

Heartbeat

INDIAN HILLS COMMUNITY CHURCH

April 16, 2017

It happened on the Jewish festival called Passover. Jesus was arrested in the garden where He had been praying. The disciples were afraid and fled. Later, even Peter denied knowing the Lord.

Jesus stood before the high priest and Sanhedrin. He was beaten, mocked, and spit upon. Roman soldiers flogged Him with a multi-thong whip, embedded with bits of bone, glass and metal, which tore at His flesh.

A crown of thorns was beat into His brow. He walked to Calvary, the cross heavy on His back. Blood dripping from His body, He stumbled beneath the load.

Roman soldiers drove nails into His feet and hands. Crucified between two thieves, Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."

His body hung on the cross while those passing by sneered and mocked Him.

The sky grew dark, the earth trembled, and He who knew no sin became sin for us. Holy God who will not abide with sin, poured His wrath on His Son, the perfect sacrificial lamb, who cried out, "My God, My God. Why have you forsaken me?"

Knowing that all things had been accomplished to fulfill Scripture, Jesus said, "It is finished!" He bowed His head and gave up His spirit.

Jesus the Christ, the Lord of glory, the only begotten Son of God, the only perfect man, died on the cross of Calvary. At the moment of His death, the veil of the Temple separating sinful man from Holy God was torn from the top to the bottom.

Satan must have thought he was victorious and that he had destroyed the Son of God.

But God wasn't finished yet.

It was dawn on the first day of the week. Women came to prepare Jesus' body and discovered that an angel of the Lord had rolled away the stone and sat upon it. The guards posted at the tomb to keep the body from disappearing shook from fear and became like dead men.

The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid. I know that you are looking for Jesus who has been crucified. He is not here, for He has risen, just as He said.

The lamb that was silent before the slaughter is now the resurrected lion from the tribe of Judah. The crucified/resurrected Christ defeated death, sin and the grave.

God's grace is poured out on all who look to the crucified lamb of Calvary. Grace is freely given to all who believe Jesus died on the cross to pay the penalty for sin, was buried and then rose from the dead. Jesus is alive!

Christ Died for Our Sins According to the Scriptures

Gil Rugh

The first and most important fact of the gospel Paul preached was that “Christ died for our sins” (1 Cor. 15:3). The reality and purpose of His death are stated clearly over and over in Paul’s epistles.

Christ’s death for our sins is the most basic fact of the gospel. But, you say, millions of people have died throughout history. In fact, every person who has ever lived has died or will die, with just a few exceptions. Many also were crucified.

On the day Christ died on the cross, two other men were crucified, one on each side of Him. What, then, is significant about the death of Christ? Simply, it is that He died for our sins.

We call this concept “substitutionary atonement.” Christ died instead of us. He didn’t die for Himself; He died in our place, as our substitute, to atone for our sins and allow us to enter into a right relationship with a holy God.

The death of Christ as our substitute is the heart of the gospel. It’s not just that He died, but that He died for our sins.

The first thing Jesus said regarding the ministry of the Holy Spirit was that He would convict

the world of sin (John 16:8). As a result, we are able to recognize that we are sinners, and can in turn comprehend our need for Christ to die in our place to pay our penalty. “He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross” (1 Pet. 2:24). In short, He died for our sins.

Multitudes of people think they are saved because they go to church and do good works. Unfortunately, they just don’t understand the fundamental truth that “all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Rom. 3:23). They also don’t understand that someone has to die because the penalty for sin is death (see Rom. 6:23). “Without shedding of blood there is no forgiveness” (Heb. 9:22). This is why Jesus Christ came and died.

The following passages focus on Christ’s substitutionary atonement.

2 Corinthians 5:14: “For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this that one died for all, therefore all died.” This verse obviously talks about a substitutionary death—Christ died for us.

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.” Jesus Christ came to pay the penalty for your sin. Until you

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come to grips with the fact that you are a sinner, separated from God and under His condemnation, you cannot be saved. The penalty for your sin is not church membership, baptism or anything else. It is death.

Galatians 1:4: The Lord Jesus Christ is the One “who gave Himself for our sins so that He might rescue us from this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father.” He gave Himself for our sins; He paid the penalty and provided atonement.

Galatians 3:13: “Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law.” How did He do it? By “having become a curse for us—for it is written, cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree.” He came under the condemnation of sin. He became a curse and took the judgment that was due us by paying our penalty.

