

MARCH - 2018

† GOOD Friday? Yes! †

*"My thoughts are not your thoughts,
neither are your ways My ways,
declares the Lord." Isaiah 55:8*

That is never clearer than when you see God [*Jesus!*] hanging dead on a cross.

The world looks at the cross and sees defeat – even more, it screams shame and contempt! The cross was created to bring its victims excruciating pain AND to put them on public display.

The message?

*"Don't get out of line
or you'll end up like this guy!"*

Slowly, painfully --dying drip by bloody drip – impaled to roughly hewn wood, stripped naked and brutally beaten. Talk about humiliation and embarrassment and disgrace -- God dead on a cross!

This makes no sense!

*Yet, it is the Lord's design --
worked out to perfection.*

Jesus accomplishes what He is sent to do – to be rejected, suffer and die. And we call it Good Friday!

Instead of giving us the Hell that we all justly deserve – the Father pours out His good justice upon His Son Jesus.

On that cross a sinless offering (*a spotless Lamb*) is being given to God. John the Baptist proclaimed Jesus the Lamb of God who "*takes away the sins of the world.*"

Hebrews says (4:15) "*For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.*"

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus declares He has come to "*fulfill all righteousness.*"

Romans 3 says, "*God redeemed us (bought us back) through Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation (an offering satisfying His anger over sin) by his blood, to be received by faith.*"

Good Friday! The Father upholds His justice by taking out the penalty and punishment of sin on Jesus -- so that He can mercifully offer Jesus' sacrifice on the cross to us for free! Received by the gift of faith He gives!

Hear the dying words of release and pardon! When the debt had been paid --when God's anger at the world's injustice is satisfied -- then and only then, does Jesus proclaim to the world:

"It is finished."

Good Friday because He's the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world – your sin.

Good Friday because on that cross He was crushed for your iniquities.

Good Friday because on that cross God made Him who knew no sin, to be sin for you, so that in Him you might become the righteousness of God.

Good Friday because on that cross God shows His love for you in that while you were still a sinner Jesus died for you.

Good Friday because on that cross you see that God so loved you, that He gave His one and only Son, that believing in Jesus you shall not perish but you shall have eternal life!

The peace of the Lord be with you!

Pastor Bert