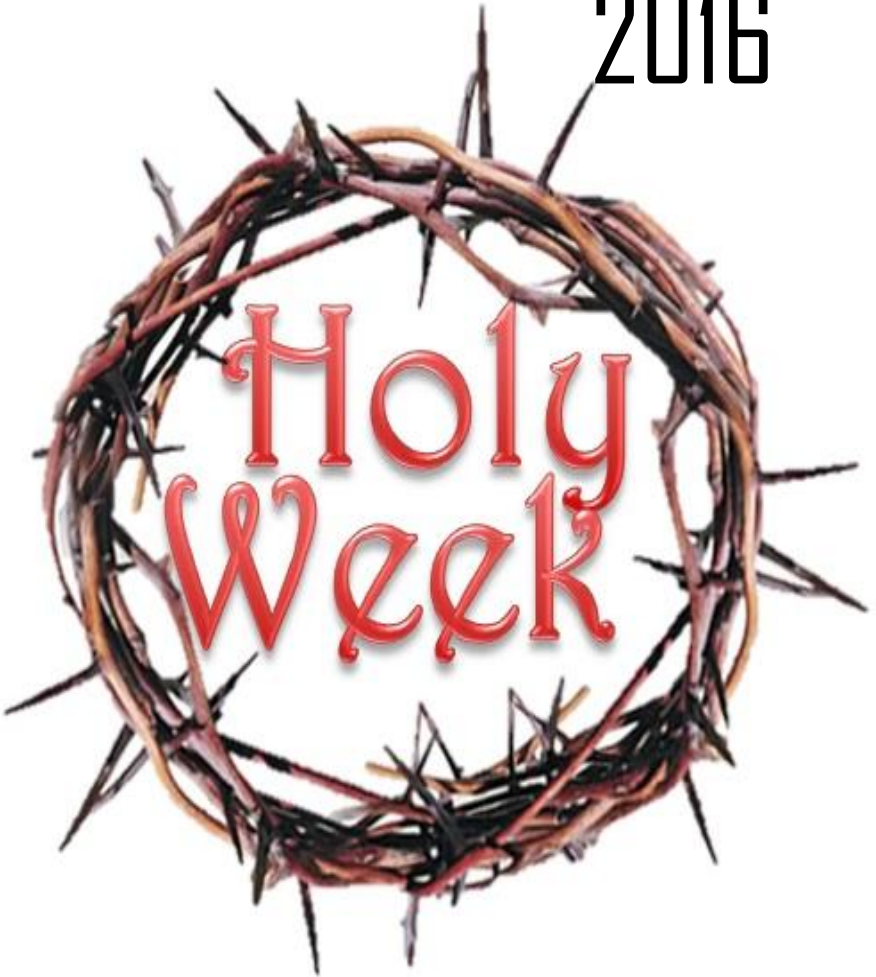


"Events Surrounding" 2016



From the Pulpit Ministry of Christ E Free Church
Holy Week - March 2016

Jesus Christ

Our Greatest Purpose
Our Highest Calling
Our Soul's Source and Joy
And Our All Consuming Passion

The Passion or Holy Week

{ Lent }

{ Palm Sunday }

{ Last Supper }

{ Good Friday }

{ Easter Resurrection }

Prayer & fasting
Sacrifice & surrender
Repentance and
confession
Renewal and Revival
Personal Purification
Looking forward to
Holy Week
James 4:8

Anointing of Jesus
John 12:1-11/Mat.26:6
Triumphal Entry
Mat. 21:1-11
John. 12:12-16
Cleansing the
temple
Mat. 21:12-17

Jesus Anointing
Mat. 26:6-12
Last Passover
Mat. 26:17-30
Washing Disc. Feet
Jn. 13:1-17
Predicts Peter's Denial
Jn. 13:31
Mat. 26:33-35
Predicts Judas
Betrayal
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Saul, 1 Cor.15:7



LENT



April Questions about the Resurrection

Why do we need a Savior?
What makes Christ the "better" Savior?
What Difference does Easter Make?
Do You Believe This?

If you would like more information on Holy Week, faith in Jesus, forgiveness for your sins or for help in your Christian life, please contact us today: Christ E Free Church, PO Box 619, 19692 Hill Rd, Seagertown, Pa
Contact us: 814-763-2934 or log on at www.christefree.org
SUNDAY MORNING SERVICES: Discovery & Discipleship at 9:15am Community & Celebration at 10:30am

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Introduction

Christmas, Easter and Halloween are Holidays people tend to dress up for, but only 2 of these holidays point people to gathering to worship God. There are many traditions in this holiday week, some we are comfortable and familiar with and others we are not.

I personally did not grow up in a church that celebrated the whole week of Holy Week. I don't recall learning about Lent, other than our Protestant groups tended to stay away from it. Maundy Thursday was unknown to me as child. Ash Wednesday, was another tradition I was unfamiliar with.

For protestants, some of these Holy Week celebrations brought us too close to Roman Catholicism and as an adult, now I realize it was for good reason. But these holidays aren't in themselves, indicative of the Catholic faith and tradition.

For instance while Lent was more of a Catholic holiday, it seems to have most of its roots in Scripture. The Old Testament Jews had pre-Passover traditions of sweeping the house clean of leaven, which was symbolic of sin. The New Testament book of James focuses on repentance, mourning, weeping and repenting from known sin (James 4:10) – repenting of it with no intention of picking it back up again, once the holidays are over.

So I believe in reclaiming anything for Christ if we dedicate it fully to Him. Just because someone from another branch of Christianity that I agree with, doesn't mean I can't fully embrace the Biblical basis of that holiday. And so as a good protestant, Evangelical, that is what I attempt to do with this Holy Week focus.

Join me as we recover some lost or faded or even misinterpreted celebrations involving the life and ministry of our Lord Jesus Christ.

"Lent and Palm Sunday: Preparation and Proclamation"

Text:

March 6, 2016

Theme: "Christianity" what it means to be Christian

Jeremiah 6:26 ESV O daughter of my people, put on sackcloth, and roll in ashes; make mourning as for an only son, most bitter lamentation, for suddenly the destroyer will come upon us

Repentance means you change your mind so deeply
that it changes you.

—Bruce Wilkinson

INTRODUCTION

Through this month of March, we will be suspending our series on Balancing the Christian Life, and will pick it back up in April, Lord willing.

Through this month, we will be focusing on Events Surrounding Holy Week. Most of us are familiar with Palm Sunday, Good Friday and Easter, but there are many other Events Surrounding Holy Week which affected Jesus' life and impact our faith.

