certainly horrible. His suffering and death absolutely deem this to be a bad day. However, when we consider that God intended it for good, for the saving of many lives, when we consider that it was God's plan for Jesus to conquer all the things that try to separate us from him, when we consider that Jesus died and rose again for us, when we accept this right path that Jesus has made for us to be reconciled to God, we must affirm that this is Good Friday. It is good that Jesus did this for us.



I want us to take a moment and look at Matthew's writing about the crucifixion. When I read it, I have to keep reminding myself of the part that I played in Jesus' death. My sinfulness did all the detestable acts that I read about. Yet Jesus died, for me. We all played a part in his crucifixion, yet he died for us.

Matthew 27:27-31 - Then the governor's soldiers took Jesus into the praetorium and gathered the whole company of soldiers around him (for us). They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him (for us), and then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on his head (for us). They put a staff in his right hand and knelt in front of him (for us) and mocked him (for us). "Hail, king of the Jews!" they said (for us). They spit on him (for us) and took the staff and struck him on the head again and again (for us). After they had mocked him (for us), they took off the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him (for us).

Matthew 27:45-46 & 50 - From the sixth hour until the ninth hour darkness came over all the land. About the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?" -- which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" (for us)...And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, he gave up his spirit (for us).

The "Good" of Good Friday is only experienced in the hearts of those who receive the good grace of Jesus Christ. He made a way for us to be reconciled to God. Trust His love today. Accept the grace He gives to us.

Blessed Good Friday to all,

Pastor Rodney

