

Good Friday

Good Friday is a time to remember the suffering and death of Jesus Christ. How important it is that we remember what Jesus accomplished on the cross for us.

First we should remember that He died for us. "For Christ also died for sins once for all, the just for the unjust, so that He might bring us to God" (I Peter 3:18). Jesus died as our substitute, in our place, and in our stead. We need no longer fear the righteous judgment of a holy God. We need no longer fear having to pay the debt of our own sins before a holy God. The judgment has been given and the punishment borne. Thanks be to Jesus Christ!

We should also remember that Jesus died because of us. "But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities" (Isaiah 53:5a). It was not because of any sin that Jesus had done that He suffered. Jesus was perfect, completely without sin. It was our transgressions that caused His death. Charles Wesley put it this way, "Died He for me, who caused His pain? For me, who Him to death pursued?" Today sin really isn't an issue to many. It is taken lightly, whitewashed, or simply ignored. Many seem to think sin is of no consequence at all. Let us remember that sin is an offense against God. Sin caused Christ to suffer. We sinners are the reason He hung on the cross.

Finally, remember that Jesus died in order that we might be forgiven and have eternal life. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life" (John 3:16). Jesus died for us and because of us, with a very definite benefit in mind. God's eternal plan is for our salvation. Christ's work on the cross made this salvation available to all who believe. Christ died in order that this might be possible for everyone.

This is the message of Good Friday. Christ died for us, because of us, and in order that we might be saved.

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