Also, there are 2 booklets on Holy Week, on the literature area in the foyer, for you to use as a devotional guide for Holy Week.

“THE ORIGIN OF LENT” – Ted Olson, *Christianity Today*

Some view Lent as a second chance at a New Year's Resolution for those who had already abandoned theirs.

Lent is one of the oldest observations on the Christian calendar. Like all Christian holy days and holidays, it has changed over the years, but its purpose has always been the same: self-examination and penitence, demonstrated by self-denial, in preparation for Easter. Early church father Irenaeus of Lyons (c.130-c.200) wrote of such a season in the earliest days of the church, but back then it lasted only two or three days, not the 40 observed today.

In the earlier traditions of Lent, only one meal was taken a day, near the evening. There was to be no meat, fish, or animal products eaten.

In the 14th century, Pope Gregory the Great moved the beginning of Lent to a Wednesday, calling it Ash Wednesday.

As Christians came to the church for forgiveness, Gregory marked their foreheads with ashes, reminding them of the biblical symbol of repentance (i.e. sackcloth and ashes) and mortality: "You are dust, and to dust you will return" (Gen 3:19).

Gregory the Great is also credited with giving it the name, “Lent”.

Like the word “rapture”, the term “Lent” is not in the Bible, however the content and focus of repentance, fasting and seeking God for both personal and national purification is clearly Biblical

and has been a practice by Jews and in the Church throughout the Bible.

Jer 6:26 ESV O daughter of my people, put on sackcloth, and roll in ashes; make mourning as for an only son, most bitter lamentation, for suddenly the destroyer will come upon us.

[Note: Esther 4:1-3; Daniel 9:3; James 4:7-10]

So what was originally presented in Lent, was the practice of the early church, long before its declaration as a religious holiday and long before Catholicism commandeered church history as the history of Catholicism.

Since it's inception, legalism and godless traditionalism began introducing a time of feasting and merry-making, just prior to the Lent season. This time of merry-making began to be viewed by some, as a time to participate in all kinds of the sinful indulgences, a person might be inclined to give up during the coming season of Lent.

Therefore these traditions, including Mardi Gras, evidences what happens when humans allow their carnal sinful nature to govern their actions, rather than being a time of genuinely preparing one's heart and soul for the messages and remembrances of Holy Week.

For the Jew, the preparation for Passover involved similar activities. In the Jewish faith, leaven often represented sin. So in preparation for the Passover, which falls within the Christian Holy Week, there was a practice of cleansing the home of Hametz, or leaven.

The rule against leaven applies not only to its consumption but also to enjoying any benefit thereof and even to its possession.

Therefore, before the arrival of Passover, all leaven must be removed from one's premises. Nor should one have leaven in his legal possession. In a simple economy, not having any leaven in one's legal possession was easily accomplished. If by chance a bit of leaven was left, it could be disposed of with relative ease.[MyJewishLearning.com]

Traditionally, to accomplish this process, the woman of the house, would take a feather, a lit candle and a small linen cloth. She would then cover the whole house from cupboard shelf to floor corner, shining the light of the candle in every dark area, and using the feather as a whisk broom, would sweep any crumbs of leaven onto the linen cloth and then dispose of it. It was tradition; it was symbolic; but it was their way of doing what they could to prepare themselves for the Lord's Passover. Likewise, Lent is also tradition, and symbolic, but a way in which earnest, devout believers might do what they can to prepare their own hearts and families for properly observing the Lord's Holy Week.

We begin with...

LENT – A Spiritual Preparation for Holy Week

* The goal of preparing ourselves for Holy Week is to grow to a deeper level of holiness of living, and a greater separation from known personal sin.

This includes...

Prayer & fasting

* When Jesus was in the wilderness, in Mat.4, we are told He was there fasting and assumedly praying as well.

Prayer and fasting is not so much an attempt to get God's attention on us, but to properly refocus our attention on God.

i.) Prayer - the Lord's prayer"

* The goal of prayer is not to be heard by men, but to be heard by God, as we are told in Matthew chapter 6.

Jesus gave this warning pertaining to prayer...

Mat 6:1-15 ESV (1) "Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven.(5) "And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. (6) But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. (7) "And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words. (8) Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. (9) Pray then like this: "*Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. (10) Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. (11) Give us this day our daily bread, (12) and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. (13) And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.*" [vs.9-13; Lord's prayer]

This is not to say that it is wrong to pray in public. But it is wrong to pray with wrong motives, that is, to be seen and heard by other people, so as to present yourself as a "spiritual" person.

3 clarifications for prayer...

1) "see" v.5 , 6 – refers to attention – God's attention upon the humble, sincere prayer.

2) "Secret v.6 = private – that is for God's viewing alone, or for God's ears only.

3) “many words” v.7 = rituals, scripted ceremonies, that are not from the individual’s heart nor directed towards God.

Jesus also warned about...

ii.) Fasting

* Prayer can be combined with fasting. Fasting is going without certain foods or indulgences, for the purpose of drawing nearer to God^[James 4:8].

The goal of fasting is not to be noticed by others, but to be noticed by God, or heard by God.

Mat 6:16-18 ESV "And when you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. (17) But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, (18) that your fasting may not be seen by others but by your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

Again, “see” v.16 refers to God taking notice of the prayers of those who truly seek Him and not as an open show or demonstration of religious piety to the watching world around them.

So Prayer and fasting is not to be viewed as a way to make others sit up and take notice of you, but a way of drawing near to God, that He might also draw near to you.

Lent Typically involves Sacrifice & surrender

* For the season of Lent, the apparent devotion only seems to last that long, *for a season*. For some, the sins or things sacrificed during Lent, are only put on hold, then the picked back up again, after the holiday season is past.

Jas 4:7- ESV ***Submit*** yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you

James offers keen insight into laying aside stumbling blocks in our faith or sacrificing some things for Lent.

What might be a better focus, with longer lasting spiritual results, would be to submit ourselves to God with no time restraints or no statute of limitations, and with no plans to return to our previous practices or sinful way of living.

Rom 12:1 ESV I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a ***living sacrifice***, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

A living sacrifice willfully crawls upon the altar of self-sacrifice. And as it chose to crawl onto the sacrifice, it may also to choose to crawl off the altar.

When watching a DVD movie, if there is a distraction or interruption to the movie, you can press pause until the distraction passes. Then you can press “play” and resume the movie where you left off. Then if the phone rings, you can press “pause” and answer the phone. Then as soon as the interruption is taken care of you can press “play” and pick up right where you left off.

