

“We don’t deserve it!!” (Slide 1)

Reading: Matthew 27:40-44

Romans 5:8 (Slide 2)

But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

We conclude our discussion this week on Spiritual Service. While we discuss this important spiritual aspect of Christian life, many set aside this weekend as an Holy observance. Considering the ultimate sacrifice and resurrection of our Lord and Savior. The Capstone of our Lord’s service here on earth.

What many may fail to recognize is that Jesus is still serving as our Mediator between God and us. Speaking on our behalf. But for a moment let’s consider *Easter*.

What is *Easter*? In the KJV translation, Passover is translated as Easter. The Passover is certainly a circumstance that reflects **God’s Grace and Mercy!**

Most of those who observe *Easter* as a religious Holiday, Observe Good Friday as the day of His Crucifixion, Saturday as Jesus in the Tomb! The good comes from His resurrection which should make it “*Good Sunday*.” Is it okay to set aside a day to celebrate His death, burial and resurrection? We do not have an example of the early church celebrating a weekend *Easter* so to speak. Neither do we have a command to do so. The only possible answer I can give is according to Romans 14:5. And that observation of one day over another must be observed to the Lord:

Romans 14:5-6a (Slide 3)

5 One person regards one day above another, another regards every day alike. Each person must be fully convinced in his own mind. 6 He who observes the day, observes it for the Lord

Jesus' death, burial and resurrection is actually a memorial in which the early church observed each Lord's day and it is a fulfillment of what Christ said would happen.

1 Corinthians 11:23-26 (Slide 4)

23 For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus in the night in which He was betrayed took bread; 24 and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "This is My body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of Me." (Slide 5) ***25 In the same way He took the cup also after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."*** ***26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.***

John 2:19-22 (Slide 6)

19 Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." 20 The Jews then said, "It took forty-six years to build this temple, and will You raise it up in three days?" 21 But He was speaking of the temple of His body. (Slide 7) ***22 So when He was raised from the dead, His disciples remembered that He said this; and they believed the Scripture and the word which Jesus had spoken.***

The resurrection proves the word of God and the observance of the Lord's supper proclaims the great sacrifice that Jesus made on the cross. So true Christians, following the example of the early church, observe His death, burial and resurrection every Lord's day as we assemble around the table spread with the emblems of *His body and His blood*.

However, with that said, there certainly was a time in our calendar year that Jesus died on the cross and resurrected. Just as there was a day He was born.

However, I want to spend our time considering what we observe each Lord's Day and what Jesus has done for us in this light: **"We don't deserve it!!"**

Sin:

Sin came into the world and because of sin we were spiritually separated from God. We were spiritually dead!

Romans 5:12 (Slide 8)

Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned

All of mankind *sin* and *sin* results in *Death*:

Romans 3:23 (Slide 9)

for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God

Romans 6:23a (Slide 10)

For the wages of sin is death

I often think of these lyrics of the song, *"It is well with my soul"* in connection with Jesus carrying my sin to the cross!

(Slide 11)

***My sin—oh, the bliss of this glorious thought!—
My sin, not in part but the whole,
Is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more,
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!***

We cannot do enough to save ourselves. We cannot erase our sin or sacrifice our body to become guilt free. In fact, no work or amount of work gains us unmerited favor with God. His Grace is *"unmerited"* favor. In other words; *"We don't deserve it!!"*

Romans 4:5-6 (Slide 12)

4 Now to the one who works, his wage is not credited as a favor, but as what is due. 5 But to the one who does not work, but believes in Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is credited as righteousness

Faith and obedience to the cross!!

Grace is God giving us what we don't deserve:

Romans 6:23b (Slide 13)

but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Eternal life is a gift and not something we can earn. We earned death and because of God's mercy, He doesn't give us what we deserve!!

The Cross

1 Peter 2:24 (Slide 14)

and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed.

It must be noted that the word "bore" means to "carry up or to carry away." So many believe that Jesus physically took our sins on Himself. But that would make Him a sinner. He would thus be separated from God.

If that were the case, *He could not be that perfect sin sacrifice.* So consider that Jesus is carrying our sins to the cross and on the cross, where they will be nailed and where they will die!!

