

Remember
Good Friday 2026

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First Readings (Galatians 5:19-21; Romans 3:9-12; Ephesians 2:1-3; Romans 1:28-32)

Good Friday, is a good time to remember all that. After all, that's one of the purposes of a Good Friday service. To remember what Christ *did* on our behalf, in light of all that. In light of what we've done. What we've done and what we deserve.

To that end, I want to remind you of 8 truths. 5 very sobering ones, and 3 glorious truths.

Here's the first; starting with the sobering:

1. We've all sinned (Romans 3:23a)

Romans 3:23 says – *All have sinned.* (ESV) All. Meaning, we've all “missed the mark.” God's mark of righteousness. We've all done *wrong* things, and we've failed to do right things. All of us.

Countless wrong things. Untold sinful things. We've all taken part in the *unfruitful works of darkness* as Paul says it. (Ephesians 5:11) Every single one of us. Every single one of us has sinned.

Which means . . .

2. We're all sinners (Romans 5:19)

That's the second sobering truth. We're all sinful sinners. (A) Because we're all guilty of sin. (B) Because we're all prone to sin. And (C) Because we were born in sin.

(A) That we're guilty of sin, the first reason we're sinners, is indisputable. Self-evident. We need only take a snapshot of our week. Any week.

We're guilty of sin, and (B) we're prone to sin. Just like the Apostle Paul. **Romans 7:19** – *For I do not do the good I want [he says], but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing.* He was a sinner because he was prone to sin. And so are we.

And (C) we're born in sin. Not because our mom and dad sinned in conceiving us necessarily, but because they were sinners. Descended from Adam as the *original* Father of sin.

And **Romans 5:19** says, *referring* to Adam – *By the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners.* (19a) Automatically. His sin nature becoming our sin nature. Born that way.

So no matter how you slice it, we're all sinners. It's a sobering truth.

And as sinners . . .

3. We all fall short (Romans 3:23b)

Lest you agree that you sin as a sinner but think you're not that bad, think again. Because the Bible also says we all *fall short of the glory of God.* (Romans 3:23) Short. And not just barely short, but infinitely.

We fall *infinitely* short of God's perfection and righteousness. Infinitely short of his

holiness. Infinitely short of his glory. Because it's all infinitely high.

Which means no matter how good you are, it's all for naught. Another sobering truth that makes Good Friday, well, infinitely good. And worth remembering.

4. We were all dead (Ephesians 2:1)

Were all dead. Referring to those who are *now* in Christ. Those who have been saved by grace through faith. Those who haven't, still are. They *are* dead.

If that's you, if you've never surrendered your life to the Lordship of Jesus Christ, it's a truth worth knowing. That you're dead. And I hope God uses it get your attention and bring you to end of yourself. Before you're dead physically just like you're dead spiritually. And it's too late to be raised.

For the rest, for those who are saved, it's a truth worth remembering. That we too were dead. That apart from Christ, still in our sin and sinfulness, we weren't just short of his *glory*, we were lifeless.

Just like the Scripture that was read. *You were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked.* (Ephesians 2:1) Without life and unresponsive. Not physically of course, but spiritually. The most *important* part of our lives. The eternal part.

Before God saved us, we were dead and helpless. *Unable* to live. Unable to do *anything* about it. You may not have thought of yourself that way, but that's the truth.

And it's worth remembering. Especially on Good Friday. Because it makes us all the more thankful for Jesus. For what he did to give us life.

And 5th, the last sobering truth:

5. We were all doomed (Romans 6:23)

As in condemned. *For the wages of sin is death* the Bible says. Not ceasing to exist, but death in the sense of judgment and suffering. *For those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth [it says], but obey unrighteousness, there will be wrath and fury.* (Romans 2:8) Wrath and fury in the fires of hell.

That's doom. That's condemnation. And that's what every single one of us was facing *apart* from Christ. Apart from his gracious act to save us when we believed.

5 truths worth remembering. To heighten our appreciation for what Jesus did, and increase our devotion to all that he's doing. Never forget.

Song (*O Sacred Head Now Wounde.*)

Second Readings (Ephesians 2:1-3 recap; Ephesians 2:4-7; Romans 5:6-10)

We've all sinned, we all fell short, and we were all doomed.