Some view the Lenten season like this. They simply put their sin life on pause, then after the season is over, they press the “play” button and pick right up where they left off. This is clearly not Biblical nor is it true repentance of sin.

The goal of true heart purification and proper preparation for Holy Week, is not to put certain sin on “pause” for two weeks or 40 days, with the intent of picking them back up again, but of ceasing sin all together; putting to death our pet sins; the ones we excuse ourselves of, whenever we sense the conviction of the Holy Spirit.

“But that’s just the way I am.” “Well I owe it to myself.” Or “I deserve a break today.” These are rationalizations of our sins.

Repentance and Confession

* The Goal of Lent like activities is not to temporarily put sin on hold, but to put sin to death.

Jas 4:8-10 ESV (8) Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. (9) Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. (10) Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.

This is referring to Repentance from Sin.

Sin without confession, results in hardening of the spiritual heart and a calloused de-sensitizing to the Holy Spirit’s convictions.

The purpose of “drawing near to God”; through prayer and fasting, sacrifice and surrender, and repentance and confession is intended to result in a deeper level of personal holiness with a greater separation from known personal sin.

**** HOLY OR HAPPY – AW TOZER**

The gospel is too often presented as a means toward happiness, to peace of mind or security. There are even those who use the Bible to “relax” them, as if it were a drug.

How far wrong all this is will be discovered easily by the simple act of reading the New Testament through once with meditation. There the emphasis is not upon the happiness, but upon the holiness. God is more concerned with the state of people’s hearts than with the state of their feelings. Undoubtedly, the will of God

brings final happiness to those who obey, but the most important matter is not how happy we are but how holy. The soldier does not seek to be happy in the field; he seeks rather to get the fighting over with, to win the war and get back to his loved ones. There he may enjoy himself to the full; but while the war is on, his most pressing job is to be a good soldier, to acquit himself like a man, regardless of how he feels.

The childish clamor after happiness can become a real snare. One may easily deceive himself by cultivating a religious joy without a corresponding righteous life. No man should desire to be happy who is not at the same time holy. He should spend his efforts in seeking to know and do the will of God, leaving to Christ the matter of how happy he shall be.

-----[END OF ARTICLE]-----

The Season of Lent is to prepare your heart for doing business with God, assuming that is the goal and desire of your heart.

Rom 6:1-4 ESV What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? (2) By no means! **How can we who died to sin still live in it?** (3) Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? (4) We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, *we too might walk in newness of life.*

So again, the goal of preparing ourselves for Holy Week is to grow to a deeper level of holiness of living, that is a greater separation from personal known sin.

PALM SUNDAY –A *Personal Proclamation of the Lordship of Christ*

* Palm Sunday is less about palm branches and donkeys, but more about celebrating Jesus Christ as Lord and Ruler and Master of your life and heart.

An important event surrounding Holy Week was...

The Anointing of Jesus –(Mat.26:6-13

[Mk.14:3-9; Lk.7:37-39; Jn.12:1-8]

* Palm Sunday reminds us of a woman's faith and the foreshadowing of Christ's death.

Mat 26:6-13 ESV Now when Jesus was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, (7) a woman came up to him with an alabaster flask of very expensive ointment, and she poured it on his head as he reclined at table. (8) And when the disciples saw it, they were indignant, saying, "Why this waste? (9) For this could have been sold for a large sum and given to the poor." (10) But Jesus, aware of this, said to them, "Why do you trouble the woman? For she has done a beautiful thing to me. (11) For you always have the poor with you, but you will not always have me. (12) In pouring this ointment on my body, she has done it to prepare me for burial. (13) Truly, I say to you, wherever this gospel is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will also be told in memory of her."

The woman anointed Jesus, (10 foreshadowing the death of Jesus(v12), but also was a dramatic presentation of her faith in Jesus as the Lord of Her life.

Joh 12:9-11 ESV When the large crowd of the Jews learned that Jesus was there, they came, not only on account of him but also to see Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. (10) So the chief priests made plans to put Lazarus to death as well, (11) because

on account of him many of the Jews were going away and believing in Jesus.

The Triumphal Entry - Mat. 21:1-1; John. 12:12-16

* The Jesus Parade or Proclamation of Lordship of Christ.

Joh 12:12-17 ESV The next day the large crowd that had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. (13) So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, crying out, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!" (14) And Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, just as it is written, (15) "Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey's colt!"

Mat 21:9 ESV And the crowds that went before him and that followed him were shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!"

the Cleansing of the temple: Mat. 21:12-17

* This cleansing of the temple was one more event surrounding Holy Week that polarized Jesus from the religious leaders of His day.

Mat 21:12-15 ESV And Jesus entered the temple and drove out all who sold and bought in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money-changers and the seats of those who sold pigeons. (13) He said to them, "It is written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer,' but you make it a den of robbers." (14) And the blind and the lame came to him in the temple, and he healed them.

(15) But when the chief priests and the scribes saw the wonderful things that he did, and the children crying out in the temple, "Hosanna to the Son of David!" they were indignant,

* Jesus' cleansing of the temple, represents that which He intends to do to each and every true believer in Him. You Celebrate Jesus and Proclaim Him as Lord and Ruler? Then His intent is to cleanse each and every one of us from the things that clutter and defile our lives.

And today, many religious leaders find no place for the Biblical Jesus in their lives, in their ministries nor in their churches.

Palm Sunday is less about palm branches and donkeys, but more about celebrating Jesus Christ as Lord and Ruler and Master of your life and heart. Palm Sunday is about the personal celebration and proclamation of the Lordship of Jesus Christ in the life of every true believer.

ASSIGNMENT: *Preparing your Heart for Holy Week.*

1) Seek to Draw near to God. Allow the Passion Week or Holy Week Timeline in your bulletins today, to be used as a tool or guide for your personal or even family devotion time. Use one of the Holy Week booklets or the Timeline as an additional resource for helping you draw near to God, in order to prepare you for Holy Week.

(2) Seek God for a long term, life transformation of my heart's desires and life's pursuits.

AW Tozer – "Holiness Before Happiness" [cont'd]

For those who take this whole thing seriously, I have one suggestion: Go to God and have an understanding. Tell Him that it

is your desire to be holy at any cost, and then ask Him never to give you more happiness than holiness. When your holiness becomes tarnished, let your joy become dim. And ask Him to make you holy whether you are happy or not. Be assured that in the end you will be as happy as you are holy; but for the time being let your whole ambition be to serve God and be Christlike.

