

## Good Friday 2010 – What’s So *Good* About Good Friday?

It’s likely at one time or another, that you’ve asked the question – What’s so good about Good Friday?

**What’s so good about Good Friday?** It’s a legitimate question

B/c from Christ’s perspective it was bad – very bad

Bad physically, bad emotionally, and bad spiritually

- *Physically*, b/c crucifixion was one of the worst forms of death ever invented  
So bad, that the Romans wouldn’t allow it as a punishment for one of their own  
So bad, that a person often died a slow, agonizing death of suffocation due to exhaustion  
That’s if they didn’t first die of shock, blood loss, or dehydration

Which was especially the case after a severe flogging like the one Jesus endured  
Meant to not only increase his suffering *before* the cross, but speed his death *on* the cross  
And don’t forget the crown of thorns and plucking of his beard  
No, physically speaking, Good Friday was a bad one Jesus

- The same is true *emotionally* – it was bad emotionally  
B/c God the Father made him the object of his wrath, and *forsook* him  
“*My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?*” he said  
Which comes from Ps 22, where David continues – *Why are you so far from saving me, from the words of my groaning?*

From all eternity, Jesus had enjoyed perfect, unbroken fellowship with the Father  
But now, in a matter of hours, it was gone  
Which made GF very bad for Jesus – emotionally devastating

Bad physically; Bad emotionally; And third – it was bad *spiritually*  
B/c Jesus, the holy, sinless, pure, perfect Son of God – took on our sin  
God in the flesh took on our sin  
**1 Pet 2:24** – *He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree*  
That would be like a clean freak, having to live in a pig pen – forever  
It was spiritually repulsive

- So what’s so good about GF then? (**title slide**)  
Well, from Christ’s perspective, not much; But from ours – a lot  
As bad as it was for Jesus, it was good for us

Good b/c . . .

1. It was the greatest act of *love* in the history of mankind  
**Rom 5:8** – *God shows his love toward us in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*  
That’s love; Sacrificial, undeserved love
2. It’s the point at which Christ became our *substitute*  
Taking on our sins  
Canceling our debt – **Col 2:14** says [He canceled] *the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross.*  
And dying in our place, the death we deserved

Paul says in Romans that the wages of sin is death; And, all have sinned  
Therefore, all deserve to die – to be separated from God, in hell, forever  
But at GF, Christ took our place in that – *Christ died for us* (Rom 5:8) \*\*\*\*\*

3. It’s the means by which Jesus *appeased God’s wrath* toward us  
You can’t understand GF unless you first understand that God is a holy god who hates sin and rebellion – it makes him righteously angry  
And he’s also a just God who requires payment for sin, and failure, and rebellion

So Jesus incurred God’s wrath in our stead, so we wouldn’t have to  
And better yet, he appeased it – that’s what the word propitiation means in the Bible  
Like in **1 Jn 2:2** where it says – *He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.*  
Jesus was the appeasement of God’s wrath for our sins – sins that make him righteously angry  
That’s what’s good about GF \*\*\*\*\*

4. It’s the way in which he relieved our *condemnation*  
B/c Christ died in our place, we no longer face God’s condemnation  
His formal pronouncement of guilt  
**Rom 8:1** says – *There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.*  
That is – those who know him, and trust him by faith, and in a relationship with him

5. It’s the means by which we received God’s righteousness  
**2 Cor 5:21** – *For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.*  
GF’s good b/c at the cross we received God’s righteousness

6. It’s the manner in which we are reconciled to the Father  
**1 Pet 3:18** – *For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God*  
**2 Cor 5:19** – *In Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them*  
GF is good b/c that’s how Jesus reconciled us to the Father

7. Without it we’d be lost  
Like **Is 53:6** said in the scroll at the beginning of the service – *All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned – every one – to his own way*  
And the Psalmist in Ps 119, last verse – *I have gone astray like a lost sheep*  
Without the blood of Christ shed for the forgiveness of sins on that first GF, we’re lost

8. It’s the means by which our sins are forgiven  
**Eph 1:7** – *In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses*  
In Christ, in a saving relationship w/ him – where he’s in u and you’re in him, as one . . .  
You’re forgiven of your sins, and rescued from their grip – forgiven and redeemed

That’s what’s so good about GF

It was the greatest act of love in the history of mankind (**Video – It Wasn’t The Nails**)

The greatest act of love in the history of mankind

An act of substitution, and propitiation, and reconciliation, and justification, and redemption – that's called salvation

GF's good b/c that's when Jesus secured the salvation of those who want it

Those who love him, and trust him, and live for him

- I trust that's true of you

And if it is, you join us in sharing communion

To remember and thank him for enduring all that was *bad*, so we can enjoy all that's *good*