

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* (**Communion**)

In just a minute some of our staff and leaders are going to distribute the elements

Take a few minutes to get with the Lord – there's no hurry

And eventually, I'll lead us in taking the elements together

Let's pray

God, thank you for enduring the bad, so we could enjoy the good

It's bittersweet, and we feel conflicted

Bitter, as we remember your pain, and suffering, and separation from the Father

And sweet, as we rejoice in the benefits

Amazing love, how can it be, that you my God, would die for me?

- 1 Cor 11:23-24
Bread – representing the suffering he endured, on our behalf, so we wouldn't have to . .
Do this in remembrance of him

25 – This cup and what it contains is symbolic of the salvation, and propitiation, and reconciliation, and justification, and redemption . . .

That Christ's blood, Christ's life, bought and guaranteed – for you, and me

Do this, in remembrance of that, in remembrance of him

Thank you Lord for saving my soul; Thank you Lord for making me whole

Thank you Lord, for giving to me; Thy great salvation so rich and free

Worship – *Nothing But the Blood*

Close

Remember everything, and I'll see you this weekend