If we dare to take a stand like that we may expect to know a new degree of inward purification. And, God being who He is, we are more than likely to know a new degree of happiness as well, but a happiness that springs out of a more intimate fellowship with God, a happiness that is elevated and unselfish and free from the pollutions of the flesh.

Strive to put personal sin to death in our living and not simply on “pause”.

3) Give it all Up. Lay it all Down. Let It All Go!

* Let God have His way in your life. A Fresh and purposeful act of our will in submitting to Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.

Let Holy Week work in your life, so as to change you in a way that never goes back to what or who you were.

-Lord, change me for real! Change me forever.

A Recipe for Real Life Transformation.

A Recipe for Real Life Change

Release **ALL** your Hopes and **ALL** your expectations
into the loving care of your Heavenly Father.

Surrender **ALL** you have ever dreamed of and
ALL you have ever longed for

to the sovereign, perfect plan of Almighty God.

Submit fully, **ALL** that you have and **ALL** that you are
to the Supreme Lordship of Jesus Christ.

Open **ALL** the depths of your being
and **ALL** the areas of your life,
to the Control of God's Spirit of Holiness.

Entrust Him with **ALL** that you cherish
and **ALL** that you treasure in this life.

Expect **ALL** your plans to be totally and dramatically revised
and **ALL** your hopes to be completely redirected.

Await His **ALL**-consuming love and **ALL**-encompassing power
to fill and govern your life and future forever.



"The Lord's Last Passover: Remembering His Sacrifice"

Text:

March 13, 2016

Theme: "*Christianity*" what it means to be Christian

Exodus 12:14 ESV "This day shall be for you a memorial day, and you shall keep it as a feast to the LORD; throughout your generations, as a statute forever, you shall keep it as a feast

Remembrance and reflection how allied.
What thin partitions divides sense from thought.

—Alexander Pope

INTRODUCTION

Jewish Passover | Christian Communion | the Lord's Supper

I hope you are viewing Holy Week as Holy and not just a seasonal teaching we have around this time every year.

I hope you view the Events Surrounding Holy Week as impacting and influencing your faith, because these were important events of the Life of our Lord Jesus.

PLUG: Thursday 24th, is our Lord's Last Supper and Passover Observance. We will share in communion, prayer focused on the last Passover of Jesus and what that means for us.

We begin with...

THE LORD'S LAST PASSOVER (Mat.26:17-30)

* What is the Passover and what is communion? The Lord's Last Passover was Christ's reminder of His coming Sacrifice.

This includes...

Jewish Passover Pointed to Life in God (Ex.

* The Jewish Passover was a festival of remembrance which pointed to their life in God.

Summary: The Jewish people were growing into their own nation, inside the nation of Egypt. Out of fear of the growing Jewish population, the Egyptians kept the Hebrew children enslaved and increased their work load. But instead of causing the population to decrease, through God's blessings they continued to increase. As their treatment worsened and their work load increased, the Jews cried out to God for help. God answered their prayers and sent Moses as their deliverer.

As a grown man, Moses, as well as Aaron, took God's message to Pharaoh and told him to Let their people go. He refused and rejected God's message. So God began sending various plagues upon the Egyptians in increasing severity.

The last plague was the plague of the death of the first born of every house. In order for God's people to prepare and escape death, they were to take a lamb's blood and spread it on the door posts of their houses. This would evidence their faith in God and His salvation from death.

Exo 12:14 ESV The blood shall be a sign for you, on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague will befall you to destroy you, when I strike the land of Egypt.

When God came to bring death, He would "see" the blood and pass over that house, thus sparing those inside the plague of death.

When the Egyptians experienced the death of their first born children, Pharaoh relented and ordered the Hebrews to be set free. The Jews leaving Egypt is referred to as the Exodus. The event of God passing over their homes and sparing their lives, is referred to as the "Passover".

**This event spoke of God's Deliverance and
the Jew's Freedom from Bondage.**

Jewish Passover is Christian Communion

* The Jewish Passover became a festival of remembrance.

Exo 12:14 ESV "This day shall be for you a *memorial* day, and you shall keep it as a feast to the LORD; throughout your generations, as a statute forever, you shall keep it as a feast.

Passover festival was a *memorial*. A meal, which represented the plague of death, passing over the Jewish people who trust in God. This was never viewed to impart grace or to bring about forgiveness.

New Testament

So now that when we get to the New Testament and the concept of Communion or the Lords' Supper, many think it was Jesus instituting something new and unique. Some view that communion is a means of receiving certain graces necessary for forgiveness of sins and the gift of eternal life. But that is NOT what the Holy Word of God is presenting.

At the Lord' Last Passover before His crucifixion, this is what happened. New Testament Church Communion / Lords' Supper

Mat.26:19 – the Lords' Last Passover celebration together

1Cor. 11:23-26 ESV For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when 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." (25) In the same way also he took the cup, 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.

[Mat 26:26-28 / Lk.22]

- 1) Passover/Communion was nothing new.
- 2) Passover/Communion was meant to be a memorial.
- 3) It was not meant to be perceived as the flesh and blood of Jesus, as he was not even dead yet.
- 4) It was to be an annual reminder and dramatic proclamation of the sacrifice of Jesus and the faith of those who truly believe in Him.

5) Passover celebration never saved anyone from their sins. Communion was never intended to make people think it was needed for the forgiveness of their sins.

It is a means of reminding true believers of the sacrifice of Jesus, dying on the cross, paying for our sins, saving from eternal spiritual death and the life they receive through faith in Him.

So in the New Testament, Communion was the Lords' Last Passover. Like the Passover, the New Testament communion was the Passover festival and was also a *memorial*. Communion was the Passover meal which now, represented the sacrifice of Jesus, on the cross, for our sins as the Passover Lamb of God^[John1:36], which also, was never viewed to impart grace or to bring about forgiveness of sins.

Jesus Last Passover Included...

LOVE AND WASHING THE DISCIPLE'S FEET (Jn.13:1-17)

* New Testament Passover or communion became Christ's reminder of His loving Heart, through His demonstration of love by washing the disciple's feet.

This was new and unexpected.

Joh 13:1-5 ESV Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved his own who were in the world, *he loved them to the end.* (2) During supper, when the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him, (3) Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going back to God, (4) rose from supper. He laid aside his outer garments, and taking

a towel, tied it around his waist. (5) Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

“He loved them to the end” (v.1), or “he showed the full extent of His love.” True acts of service tend to indicate a loving attitude and interest in others. IN washing their feet, Jesus humbled Himself and in so doing, exemplified a caring, humble attitude for us to follow and demonstrate in our own lives.