Do you ever wonder how heavy all the sins of mankind would be to bear up?

(Slide 15) Stretch out your hands outward as far as you can and upward over your head. It is more difficult to breathe with your hands and arms that way and naturally you want to let them come downward but you can't so you have to push upward using your feet and hands that are pierced.

Imagine, nailed to a wooden cross and when you press upward to get air you tear your flesh. Imagine just that portion of it. The physical agony that you would feel as your flesh rips.

But the weight of sin is even greater because the flesh on your chest and on your back has been ripped open with a whip that contained what was like jagged shards of glass.

Upon your head is a platted crown of thorns that pierces the thin layer of skin that protects your skull. Blood likely streams down from the wound into your eyes. Stinging and painful!!

Your throat is beyond just dry. It's like a person walking through a scorching and sweltering desert and you are suffering not because of your transgressions, but that of others!!

The psychological burden is great because those watching you suffer, kick you while you're in physical agony and are vulnerable by hurling insults at you. Those you came to **"seek and to save."**

You see the horrid look on your mother's face as she watches her son of miraculous birth, dying a horrendous death, "carrying" the burden of sin for all of humanity.

If You are the Son of God, come down from the cross."

"He saved others; He cannot save Himself. He is the King of Israel; let Him now come down from the cross, and we will believe in Him."

Gasping for air, thirsty beyond description, hurting physically and in emotional agony because of great love. He knows why He's there. Amazingly, with the ability with just a thought or a word He could have stopped the whole thing and judged those that day!!

Could He have come down from the cross? Yes, I believe with my whole heart He could have. He could have chosen to stop the whole thing before it started.

Matthew 26:52-54 (Slide 16)

52 Then Jesus said to him, "Put your sword back into its place; for all those who take up the sword shall perish by the sword. 53 Or do you think that I cannot appeal to My Father, and He will at once put at My disposal more than twelve legions of angels? (Slide 17) 54 How then will the Scriptures be fulfilled, which say that it must happen this way?"

"it must happen this way?"

Do you ever think about the fact that my sin and your sin kept Jesus nailed to the cross? Not the nails in His hands or feet! Not the Roman Soldiers, Religious Leaders or the Elite! Where we deserved death, Jesus gave us life!

What kept Him on the cross?

John 6:35-40 (Slide 18)

35 Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me will not hunger, and he who believes in Me will never thirst. 36 But I said to you that you have seen Me, and yet do not believe. 37 All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, (Slide 19) and the one who comes to Me I will certainly not cast out. 38 For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me. 39 This is the will of Him who sent Me, that of all that (Slide 20) He has given Me I lose nothing, but raise it up on the last day. 40 For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him will have eternal life, and I Myself will raise him up on the last day."

John 10:17-18 (Slide 21)

17 For this reason the Father loves Me, because I lay down My life so that I may take it again. 18 No one has taken it away from Me, but I lay it down on

My own initiative. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This commandment I received from My Father."

"O 'twas wonderful, wonderful love That brought Him from heaven above, As a ransom to die on the tree, To save a poor sinner like me"

"it must happen this way?" or we would be dead!! His Love for The Father and for the Sheep kept Him on the cross.

Invitation

Today and everyday while the earth exists, the One that knocks on the door, is Jesus. Hear the call and accept His invitation. Become a Child of God. We can help by baptizing you into Christ this day and the Lord will add you to His church.

If you have once obeyed the Gospel call but have drifted from the message of Life, can we help you get back on track by praying for and with you.

Please let us know how we can assist you this day.

Reading:

Matthew 27:40-44

40 and saying, "You who are going to destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save Yourself! If You are the Son of God, come down from the cross." 41 In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking Him and saying, 42 "He saved others; He cannot save Himself. He is the King of Israel; let Him now come down from the cross, and we will believe in Him. 43 HE TRUSTS IN GOD; LET GOD RESCUE Him now, IF HE DELIGHTS IN HIM; for He said, 'I am the Son of God.'" 44 The robbers who had been crucified with Him were also insulting Him with the same words.