Romans 5:6-8: “For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will hardly die for a righteous man; though perhaps for the good man someone would dare even to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.” This is the amazing message of the gospel in a nutshell—Christ died for us.

After stating that “Christ died for our sins” in 1 Corinthians 15:3,

Paul goes on to say that this was “according to the Scriptures.” Paul was not referring to any particular Scripture, but to all the Old Testament Scriptures that emphasize God providing a Savior who would die and pay the penalty for sin.

Earlier in this letter, Paul alluded to one such Old Testament passage when he said, “For Christ our Passover also has been sacrificed” (1 Cor. 5:7). The death of Christ was our Passover lamb being sacrificed.

The concept of a Passover lamb refers back to the Old Testament Book of Exodus. The nation Israel was in bondage in Egypt, and God was going to slay the firstborn of every family in Egypt. He told the Jews to kill a lamb, and put the blood of that lamb over the doorposts and on the lintel of the house.

Later that night, when He went to slay the firstborn, if He saw blood on the doorposts and lintel of a home, He would pass over it. He would accept that blood as an indication that a death had occurred to take the place of that family’s firstborn (see Ex. 12).

This event foreshadows the time when God would provide His Son as our Passover lamb. When John the Baptist introduced Jesus to the nation Israel, he said, “Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!” (John 1:29). His

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announcement declared that Jesus is the ultimate sacrificial lamb, the only One who can pay the penalty for sin. Therefore, all the sacrifices of the Old Testament looked forward to the coming of Christ.

The theme of the Book of Hebrews is the superiority of Christ in replacing all the Old Testament systems, sacrifices and ceremonies. The Old Testament sacrifices, under the Law, were a reminder of sin year by year (Heb. 10:3). Hebrews 10:4 says, “For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.”

Clearly the problem with the sacrifice of animals was that they couldn’t take away sin.

Because of this, the next verse states: “Sacrifice and offering you have not desired, but a body you

have prepared for me” (Heb. 10:5). The writer, in a fitting summary, explained that Jesus Christ was born into the human race so that He could bear the sins that the animals could not. He is our Passover Lamb.

Lastly, in Isaiah 53:11, the prophet wrote, “By His knowledge the Righteous One, My Servant, will justify the many, as He will bear their iniquities.”

Then, note the second half of verse 12: “He poured out Himself to death, and was numbered with the transgressors; yet He Himself bore the sin of many, and interceded for the transgressors.”

The purpose of Jesus’ death could not be any clearer. The message resounds throughout the Old and New Testament. He died in our place to provide atonement and forgiveness and pay the penalty for our sins once and for all.



March Report

Print Media Distributed:
147 booklets

Audio Media Outreach

Sermon Audio:
1959 downloads & streams

Let us be good stewards
of the Lord’s blessings

No Food or Drink

in the Auditorium or
Chapel

The Precious Blood of Jesus

“If you address as Father the One who impartially judges according to each one’s work, conduct yourselves in fear during the time of your stay on earth; knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ. For He was foreknown before the foundation of the world, but has appeared in these last times for the sake of you who through Him are believers in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God” (1 Peter 1:17-21).

While many have erased all mention of Jesus’ blood from their Good Friday and Easter worship services—substituting baby chicks, rabbits and the birth of spring—the **Scriptures clearly show that the shedding of blood is essential for salvation.** Without Jesus’ precious blood, we would have to pay our sin penalty ourselves, and the penalty for sin is eternal punishment in hell.

However, God sent His beloved Son to pay the penalty for our sins. Our sins were placed on

Jesus’ body and it pleased God to pour out His wrath on our sinner. Through faith in Jesus’ sacrifice we are forgiven and brought into God’s family.

The story of death, forgiveness, and reconciliation is woven throughout the Old and New Testament.

It should not surprise us that God designed His plan of salvation so that anyone could understand the connection between shed blood and forgiveness of sin.

God wanted all people to know that sin brought terrible consequences and resulted in death. He gave detailed instructions for offering a perfect animal sacrifice so that His holiness would be satisfied.

Whenever God’s people brought a lamb or a pair of doves to the temple to be sacrificed, they were reminded that “the wages of sin is death” (Rom. 6:23).

Out of His great love for us, God provided a graphic solution to our sin problem. Therefore, we must not be squeamish about explaining what happened at Golgotha. “Jesus shed His blood for you” is an accurate and powerful statement. It is also the message God repeats throughout the Old and New Testaments.

“INRI”

The letters “INRI” are initials for the Latin title that Pontius Pilate wrote over the head of Jesus Christ on the cross (John 19:19). Latin was the official language of the Roman Empire.