Jesus demonstrated...

A Servant's Heart (Mark 10:43-45)

i) “servant of all”

* Serving others immediately places the needs and interests of others, over and above your own.

Mar 10:43-45 But it shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, (44) and whoever would be first among you must be servant of all.

Servitude speaks to others that “you are my priority”, and communicates their value.

ii) “not to be served, but to serve”

*Most of us would prefer to be served, rather than having to be the one doing the serving. Servitude is inglorious and humiliating.

Mar 10:45 ESV (45) For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Foot washing was a task of house servant and evidence of Christ's humiliation, and servant's heart. He was the only one willing to

evidence a humble attitude toward Himself and a concerned heart for others.

Both His service and sacrifice left us...

A Loving Example (Jn.13:15)

* Jesus's life demonstrated a servant's heart, as well as a loving example. And what He did for them, he invited them to do for one another.

Joh 13:15 ESV For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you.

This is not merely the washing of the feet, but the display of a heart and lifestyle of a servant.

Joh 13:34-35 ESV (34) A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. (35) By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

"One another" reflects Christ's expectation of His disciples to evidence the same heart and express the same interests in others as He has done. Loving service was to be an unmistakable identifying mark of a true disciple of Jesus Christ.

PREDICTIONS OF BETRAYAL AND DENIAL

[Mat.26:33; Jn.13:31;]

Peter's Denial – Mat.26:33; Jn.13:31 | Judas Betrayal – Jn. 13:18

These prophecies soon turned an otherwise joyful celebration, into one of gloom, surprise and grief.

This included...

Jesus Prediction of Judas Betrayal (Jn.13:21-39)

* During the Passover meal with His disciples, Jesus predicted Judas' betrayal.

Joh 13:21-26 ESV After saying these things, Jesus was troubled in his spirit, and testified, "Truly, truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me." (22) The disciples looked at one another, uncertain of whom he spoke. (23) One of his disciples, whom Jesus loved, was reclining at table at Jesus' side, (24) so Simon Peter motioned to him to ask Jesus of whom he was speaking. (25) So that disciple, leaning back against Jesus, said to him, "Lord, who is it?" (26) Jesus answered, "It is he to whom I will give this morsel of bread when I have dipped it." So when he had dipped the morsel, he gave it to Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot.

For all of them, they were in disbelief.

It also included...

Jesus Prediction of Peter's Denial

* During prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane with His disciples, Jesus predicted Peter's Denial Mat.26:31-35 [Mk.14:27-31; Lk.22:31-34; Jn.13:36-38]

Mat 26:31-41 ESV Then Jesus said to them, "You will all fall away because of me this night. For it is written, 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.'" (32) But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee." (33) Peter answered him, "Though they all fall away because of you, I will never fall away." (34) Jesus said to him, "Truly, I tell you, this very night, before the rooster crows, you will deny me *three* times." (35) Peter said to him, "Even if I must die with you, I will not deny you!" And all the disciples said the same

Note the following passages:

* This is a Personal Prayer for Possible temptation.

Mat 6:9-13 ESV Pray then like this: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. (10) Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. (11) Give us this day our daily bread, (12) and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. (13) And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

*We Should be concerned about other's restoration and our own tendencies to be tempted.

Gal 6:1 ESV Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted.

* Pride opens the door to temptation and hides God's way of escaping temptations grasp.

1Co 10:12-13 ESV Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall. (13) No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

* Even denial does not close the door of God's plan for us.

Joh 21:15-17 ESV When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." He

said to him, "Feed my lambs." (16) He said to him a second time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." He said to him, "Tend my sheep." (17) He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" Peter was grieved because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" and he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep.

Peter denied Christ three times and Jesus charged him three times, to love Him and to feed His sheep. God was not finished with Peter yet.

THE GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE

[Mat.26:36 / Lk.22:44/ Jn.17:20]

* Scripture tells us that when Jesus was praying in the Garden of Gethsemane, it was a time of agony for him.

This included...

Satan's Attack before Calvary

* Jesus was tempted to avoid or escape the cross. But He was the Passover Lamb. This was the Devil's temptation of Jesus to avoid the cross.

i) "Let this cup pass from me"

Luk 22:39-42 ESV And he came out and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives, and the disciples followed him. (40) And when he came to the place, he said to them, "Pray that you may not enter into temptation." (41) And he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, and knelt down and prayed, (42) saying, "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. ...

Heb 12:1-2 ESV Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, (2) looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

Jesus' Submission to the Father.

* "Not My Will, but thine"

Luk 22:41-42 (41) And he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, and knelt down and prayed, (42) saying, "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done." [Mat.26:39]

This meant saying no to human desires or preferences and submitting fully to the perfect will and eternal plan of His Heavenly Father. Jesus even prayed for us. ^[Jn.17:20]

ASSIGNMENT: *Preparing your Heart for Holy Week.*

* What can we do to make Holy Week more spiritually meaningful and relationally enriching?

PREPARING FOR HOLY WEEK INVOLVES:

1) Purifying as we can, our hearts and motives – submitting all desires to our Heavenly Father.

2) Understanding as we can, our own weaknesses, sinfulness and need of A Savior - Confessing and repenting from specific known sins.

3) Trusting as we can, in Christ alone, as God's only Son and our only Savior.

-----[Article] -----

The Gospel Coalition

After all, it's easy to follow Jesus when things are good. Everyone likes God when life is going along as you had hoped. But when you're not getting the things you want, will you still follow him? When it looks as if following him is going to bring you benefit, it's fine. But when it becomes obvious that faith will cost you, what will you do?

In the end, it boils down to this: do we love God, or do we love the things that he does for us? It's worth asking ourselves:

- What happens to my relationship with God when he isn't giving me the things I think I need in order to be happy?
- Have I ever complained to God that I've got it a lot worse than people who aren't Christians, or people I feel are less mature or servant-hearted Christians?

If the answer's yes, then you've got something in common with me—and you've got a little Judas and Peter in you. It's so easy to betray Jesus in the ordinary course of life. If you choose to believe the lie that Jesus isn't enough, or if you believe that he isn't living up to your expectations, it's a subtle but real form of betrayal. It's so easy to make big promises to God on Sunday, only to see them crumble when you are with your co-workers on Monday morning, or meeting up with friends on Tuesday evening.

But the call to follow Jesus is a call to endure and even suffer for his sake. It's a call to deny what's easiest for you, and give up

earthly comfort; a call to follow him and trust the course that he sets even when it seems that it's not "working" (Luke 9 v 23-24).

