

The Crucifixion and The Resurrected Christ! (Slide 1)

Reading: Matthew 27:57-61, 28:1-7

Why do we call it Good Friday? I did some research to see how this phrase came about but my research was inconclusive.

Religions have for some time set aside a special day and weekend for that matter, to honor and recognize the Death, Burial and Resurrection of Jesus.

It has always been my experience in the *church of Christ* that every Lord's day we honor the fact that Jesus died on the cross by commemorating His death with our communion service.

I believe we have that precedent set for us from the example of 'breaking of bread on the first day of the week, the Lord's Day' by the 1st century church.

Romans 14:5

One person regards one day above another, another regards every day alike. Each person must be fully convinced in his own mind.

So, to set aside a day to remember Jesus' death on the cross or to remember His birth, in my humble opinion, is fine. Let each person decide on their own and then be fully convinced in their own mind.

I have known many in the Brotherhood object to setting aside these special days. Yet, I believe their objection should remain unspoken when others find it to be honoring God and Christ.

Romans 14:6a

He who observes the day, observes it for the Lord

But why call it Good Friday?

Friday was the day: (Slide 2)

that a good, virtuous, pure, loving, compassionate young man was tortured, mocked, abandoned, forsaken, and murdered in a most heinous way.

Friday was the day: (Slide 3)

where an angry mob shouted over the Governor when he stated he could find no just cause to hold him. The Mob shouting; ***“Crucify Him, Crucify Him!”***

Undoubtedly there were in the crowd many he spoke to face to face, taught, and helped in some way.

Some of those were His closest friends. **They walked with him, they were taught by Him, they were Loved by Him!!!** Those He called His disciples.

Friday was the day: (Slide 4)

He witnessed His closest allies turn their back on Him, deny Him and betray Him.

Friday was the day: (Slide 5)

where He witnessed a murderer, an insurrectionist released instead of Him, who was declared innocent by the Roman Governor.

Friday was the day: (Slide 6)

He was slapped and beaten by several who used their fists on Him. His face bruised and swelling, His eyes nearly swollen shut from the beating, His face bloodied and mouth bleeding, spit on, (Slide 7) stripped of His clothing and adorned with a garment not fit for a Man of God to even cast His eyes on, let alone wear, **falsely accused**, He remained silent and resolved to fulfill His ministry and stood as a spectacle for all to behold.

Friday was the day: (Slide 8)

That He was plated with a crown of thorns, thorns like sharp spikes that were mashed down on the thin skin that protects a man's skull. Blood dripping down for the wounds in His head, the ruthless soldiers then thrust a reed in His right hand only to take it back and beat Him with it while, at the same time, slapping Him across His face.

Friday was the day: (Slide 9)

They dressed Him like one of their kings and mocked Him with such contempt. Mocked by those He was giving His very life for as they shouted: ***"Hail, King of the Jews"***

Friday was the day: (Slide 10)

they had beaten Him with a whip made of sharp shards of glass and rock, tearing the skin wide open exposing what was within a man's body. A painful condition to even be touched, let alone having His open and wounded body against a cross.

Friday was the day: (Slide 11)

A cross, an instrument of Death that He himself would bear and carry upon His *flesh torn back* to the place of the ***"Skull," Golgotha!*** Tormented all the way by people, His kinsman, those who had once followed Him, those He fed, who now had blood and violence in their eyes and heart.

Friday was the day: (Slide 12)

that this young man was laid upon the cross only to have spikes driven through His outstretched hands. His feet coupled together and with one spike driven through them both.

Friday was the day: (Slide 13)

That He was nailed to the cross that was first raised on top of the ground then violently dropped in a hole, jarring His wounds and ripping the flesh in His hands and feet and back.

Friday was the day:

that He had to fight to hold Himself up, using his bloodied, pain ridden feet upon a small pedestal, pushing against the cross with His flesh torn back.

Friday was the day: (Slide 14)

Agonizing in unthinkable pain, He felt alone and rejected. Forsaken by his own God, dying for the very purpose in which He came.

Friday was the day:

that this young, virtuous man suffered from immense physical pain, thirst, rejection, and mental anguish.

Friday was the day: (Slide 15)

that He, from a cruel cross, watched His own Mother in distress, in agony as she watched her son suffer a cruel, heartless death.

Friday was the day: That He prayed ***“Father, forgive them for they know not what they do.”***

Friday was the day: That He said, ***“It is finished”***

From His perspective, was there anything Good about Friday? How can we call it Good Friday?