The words were “Iesvs Nazarens Rex Iudaeorum.” Latin uses “I” instead of the English “J”, and “V” instead of “U” (i.e., Jesus Nazarenus Rex Iudaeorum). The English translation is “Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.”

The first letters of each word were adopted as a symbol ages ago. Throughout the centuries INRI has appeared in many paintings of the crucifixion.

By the way, Pilate’s title for Christ was actually written in three languages.

Pilate also wrote an inscription and put it on the cross. It was written, “JESUS THE NAZARENE, THE KING OF THE JEWS.” Therefore many of the Jews read this inscription, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, Latin and in Greek. So the chief priests of the Jews were saying to Pilate, “Do not write, ‘The King of the Jews’; but that He said, ‘I am King of the Jews.’” Pilate answered, “What I have written I have written.”

—John 19:19-22

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Bible Fellowship Hour

Children' Sunday School

Visit the Sunday school coordinator's desk for class locations.

Junior High (Grades 6-8)

Studying Acts
Team Taught
Cornerstone House

Senior High (Grades 9-12)

Topical Study
Team Taught
Room 1430

Alpha Omega (18-25)

Studying 1 Corinthians
Duane Nelsen Teaching
Room 2311

EDGE

Studying Philippians
Team Taught
Rooms 2211

Common Bonds

Studying Acts
Jim Mooberry Teaching
Room 1404

HIS

Studying Deuteronomy
Scott Bailey Teaching
Room 1423

LOGOS

Studying First Samuel
Greg Thomas Teaching
Room 1422

180° Fellowship

Studying Luke
Bill Cooley Teaching
Room 1100 (Chapel)

One Heart

Studying Matthew
Dick Bergt Teaching
Room 1112

LIFE

Studying Matthew
Jim Pelton Teaching
Room 1419

The Father Knows Best

Studying "Taking the Mystery Out of Revelation"
Don Goertzen Teaching
Room 1414

Prime Time (60+ retired)

Studying Genesis
Mike Voss Teaching
Room 1417

Classes begin at 8:45 a.m. but everyone is welcome to come at 8:30 a.m. for a cup of coffee and fellowship.

For more information about any of these classes, contact Duane Nelsen at 483-4541, visit the class, or stop by the information center in the south lobby.

Information Center

We would love to meet you! Please stop by and pick up your visitor/newcomer gift bag. We're located across from Sound Words.

"The Jews answered him [Pilate], "We have a law, and by that law He ought to die because He made Himself out to be the Son of God" (John 19:7).

Family News.

Birth. Seth and Amy Johnson are the parents of a boy, Elliott Hawthorne, born April 5, 2017. Great-grandparents are Walt and Mary Haynes.

Children's Studies

Sunday School. The children reviewed recent lessons.

Children's Church. The children reviewed recent lessons.

Information

Men's Breakfast will be held Saturday, May 6. Adam Flaugh will be speaking and rolls, donuts, and bagels are on the menu.

Plant Sale. Girls of Grace will be selling tomato, pepper, squash, melon and other plants on April 23, after morning and evening services. Proceeds go to camp.

VBS Teacher Training meeting on Sunday, May 7 from 4:00–5:30 p.m. All teachers should attend. We will go over the new curriculum, give instructions, and provide training. Meet in rooms 1101-1102.

VBS Workers Needed. If you would like to help with this year's VBS, call Kathleen Anderson, 402-483-4541. Workers are needed in all areas. Classroom teachers are especially needed.

Girls of Grace Camp Meeting. There will be a short meeting for all Girls of Grace Counselors and

Junior Counselors in rooms 2209-2210 (across from the Girls of Grace desk) on Sunday, April 23 at 5 p.m. Please call Jeff and Denise Harford, 402-540-6073, if you cannot attend.

Girls of Grace Camp will be held May 25-28 at Covenant Cedars Bible Camp near Hordville, NE. All girls currently in second through fifth grades are welcome. Cost is \$125. A registration table will be in the south lobby beginning Sunday, April 23. The firm deadline for registrations is May 7. Questions? Call Jeff and Denise Harford, 402-540-6073.

Titus Tuesday. Join us Tuesday, April 18, for a lesson with Sheila Abresch on *The Excuses of a Complaining Heart* followed by a discussion. The second hour Loree Westenburg will be teaching *Growing and Cooking with Herbs*.