The Difference

Two disciples betray Jesus. Yet one has gone down in history as the ultimate villain, while the other went on to become a hero.

Why?

What they did next made the difference. Matthew's Gospel tells us the next and final part of Judas's life:

When Judas, who had betrayed him, saw that Jesus was condemned, he was seized with remorse and returned the thirty silver coins to the chief priests and the elders. "I have sinned," he said, "for I have betrayed innocent blood." "What is that to us?" they replied. "That's your responsibility." So Judas threw the money into the temple and left. Then he went away and hanged himself. ([Matthew 27:3-5](#))

Too late, Judas changed his mind. He may well have shed tears, just like Peter. Certainly he felt great guilt. He regretted what he had done and the consequences. But that was it. We never see him ask for forgiveness or turn to live for God. He just felt remorse, and it sent him to his death.

Peter, on the other hand, repented. He wept bitter tears for his sins, but he didn't just weep. You can tell that he repented for his sins because his life changed after that moment. He became bold and courageous for Christ. After the crucifixion, he joined with the other disciples for prayer. He was the first disciple to enter the empty tomb. After Jesus' resurrection from the dead, Peter was reconciled to him and received forgiveness from him, just as Jesus had predicted (Luke 22 v 32).

And so later on in his life, Peter could testify to the way that Jesus' death had secured forgiveness for people far from God: "For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God" ([1 Peter 3:18](#)).

4 Ways to Respond

Judas and Peter's guilt were the same: their responses were very different. When you stumble—whether it's an obvious moral failure you can't hope to hide, or a subtle pattern of pride that you don't want to admit—how do you respond?

Judas and Peter show us there are four options:

- Like the religious leaders, you can focus all your energies on the things you don't like about other people. Instead of dealing with their own issues, they obsessed over getting Jesus.
- You can try to make up for your mistakes, like Judas giving back the money he had received. The problem is, of course, that you can't un-ring a bell, and you can't undo your sins.
- You can give in to despair, stew in your guilt, and let it eat you alive, as Judas did.
- Or you can repent, as Peter did. You can bring your sin before God for mercy and put things in place that will help you change the way you live.

Only the last of these paths leads to life. And it only leads to life because of the One who loved the betrayer even as he betrayed him; who looked at the denier even as he denied him; and then went to the cross to die the death of a guilty man. Stop and think about this: Jesus loved Peter enough to die for him. And he loves you just as much, no matter how many times you stumble and fall and weep and turn back. He takes your guilt and makes it so that in God's sight you never sinned. That's the kind of friend you and I

need, but can never deserve. Yet in Jesus, *that* is the kind of friend we have.

Even betrayal or denial of Jesus is not unforgivable. Judas' sin literally led to his destruction. Peter's sin eventually led to his restoration by Jesus. He did not give up, but allowed Jesus to minister to him and restore him in relationship and in ministry.



"Good Friday: The Death-Blood Sacrifice of Christ"

Text: Rom. 6:23;

March 20, 2016

Theme: "Christianity" what it means to be Christian

Heb 9:22 ESV Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins

"Good Friday is 'good' because in Christ, we are good and free!"
-one redeemed pilgrim

INTRODUCTION

As we focus on *the Events Surrounding Holy Week*, our focus this week, that is Sunday to Sunday, is the death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. Nothing is more foundational to the Christian faith than these topics.

While today is traditionally Palm Sunday, our focus will be Christ's Death-Blood sacrifice for the sins of the world, which occurred on what we refer to as "Good Friday".

We begin with...

EVENTS SURROUNDING GOOD FRIDAY & THE CRUCIFIXION

When it comes to Good Friday, we tend to think solely about Jesus' death on the cross. But there were other "lesser" but still important events, surrounding the crucifixion itself.

Events leading up to Christ's crucifixion

All these things were part of God's plan in order to bring about all that transpired at Calvary.

- Judas' Betrayal, Mat.26;47-50
- Jesus' Arrest, Mat.26:50
- Disciples flee, Mat.26:56
- Jesus' Trial, Mat.26:57; Jn.18:12-13, 19-24
- Crucifixion, Mat.27:32
- Curtain of the temple torn, Mat.27:51;
- Earthquake, Mat.27:51b
- Proclamation, "Son of God", Mat.16:39; Lk.23:47
- Burial, Mat.27:57; Jn.19:39 (Nicodemus; 3:10)

And each of these individual events, had their own events surrounding each of them, as well.

A Brief Compilation of the Crucifixion

Summarized from Matthew's Gospel

Mat 26:1-2 ESV When Jesus had finished all these sayings, he said to his disciples, (2) "You know that after two days the Passover is coming, and the Son of Man will be delivered up to be crucified."

Mat 27:1 ESV When morning came, all the chief priests and the elders of the people took counsel against Jesus to put him to death.

Mat 27:22 ESV Pilate said to them, "Then what shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?" They all said, "Let him be crucified!"

Mat 27:28-37 ESV And they stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, (29) and twisting together a crown of thorns, they put it on his head and put a reed in his right hand. And kneeling before him, they mocked him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" (30) And they spit on him and took the reed and struck him on the head. (31) And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him and led him away to crucify him. (32) As they went out, they found a man of Cyrene, Simon by name. They compelled this man to carry his cross. (33) And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), (34) they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall, but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. (35) And when they had crucified him, they divided his garments among them by casting lots. (36) Then they sat down and kept watch over him there. (37) And over his head they put the charge against him, which read, "This is Jesus, the King of the Jews."

This is Mathew's summary of what we refer to as "the crucifixion story".

Our main focus today is...

GOOD FRIDAY AND CHRIST'S SACRIFICE

Key word this morning is "**Propitiation**".

Hebrews 2:17 Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make **propitiation** for the sins of the people.

1John 2:2 He is the **propitiation** for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

“Propitiation” means that ¹sin’s righteous requirement was met and ²that God’s holy wrath towards sin, was satisfied.

- **1) There was a Place Called Calvary** – Golgotha – place of the skull. This is the place where criminals were executed for their crimes.
- **2) There was A Thing call the Cross** – Often referred to as a torture stake or a death post. This is what criminals were nailed to in order to die an excruciating death for their sins.

The cross itself today is not superstitiously sacred. It is merely a piece of wood. But it is what the cross represents and what took place on it that makes it so fundamentally important in the life of every professing believer or Jesus Christ.

- **3) There was an Event** called the Crucifixion – The cross is only a piece of wood. But the cross represents what took place on it. There the death-blood sacrifice of Jesus Christ, was made for the sins of the world.

