

Daily Devotions

Day 1: Everything Was Redeemed

Reading: Romans 8:18-21

When sin entered the world through Adam and Eve, it didn't just affect humanity—all of creation fell under the curse. The mountains, rivers, animals, and stars themselves groan under the weight of corruption. But here's the breathtaking truth: Jesus didn't just die for people; He died for everything. His blood on the cross paid the redemption price for the entire cosmos. The devil may have claimed temporary rulership over this broken world, but Jesus bought it all back. Every sunrise you witness, every flower that blooms, every star that shines—all point toward the day when creation will be fully restored. The cross wasn't just about saving souls; it was about reclaiming everything for God's glory. Today, look at the world around you with resurrection eyes, knowing redemption is coming.

Day 2: Everyone Was Included

Reading: 1 John 2:1-2; John 3:16-17

The scope of God's love defies human logic. We naturally want to limit grace, to create categories of who deserves salvation and who doesn't. But Scripture shatters our small thinking: Jesus tasted death for everyone. Not just the religious, the moral, or the seeking—everyone. He died for those who would reject Him, mock Him, and deny Him. He purchased even the false teachers who would twist His message. This isn't universalism—salvation still requires faith—but it is universal availability. The gift has been purchased and offered to every single person who has ever lived. No one is beyond the reach of His sacrifice. Who in your life seems too far gone, too hardened, too lost? Today, pray for them with renewed hope, knowing Jesus paid their price too.

Day 3: Faith Is the Access Point

Reading: Romans 4:13-16; Ephesians 2:8-9

We instinctively want to earn our salvation. We create mental checklists: attend church, read the Bible, serve others, behave morally. But the gospel demolishes our performance-based thinking. Salvation is a gift received by faith alone—not by good behavior, religious rituals, or moral superiority. Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness. That's it. Faith is simply the open hand that receives what Christ has already accomplished. You cannot buy this gift, earn it through effort, or charm your way into it. Stop striving and start believing. The work is finished. Jesus declared "It is finished" from the cross because the payment was complete. Your role isn't to add to His work but to trust in it. Today, rest in the finished work of Christ rather than your unfinished efforts.

Day 4: Sin Is No Longer the Issue

Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:17-21

Here's a truth that revolutionizes evangelism: God is no longer counting people's sins against them. The cross settled the sin problem once and for all. The barrier between humanity and God isn't sin anymore—it's unbelief. Jesus removed the sin obstacle; now faith is the only issue. This means when we share the gospel, we're not calling people to stop sinning first and then come to God. We're pleading with them to be reconciled to a Father who has already dealt with their sin through Christ. God has given us the ministry of reconciliation, making us ambassadors who announce the good news: "Come back to God!" The relationship is available now. Who needs to hear this message from you? Perhaps someone burdened by guilt, convinced their sins are too great? Today, be an ambassador who declares that reconciliation is freely offered.

Day 5: Remembering the Goodness

Reading: Luke 22:14-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper so we would never forget why that Friday was good. In the midst of His suffering, knowing full well what awaited Him, Jesus broke bread and said, "This is my body, given for you." He took the cup and said, "This is my blood, poured out for you." Every time we participate in communion, we proclaim His death until He returns. We remember that His broken body purchased our healing, His shed blood secured our forgiveness, and His sacrifice opened the way to eternal life. Good Friday is good because it accomplished everything necessary for our salvation. It's good because love triumphed over hatred, life conquered death, and grace defeated sin. As you reflect today, let gratitude fill your heart. The cross wasn't the end of the story—but it was the turning point of all history. Live today in the freedom His goodness purchased.

Deacons on Call

Danny Bell and John Gray

Weekly Events

- **Worship:** Sundays at 9:45 AM
- **Small Groups:** Sundays at 11 AM
- **Deep Dive:** Wednesdays at Noon and 6:45 PM
- **First Kids:** Wednesdays at 5:30
- **First Youth:** Wednesdays - MS 5:30 PM; HS 6:45 PM



A Very Good Friday

ROMANS 5:18

Christianity is the ultimate cross-cultural experience: our culture is built on the cross of Jesus Christ. What Jesus did at Calvary is absolutely essential to our faith. Today we will explore universal implications of the cross—of the Lamb who takes away the sin of the world.

1. Jesus paid for _____.

2. Jesus paid for _____.

3. Jesus provided the gift of salvation _____ of charge.

* Faith is the _____ into God's grace.

Scripture References (In order of use): Romans 8:20-21; Luke 4:5-8; Romans 5:18; 1 John 4:14; John 17:21; John 17:25; John 15:9; 1 John 2:1-2; Hebrews 2:9; 2 Peter 2:1; Romans 4:16; 2 Corinthians 5:18-20; John 3:16-17

Referenced Works: Addresses on the Gospel of Luke (H. A. Ironside); The Gospel According to Paul: Romans (Bob Utley); The Letter to Romans (William Barclay); The Message of Romans (John Stott)

Discussion Questions

1. What comes to mind when you hear "Good Friday"? Before hearing this sermon, did you ever wonder why we call it "good"?
2. Read Romans 5:18. Is there anything from the sermon you would like to discuss?
3. Read Luke 4:5-8. Why is it significant that Jesus didn't deny Satan's claim to rulership over the world? What does this tell us about the scope of Jesus' redemptive work?
4. The sermon states that Jesus died for "everyone," even those who reject Him (2 Peter 2:1). How does this truth challenge or expand your understanding of God's love?
5. If Jesus paid for everyone's sin, what does that mean for how we share the gospel? What is the real barrier keeping people from salvation?
6. How should the truth that "sin is no longer the issue—FAITH is the issue" shape our evangelistic conversations?
7. What are some ways people try to "earn" salvation? Why is it so hard for us to accept that it's truly free?
8. According to 2 Corinthians 5:18-20, what is our role as believers? How are you personally fulfilling this "task of reconciling people to Him"?
9. Why is the Lord's Supper so important?
10. Who are you inviting to church next week?

Practical Applications

- **Reflect Daily:** Spend 5 minutes each day this week meditating on John 3:16-17. Ask God to help you truly grasp the magnitude of His love for the world.
- **Share the Good News:** Identify one person in your "Oikos" (sphere of influence) and pray specifically for an opportunity to share why Friday was so good. Practice explaining the gospel simply, as Jesus did in John 3:16.
- **Examine Your Heart:** Are you trying to earn God's favor through good behavior? Journal about areas where you might be relying on works rather than resting in grace.