

Good Friday 2008 – Col 2:13-15

Eulogy of Jesus, newspaper style; Those are the facts

If that's all there is, the critics are right – he was just a man

A great man; A miracle worker; A man of great influence

But just a man – who lived, and breathed, and died just like the rest of us

Worse yet, we wouldn't have a prayer of living like he did “in lieu of flowers”

There would be no power and no strength, because there would be no Spirit

And we'd still be dead in our sin and sinful nature, with a contract on our life

- Fortunately, there's more to the story, found in passages like [Col 2:13-15](#)
Want to look at this to drive home some important truths about the cross on this GF

And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh

You who were helpless to do anything to remedy your sinful deeds and sinful nature

Notice he's talking to those who are saved because he says – *were* dead . . .

Having already established in the previous verse that all of this depends on our *faith in the powerful working of God* (12)

God made alive together with him – we've been given life through our identity with

Christ, and our relationship with him

Having forgiven us all our trespasses – having pardoned us and freed us from guilt, punishment, and the blame of our sin

By canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands.

Record of debt refers to a figurative list or record of your sins that condemn you (*stand against you*) and demand payment from you (*legal demands*)

Payment which we know to be death – *The wages of sin is death* (Rom 6:23)

Canceling literally means “wiping out or blotting out,” from the practice of washing ancient papyrus clean of its ink

God has forgiven our sins by washing our slate clean, relieving us of the consequences

How so? By just ignoring it? Looking the other way?

Compromising his perfect justice that a price has to be paid for every offense? Not at all

When God forgave you, instead of holding up your record of wrongs and shoving them in your face (which he very well could have done) . . .

He put them in the palm of his Son's hand and nailed them to the cross

That's what he means when he says . . .

This he set aside, nailing it to the cross.

God did away with your sin-debt, by placing it on his Son, and taking his life for it

What Paul says metaphorically, Peter says explicitly in 1 Pet 2:24 – *He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree*

In so doing . . .

He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.

In the death of Christ, God not only forgave your sins and canceled your debt . . .

But he stripped the spiritual forces of darkness of their ability to thwart his plans, and harm his people, including you

Which means, the unseen powers that dominate so much of life in our fallen world, need no longer be feared

The victory over them was won at the cross

And *greater is he who is in you, than he who is in the world*

At the cross . . .

Our sins were forgiven – never again to be counted against us

Our debt was cancelled – paid for in full by Jesus

Our protection was secured – we have nothing to fear

- There's no better time to revel in those truths, than at Good Friday
The time when we remember, reflect on, and even *ache* for the death that Jesus died
We're going to take some extra time to do that tonight

As we distribute the bread and cup – tangible reminders of all that Christ did and accomplished for us . . .

The bread – symbolic of his broken body and the suffering he endured on our behalf, both spiritual and physical . . .

The cup – symbolic of the blood he shed, the life he gave, to secure our salvation . . .

As we distribute them, remember the cross, and more importantly, Christ on the cross

And thank him for all he did and all he endured

Thank him for your life in him – without which you'd be dead

Thank him your forgiveness – without which you'd be doomed

Thank him for your protection – without which you'd be destroyed

It's about the cross tonight – and Christ on it

Just hang on to both the bread and the cup – we'll take them together

Pray (**Communion**; Servers at table)

Video

Bread

1 Pet 2:24 – *He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.*

Cup

Eph 1:7 – *In him we have redemption through his blood [we've been rescued from the throes of death, and restored to life], the forgiveness of our trespasses*

Pray

Thank you for the life we have in you – without which we'd be dead

Thank you for the forgiveness we find in you – without which we'd be doomed

Thank you for the protection we know in you – without which we'd be destroyed

We love you; We worship you

We're overwhelmed by what you accomplished, and we ache for what you endured

But so very thankful you did

Close

Fortunately, a eulogy is not where it ends

The rest of the story is yet to come