¹DEATH –

Rom 6:23 ESV For the wages of sin is *death*, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Jesus death was the payment for our sins.

²LOVE –

Rom 5:8 ESV but God shows his *love* for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Before we could be helped, God loved us. Before we could help ourselves, God sent His sinless Son to pay for our sinful lives.

³BLOOD –

Heb 9:22 ESV Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of **blood** there is no forgiveness of sins.

Christ's Death-Blood sacrifice for sins was the final sacrifice for sin. There is no other sacrifice to be made. "*It is finished!*"

Heb 7:27 He has no need, like those high priests, to offer sacrifices daily, first for his own sins and then for those of the people, since he did this once for all when he offered up himself.

Heb 9:12 he entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption.

Heb 9:26 for then he would have had to suffer repeatedly since the foundation of the world. But as it is, he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.

Heb 10:10 And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Christ died freely for us, in order to pay fully the death-blood sacrifice for all who will trust in Him. This was propitiation for our sins.

Good Friday and Grace through Faith

Key word for this section is "Substitution". The Old Testament sacrifices were to be without blemish and sacrificed in the place of those whose sins the animal was sacrificed.

When Jesus died on the cross, He died as the *substitutionary atonement* for our sins, that is, **He** was sacrificed in **our** place.

Scripture alone declares, we are saved by Grace Alone, through Faith alone in Christ alone.

Eph 2:4-9 ESV But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, (5) even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ--by grace you have been saved-- (6) and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, (7) so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. (8) For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, (9) not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

Some believe that special deeds must be performed or some religious rituals must be engaged in, in order to make our faith and God's grace effective. God's word teaches otherwise.

This is important because Faith in Christ, is how the Truth of Christ's death-blood sacrifice is applied to us personally.

One Criminal's faith

There are those who reject Christ and there are those who humbly repent, believe and receive Christ and His forgiveness.^[John1:12] The Crucifixion of is about 3 Crosses, 2 Criminals, 1 Savior and 1 saved sinner.

Luk 23:39-43 ESV One of the criminals who were hanged [i.e. hanged on a cross] railed at him, saying, "Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!" (40) But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? (41) And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong." (42) And he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come

into your kingdom." (43) And he said to him, "**Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise.**"

This criminal's hands and feet were nailed to his own cross, for his own sins. There were no good deeds to preform; no effective works to go on his record; no righteous rituals that he participated in. All he could do was to hang there dying and believe and be saved. That is all that any of us need to do to be saved.

Then there is....

The Centurion's Faith (Lk.23:44-47

Luk 23:44-47 ESV (44) It was now about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour, (45) while the sun's light failed. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. (46) Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!" And having said this he breathed his last. (47) Now when the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God, saying, "Certainly this man was innocent!" [Mat.27:54; "Son of God

It appears that even one of the Roman soldiers who nailed Jesus to the cross, believed in Him. His evil works of crucifying Jesus, must certainly have out weighed whatever good works he may have performed during his life. And yet it seems he genuinely believed at some level.

YOUR ASSIGNMENT

(1) Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and be Saved! – Acts 16:31

Jesus Paid it All

Jesus did not just pay part of or most of our sin payment. He didn't just get us part of the way to heaven or even most of the way. He paid fully for our sins. Because of His death-blood, substitutionary

atonement, making propitiation for our sins, He has paid it all and done it all *for us*.

Heb 1:3 ESV He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After **making purification for sins**, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,

Jesus Christ's sacrifice on Calvary for our sins, was:

1) full – It was lacking in nothing.

2) final - That was the end, there was nothing to come after it.

3) finished – It accomplished all God intended it to, and all we needed it to.

Our Works required - Faith (Jn.6:29

* When it comes down to it, the only work we can do is the “work” of faith.

Joh 6:27-29 ESV (27) Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you. For on him God the Father has set his seal." (28) Then they said to him, "What must we do, to be doing the works of God?" (29) Jesus answered them, "**This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.**"

Imagine a chair before you. You look at it, you feel of it, you believe it is genuinely a chair, and you might even sincerely believe that it *could* fully hold you up, if you were ever to sit down. But you never do. Does that chair hold you up? Not yet. Some people treat Christ like that. They believe He is a person, maybe even God's Son. They may even believe that He could forgive them and save them. But they never rest fully in His finished work on their behalf. They trust in their own good works

to fulfill the faith recipe. They believe there has to be an “exercising of their faith” in a manner that only they can determine. Does that faith save a person? I’d say no, because they never fully rest in the Christ’s sacrifice for them. Somehow it still depends on what they do or don’t do.

2) Leave the tract, “What Does Holy Week Mean to Me?” laying somewhere this week.

Joh 6:30 ESV (30) So they said to him, "Then what sign do you do, that we may see and believe you? What work do you perform?"

If you look back in this same chapter, Jesus has just fed the 5000. And these are part of that crowd who were fed (Jn.6:26). And they ask, “*what sign will you do, that we might believe in you?*”.

They weren’t interested in believing in Jesus. They didn’t care what He had done or would do. They didn’t care what the evidence was. In fact their pockets were still probably bulging with the bread they had saved from the feeding of the 5,000 which they had just attended.

Joh 6:35-39 ESV (35) Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever **believes** in me shall never thirst. (36) But I said to you that you have seen me and yet do not **believe**.

These people are like people today – no matter what they hear, or what they may know about Jesus – or even what their hearts or minds may be telling them – they choose to remain Truth-denying, Christ-rejecting, self-proclaiming, pride-swelling skeptics. They feel as though lack of acknowledgment of the obvious, or lack of commitment, gives them an excuse to continue living the way they want to live.

Joh 3:16-19 ESV "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. (17) For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. (18) Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. (19) And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil.

INTERPRETATION: "Truth has come into the world, but people loved their sin, and rejected the Truth, because their works are evil and they love their sinful living."

What works are you performing in attempts of finding forgiveness? Have you trusted in the work of Jesus Christ as your Savior, and on His sacrifice on the cross, for your sins?

And are you willing to turn away from your life of personal pursuits and pleasures, repent of your own personal sinfulness and allow God to begin changing your life? A right relationship with God is based on...Not what we can do for ourselves, but on what Christ has already done for us.

Christ died for our sins, according to the Scriptures; he was buried and was raised on the third day, according to Scripture.^[1Cor.15:3-4]

Trust in Christ, that His death-blood sacrifice is payment enough and in full for your own person sins and be saved.