Shouldn't it be called Dark Friday and Good Sunday!? (Slide 16)

Saturday was the day: That for many all Hope seemed lost and they returned to what they knew as if it was over.

Low in the Grave He Lay!!

**1 Low in the grave he lay, Jesus my Savior,
waiting the coming day, Jesus my Lord!**

**2 Vainly they watch his bed, Jesus my Savior,
vainly they seal the dead, Jesus my Lord!**

3 Death cannot keep its prey, Jesus my Savior; he tore the bars away, Jesus my Lord!

**Up from the grave he arose;
with a mighty triumph o'er his foes;
he arose a victor from the dark domain,
and he lives forever, with his saints to reign.
He arose! He arose! Hallelujah! Christ arose!**

Matthew 28:1-10

1 Now after the Sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to look at the grave. 2 And behold, a severe earthquake had occurred, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled away the stone and sat upon it. 3 And his appearance was like lightning, and his clothing as white as snow. 4 The guards shook for fear of him and became like dead men. 5 The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; for I know that you are looking for Jesus who has been crucified. 6 He is not here, for He has risen, just as He said. Come, see the place where He was lying. 7 Go quickly and tell His disciples that He has risen from the dead; and behold, He is going ahead of you into Galilee, there you will see Him; behold, I have told you."

8 And they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy and ran to report it to His disciples. 9 And behold, Jesus met them and greeted them. And they came up and took hold of His feet and worshiped Him. 10 Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and take word to My brethren to leave for Galilee, and there they will see Me."

Death could not hold Jesus The Christ:

Acts 2:22-24 (Slide 17)

22 "Men of Israel, listen to these words: Jesus the Nazarene, a man attested to you by God with miracles and wonders and signs which God performed

through Him in your midst, just as you yourselves know— (Slide 18) 23 this Man, delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put Him to death. 24 But God raised Him up again, putting an end to the agony of death, since it was impossible for Him to be held in its power.

1 Corinthians 15:54-57 (Slide 19)

54 But when this perishable will have put on the imperishable, and this mortal will have put on immortality, then will come about the saying that is written, (Slide 20) "DEATH IS SWALLOWED UP in victory. 55 O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR VICTORY? O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR STING?" 56 The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law; 57 but thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Gospel of Jesus Christ, His Death, Burial, and Resurrection is called the **"Good News"** for a reason. Because of His suffering on a cross, His death, and His powerful resurrection, I can be saved and I cry out today: *"Rescue Me My Lord!"*

It's amazing to me that a man who is God in the Flesh, without sin, would be willing to suffer, bleed and die for me so that I would not taste spiritual death. Yet, His death, burial, and resurrection is without effect if I am not buried with Him in baptism. (Slide 21) An act of which now saves.

Lest we forget what Christ has done, we commemorate and memorialize Him every **Lord's Day** by partaking of the Lord's supper. He said to do this in remembrance of Me.

Matthew 26:26-28 (Slide 22)

26 While they were eating, Jesus took some bread, and after a blessing, He broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is My body." 27 And when He had taken a cup and given thanks, He gave it to them, saying,

“Drink from it, all of you; 28 for this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for forgiveness of sins.

That’s the **“Good of Friday!!”** But that Friday and resurrection on Sunday should be commemorated every Lord’s Day and remembered everyday. So many in the world, to their own detriment, remember the Lord just once or twice a year. He is worthy of our daily thoughts for what He has done on our behalf!!

My caution then for all all who commemorate the “Facts of the Gospel” each Lord’s Day is to truly have our focus on Jesus in humility, thanksgiving and remembrance, eating and drinking as if He has given us this bread and this cup as He did His Apostles. ***“In remembrance of Me”***

“Oh, What a Savior!!!”

Invitation

Christ Jesus died on a cross to bear our burden of sin and again, it is of no effect if we have not been baptized into Christ. Have you been immersed in the watery grave and come in contact with the Blood of Christ for the remission of your sin? If not, don’t delay, do it today!

If you have once been washed in the Blood of Christ but for whatever reason need the prayers of your brethren please make it known today.

Please let us know how we can help you.

Lesson Reading:

Matthew 27:57-61, 28:1-7

57 When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who himself had also become a disciple of Jesus. 58 This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate ordered it to be given

to him. 59 And Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, 60 and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn out in the rock; and he rolled a large stone against the entrance of the tomb and went away. 61 And Mary Magdalene was there, and the other Mary, sitting opposite the grave.

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