

EASTER - THE LOVE STORY OF GOD

In celebrating the holy season of Easter, it is good for us to pause and reflect on the significance of Good Friday, and Easter Sunday.

Good Friday - marks the day Jesus sacrifice His life for us on the cross. It was the day He took on Himself all of our sins, enduring the punishment and shame we deserve. He suffered in our place, shedding His blood to atone for our mistakes. He did not commit any wrong; Pilate after examining Jesus, declared three times in his judgment, “*I find no fault in Him*” (John 18:38, 19:4, 19:6). Yet He was crucified. His crucifixion fulfilled this prophesy, “*Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; — but He was wounded for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His strips we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way; and the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all*” (Isaiah 53:4-6)

So as we mark Good Friday, let us remember that God laid on Him the iniquity of us. He died in my place and in your place. It was God’s will that He should die, otherwise Pilate would have let Him go.

The Purpose of The Sacrifice:

God permitted His crucifixion because He sent Him into the world as the Lamb of Sacrifice for the sins of man.

The Scripture said, “*For God made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him*” (2Cor.5:21)

That was why when John the Baptist saw Him, he said, “*Behold! The Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world*” (John1:29)

Apostle Paul in his own writing said that this Jesus is the one, “*Whom God set forth as a propitiation (The appeaser) by His blood*” (Rom.3:25)

Then Apostle John wrote, “*In this is love, not that we love God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins*” (1John 4:10)

Jesus Himself said, “*For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life*” (John3:16)

So Jesus came to take away your sins and my sins.

And it is because God loves us, that He made the provision that Jesus should take our punishment, so that He will pardon our sins.

Jesus did die in my and your place and He did shed His blood for my sins and your sins

So Good Friday is the day we remember the accomplishment of that loving divine exchange on the cross of Calvary.

Now What To Do If You Are Yet To Receive This Pardon?

As we can see in Jesus’ statement the only requirement is ‘*That whoever believes should not perish but have everlasting life*’

It actually means that God did the work and then ask us to believe the work that was done and be saved.

There is no work left for us to do, since Jesus already died and our sins atoned for; Apostle Paul wrote, “*But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us*” (Rom.5:8)

So it was when we were still sinners, not when we started going to church, or when we started doing good things. It is in the state that you are right now, that Christ died; in short it is when you actually

realizes that you are a sinner, that you are qualified for this love exchange.

You are not expected to do anything, but only to believe the love that God showed by giving His Son in your place.

Because the Scripture said, *“He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already”* (John 3:18). And the reason he who does not believe is condemned already according to the Scripture is, *“He who does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed the testimony that God has given of His Son”* (1John 5:10).

Therefore what should you do? The answer is, “Believe”; Believe and you shall not be condemned; believe and you shall be saved.

The work was accomplished, it is your part that is left; there is no better time than now. Jesus is waiting for you even now.

All you need to say is,

“Lord Jesus I am sorry for my sins, forgive me and cleanse me from all my wrongs, I surrender all to You today; and I receive the forgiveness Your divine exchange gave. I believe I am save, thank You dear Lord Jesus”

Congratulation, and welcome to the new life in Christ Jesus.

EASTER SUNDAY:

Is the day we mark the miraculous resurrection of Jesus Christ.

It is written, *“Now on the first day of the week, very early in the morning, certain women came to the tomb bringing the spices which they had prepared. but they found the stone rolled away from the tomb. And it happened, as they were greatly perplexed about this, that behold, two men stood by them in shining garments ---- they said to them, ‘Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but is risen!’”* (Luke 24:1-6)

Hallelujah, Jesus is alive!

And the Scripture said, “*(He) was delivered up because of our offenses, and was raised because of our justification*” (Rom.4:25).

Therefore everyone who believes is justified before God - no matter our past, we have been given permission to leave it behind and start afresh. We are called into a new life with Christ Jesus as our Savior and Lord. In this new walk with Him, we are given the Helper who is the Holy Spirit, to help us walk in a way that honors God.

If you have accepted the offer of free forgiveness that God gives through His Son Jesus, know that you are a new creation, old things have passed away, behold all things have become new. (2Cor.5:17)

If you haven't, please, do yourself a favor this Easter and accept God's free gift of salvation.

For salvation is free.

Happy Easter!