6. But God loves us (1 John 4:9-10)

Remember that as well. On Good Friday and every Friday. Every day.

God loves you. That's why he gave his only Son, John 3:16. That's why he made us alive,

Ephesians 2:4; *because of the great love with which he loved us*. That's why Christ died for us; even while we were still sinners. Did you hear it? He loves us.

And **1 John 4:9-10** says – *In this the love of God was made manifest among us* [apparent for all], *that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him*. . . . *he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins*. The appeasement of God's wrath for our sin.

He loves us *that* much. Enough to endure the cross and despise its shame. (Hebrews 12:2) Enough to endure the infinite wrath of his Father.

God loves you. God loves you. It's all over the Bible; explicitly *and* implied. And it's not only *worth* remembering, but critical. Otherwise we'll crumble in a heap of self-pity and self-destruction. Thinking nobody cares and nobody knows.

But *he* does. And he loves us. So much, that if the sky were a scroll and the ocean ink, we couldn't write enough about it. You know the **hymn**? Or the old Jewish poem from which this verse was adapted?

*Could we with ink the ocean fill, And were the skies of parchment made,
Were every stalk on earth a quill, And every man a scribe by trade;
To write the love of God above, Would drain the ocean dry.
Nor could the scroll contain the whole, Tho' stretched from sky to sky.
O love of God, how rich and pure! How measureless and strong!
It shall forevermore endure—The saints' and angels' song.*
(*The Love of God* by Frederick M. Lehman)

We were dead and doomed in our trespasses and sins, but God loves us. Never forget. Make it your song.

And never forget that Christ died for us. God loves us . . .

7. And Christ died for us (1 Peter 2:24)

Remember that of *all* things! The main event of Good Friday. Christ died for you. *He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree*. (1 Peter 2:24) He took our sins on himself and *in* himself, *in his body*, and paid the penalty for them. The penalty of death.

Because that's what God requires for rebellion and disobedience in the face of his holiness. Anything else and he wouldn't be God. He wouldn't be just.

Christ died for us. Think of it! The godly for the ungodly. *For one will scarcely die for a righteous person* [hypothetically speaking] . . . *but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us*. (Romans 5:7-8) Sinners.

He the sin-less, for us the sin-full. He the infinite, for us the finite. He the high, for us the low. He the amazing, for us the common. He the just, for us the unjust. He the King, for us the criminal. Never forget.

And never forget that Christ died *for* our sin, that we would die *to* our sin.

1 Peter 2:24 again. *He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree* [he died for us], *that*

we might die to sin and live to righteousness. He died for us, that we might die to *sin*. Forsake our sin. Turn from our sin. Renounce it. Repent of it.

And what's more, he died that we might live to righteousness. Pursue holiness. Grow in godliness. Never forget.

And last, remember that he died . . .

8. To save us and keep us (John 6:40)

For this is the will of my Father [Jesus said], *that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day*. John 6:40.

I give them eternal life [he said], *and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand*. (John 10:28)

Those whom Jesus saves, Jesus keeps. Completely forgiven, perfectly justified, fully alive, and forever his. Saved by grace, raised from the dead, sealed with the Spirit, and prepared for heaven. Complete with an invitation to The Marriage Supper of the Lamb. That day when we all get to heaven, and remember everything.

Never forget. We were dead and doomed, but God.

Prayer – Father, how thankful we are. How grateful. How humbled. That you, in your grace and mercy, saved us in our sin and death. Saved us and raised us. “Amazing love. How can it be? That you my God, should die for me.” May we never forget. In Jesus' name, amen.

The Lord's Table

Songs (*Remembrance. There Is A Fountain*)

The Bread and Cup

The Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, [24] and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, “This is my body which is for you. (1 Cor 11:23)

Representing the death of Jesus for our sin, and his sustenance for life – *Do this* [he said] *in remembrance of me*.

In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood (1 Cor 11:25). This cup and what it contains, is symbolic of God's promise of salvation, the New Covenant, bought and guaranteed by the blood of Jesus. His death, for our life.

Do this [he said], *as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.*”

Close

2 Thessalonians 2:16-17 – [16] *Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God our Father, who loved us and gave us eternal comfort and good hope through grace, [17] comfort your hearts and establish them in every good work and word.*

You Are Loved