

Good Friday

“Every Day Is Good Friday for You.”

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In Nomine Iesu

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What would your life be like without Good Friday? What if you knew nothing about God the Father sending His only-begotten Son out of love for the fallen world? What if you didn't know that Jesus willingly went to the cross for you, carrying your sins, so that He might take the punishment you deserved? What if you didn't know you are righteous in God's sight because of what Jesus accomplished?

Your life would be very different. You would have nothing but this life in this world. You would have no clear purpose for why you are here, no obvious motivation for putting others before yourself, and no reason to conclude that your life matters in any meaningful way. You could spend your time trying to get rich, you could maneuver for power and influence, or you could try to satisfy whatever passions you have as much as you can. But none of that holds up when death is staring you right in the face.

Many people carry on without Good Friday. Either they have not heard, or having once heard, now they do not care. God forces no one to believe. He *“desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth”* (1Ti. 2:4). But many are not saved. They reject the holy Word of God. They reject the salvation Jesus won for them.

Because He did win their salvation. He suffered for each and every one of their sins. He endured the horrific fires of hell in their place. He paid their debt. Good Friday wasn't just for those who would believe in Him. It was for all people, all sinners past, present, and future.

What happened on Good Friday was a balancing of the scales of God's justice. All the sins of the world were put on one side of the scale, and Jesus was put on the other. How heavy those sins must have been! Who can measure the evil that has been done in the world since time began? How much killing and lying and cheating and taking? How many wicked actions and words? How many evil thoughts? The sin of one human being cannot be measured, much less the collective sins of the world.

And on the other side of the scale was Jesus. He looked so insignificant and small. By the time He came to Golgotha, He could hardly walk. He was bleeding all over His body. His face was bruised and swollen. His breathing was labored. How could this one weak Man do anything about the world's sin? Well it wasn't just a Man on the scale. It was God—God clothed in human flesh. A mere man—even a really good one—could not move the balance against one sin. But God could.

When the God-Man stepped on one side of the scale, the other side filled with all our sins started moving. It rose higher and higher until it was clear that Jesus was more than enough. He was sufficient payment for sin. But justice required more than the weight of His person. It

required His death. The Son of God had to die on the cross. This holy Lamb had to be sacrificed for all sin.

Think for a moment where God has placed you in this life. He has given you important things to do in your home, your school, your workplace, your community, your church. He has handed you important responsibilities as children, siblings, parents, co-workers, and neighbors. Now think of how you have failed in these areas. Think of the things you have done that make you feel guilty and ashamed. You are not perfect in any way. Your sin has stained every part of your life.

Your sins were there on the scale opposite Jesus. He felt God's wrath for each of them. He suffered for those sins before God as though He had committed them. So for your hurting and lying and cheating and taking—whatever wrong you have done—, Jesus paid the penalty. He poured out His blood for you, and His blood cleanses you from all sin (1Jo. 1:7).

Jesus applies His cleansing blood in every area of your life. At a crime scene, detectives look for whatever evidence they can find to catch the criminal. But if God looked back at the "crime scene" of all your sins, the only thing He would find is blood—the holy, cleansing blood of His Son which has blotted out all of those sins. The precious blood of Jesus absolves you; it saves you.

By the grace of God, you don't know what your life would be like without Good Friday. Through faith in Jesus, **Every Day Is Good Friday for You.** Because of what your Savior has done, your sins are forgiven, and eternal life in heaven is yours. *Thanks be to God! Amen.*

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