Prescription Glasses are in the Lost & Found, room 2313. Many of the glasses are for children. If you are missing other items, be sure to stop by the Lost & Found in the Media Center.

Girls' Choir Spring Concert will be held Sunday, April 30 at 2 p.m. in the auditorium. The girls will be showcasing the work that they have done over the last year. The theme for the music is hymns, both old and new. Dessert reception immediately to follow.

Wednesday Night Study. Tom Price's fifth lesson on Roman Catholicism will be held Wednesday, April 19. The class will be a collection of topics, including purgatory, treasury of the saints, tradition, etc.

Please join us at 7:00 p.m. in the Bible Learning Center.

Gardening meets Wednesday at 1 p.m. If you'd like to help with the church flower gardens, we'd love your helping hands. Experience and green thumbs are not required. We provide the tools. Please come and enjoy the fresh air and fellowship. Meet in the south parking lot.

Girls of Grace camp registration will be held on April 23, April 30 and May 7, before and after each service. All registrations must be turned in by May 7. Camp is May 25–28.

Missionary Prayer group will meet on Wednesday, April 19 at 1:30 p.m. in the Lending Library. All women are invited to join us.

Creative Sewers will meet Tuesday, April 18, at 11:30 a.m. for lunch and sewing.

Substitute Nursery Workers are needed for all three services on Sunday. If you're available for one or all three services, call Stephanie Dowding, 402-416-9868, and she will put you on the list.

Cleaners are needed to vacuum an area of the church once every five weeks. If you would like to help, call Tami Coffin, 402-366-3490.

Branson Tour is November 7-10 and everyone is welcome. We will stay at the Honeysuckle Inn and see the Statler Brothers revisited, the Haygoods, the Hughes Brothers, and Pierce Arrow. For more information, call Sandy Rathe, 402-540-6614 (cell) or 402-484-5759 (home).

Nursery Workers are needed for the second hour. Please contact Cheryl Slade, 402-770-3055, if you would like to help.

Door 2 Door Evangelism (in the neighborhoods of Lincoln) meets each Monday at 6:15 p.m., weather permitting. Meet at the north entrance of IHCC (by the security desk). All are welcome to attend. If you've never been out before, we will pair you up with someone who has experience and you can learn by watching and listening.

Issues in Our Contemporary World meets Wednesdays at 7 p.m. Donald Goertzen is teaching on Eretz Israel. Everyone is welcome.

Nursing Home Ministry. The highest priority in the nursing home ministry is a teacher for Legacy Arbors on the fourth Sunday of the month, starting in April. There is also a need for a piano player for this service. Contact Tom Price at mathmanprice@gmail.com for more information.

Hospitalizations. Please call the church, 402-483-4541, and notify Pastor Aaron Nicholson or Curt Kuster of all hospitalizations and births.

Last Week's Message

April 9 AM. Gil Rugh. GR 1999. *Views of the Kingdom*. Revelation; Selected Verses

April 9 PM. Gil Rugh. GR 2081. The Gospel That Saves Stands Alone. Galatians 1:13-14

This Week's Events

Resurrection Sunday
Building closes at noon
No Sunday Night Church

Monday

Sisters 5:30 p.m.
Door 2 Door 6:15 p.m.

Tuesday

Creative Sewers 11:30 a.m.
Titus Tuesday 9:15 a.m.
Mansion Builders 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday

Missionary Prayer 1:30 p.m.
Girls' Choir 5:00 p.m.
Orchestra 6:00 p.m.
Awana 6:45 p.m.
Junior High 6:45 p.m.
No Choir
Issues . . . World 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday Night Study 7:00 p.m.
Mansion Builders 7:00 p.m.

Thursday

Alpha Omega Study 7:00 p.m.

Friday

Junior High Lip Sync
AO Spring Retreat

Saturday

AO Spring Retreat

Future Events

April 23

Plant Sale

April 28–30

Boys of Faith Spring Camp

April 30

Girls' Choir Spring Concert 2:00 p.m.

May 6

Men's Breakfast
Adam Flaugh Speaking

May 7

VBS Teacher Training 4:00–5:30

May 14

Boys of Faith Cookout

May 25–28

Girls of Grace Camp

May 29

Memorial Day (Offices Closed)

June 2–5

Girls' Choir Tour

June 12–16

Vacation Bible School

July 4

Independence Day (Offices Closed)

July 9–14

High School Camp

August 5–8

Boys of Faith Camp

August 9–12

Junior High School Camp

September 4

Labor Day (Offices Closed)

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