"the Last Passover Remembrance"

Text: Jn.12:1-11; 12:20-36; Jn13:1-17; 1Cor.11:23ff *March 24, 2016*

Theme: "*Christianity*" what it means to be Christian

1Cor. 11:25 ESV In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

"We must never forget! Never – Ever Forget!"

-Grievous thoughts at Dacau

INTRODUCTION

This evening is our focus is on "***Preparation***". The observance and celebration of the Lord's Last Passover is distinctly and Biblically, Christian. It is directly and originally from the Jewish Passover.

Items to pass around during the Passover message: * wooden cup
* whip * bottle/vase * nails

1) Jesus Anointed at Bethany” Jn12:1-11 (Bottle of perfume)

The final week of Jesus’ life was full of experiences, which as Jesus pointed out, were full of symbolism for us today.

Joh 12:1-11 Six days before the Passover, Jesus therefore came to Bethany, where Lazarus was, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. (2) So they gave a dinner for him there. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those reclining with him at table. (3) Mary therefore took a pound of expensive ointment made from pure nard, and anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped his feet with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. (4) But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (he who was about to betray him), said, (5) "Why was this ointment not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?" (6) He said this, not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief, and having charge of the moneybag he used to help himself to what was put into it. (7) Jesus said, "Leave her alone, so that she may keep it for the day of my burial." (8) For the poor you always have with you, but you do not always have me." (9) When the large crowd of the Jews learned that Jesus was there, they came, not only on account of him but also to see Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. (10) So the chief priests made plans to put Lazarus to death as well, (11) because on account of him many of the Jews were going away and believing in Jesus.

4 days prior to the Passover, the disciples began making **“Preparation”** for the Passover. Locating an upper room location; finding and preparing the proper “furnishings” and implements; preparing the bread and the wine and the rest of the Passover elements.

And prior to the Last Supper, this anointing of Jesus, by Mary – while being a real event, was filled with symbolism.

[READ John12:7]

Mary anointed Jesus before His death, as being symbolic of and foreshadowing His coming crucifixion.

2): Jesus Predicts Death -John 12:20–36 “ (Candle, flashlight)

Joh 12:20-36 Now among those who went up to worship at the feast were some Greeks. (21) So these came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and asked him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." (22) Philip went and told Andrew; Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. (23) And Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. (24) Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. (25) Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. (26) If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him. (27) "Now is my soul troubled. And what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? But for this purpose I have come to this hour. (28) Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven: "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." (29) The crowd that stood there and heard it said that it had thundered. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him." (30) Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not mine. (31) Now is the judgment of this world; now will the ruler of this world be cast out. (32) And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." (33) He said this to show by what kind of death he was going to die. (34) So the crowd answered him, "We have heard from the Law that the Christ remains forever. How can you say that the Son of Man must

be lifted up? Who is this Son of Man?" (35) So Jesus said to them, "The light is among you for a little while longer. Walk while you have the light, lest darkness overtake you. The one who walks in the darkness does not know where he is going. (36) While you have the light, believe in the light, that you may become sons of light." When Jesus had said these things, he departed and hid himself from them.

In John, Light is associated with Spiritual life and with the Son of God in the person of Jesus Christ. Jesus **Prepares** his disciples by teaching ahead of time, that He was going to die soon. HE speaks of grain, that falls to the earth – that it must first die in order to bear much fruit. Jesus is the grain of wheat that left heaven and came to earth for this very purpose – to die and bear much fruit in the lives of His believers.

[READ Jn.12:24]

Throughout the gospel of John, Light represents spiritual life. Jesus is the Light and source of that spiritual life. And here HE **Prepares** His followers before hand – reminding them that the Light of Life is with them – but only for a short time.

3) Jesus Washes Disciples' Feet Jn 13:1–17" (Towel, basin)

* Here Jesus Prepares His disciples for loving ministry.

Joh 13:1-17 Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. (2) During supper, when the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him, (3) Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going back to God, (4) rose from supper. He laid aside his outer garments, and taking

a towel, tied it around his waist. (5) Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around him. (6) He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, do you wash my feet?" (7) Jesus answered him, "What I am doing you do not understand now, but afterward you will understand." (8) Peter said to him, "You shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no share with me." (9) Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" (10) Jesus said to him, "The one who has bathed does not need to wash, except for his feet, but is completely clean. And you are clean, but not every one of you." (11) For he knew who was to betray him; that was why he said, "Not all of you are clean." (12) When he had washed their feet and put on his outer garments and resumed his place, he said to them, "Do you understand what I have done to you? (13) You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. (14) If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. (15) For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you. (16) Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. (17) If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.

Here, Jesus does the unthinkable. The King of Glory stoops to the level of a common house slave. This presents a very uncomfortable situation especially for Peter. But in doing this, Jesus was **Preparing** His disciples for loving ministry, by presenting them an example of humble, loving service for them to follow.

[READ Jn.13:13-14]

4) The Last Supper - Matt 26:14-25 9 (the elements)

Now we come to the focus of this evening. Jesus Prepares His disciples for His death-blood sacrifice for sins. He takes the very

familiar Jewish Passover meal and reveals how it has pointed to Him and now finds its fulfillment in Him as the Passover Lamb of God who will take away the sins of the world.

A Compilation of The Lord's Last Passover passages

Joh 13:1-11; 18-20 ESV (1) Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. (2) During supper, when the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him, (3) Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going back to God, (4) rose from supper. He laid aside his outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around his waist. (5) Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around him. (6) He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, do you wash my feet?" (7) Jesus answered him, "What I am doing you do not understand now, but afterward you will understand." (8) Peter said to him, "You shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no share with me." (9) Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" (10) Jesus said to him, "The one who has bathed does not need to wash, except for his feet, but is completely clean. And you are clean, but not every one of you." (11) For he knew who was to betray him; that was why he said, "Not all of you are clean." **Jn.13:18** I am not speaking of all of you; I know whom I have chosen. But the Scripture will be fulfilled, 'He who ate my bread has lifted his heel against me.' (19) I am telling you this now, before it takes place,

that when it does take place you may believe that I am he. (20) Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever receives the one I send receives me, and whoever receives me receives the one who sent me."

Luk 22:17-19 17 And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he said, "Take this, and divide it among yourselves. 18 For I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." 19 And he took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Mat 26:21-26 ESV And as they were eating, he said, "Truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me." (22) And they were very sorrowful and began to say to him one after another, "Is it I, Lord?" (23) He answered, "He who has dipped his hand in the dish with me will betray me."^[Jn13:26] (24) The Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that man if he had not been born." (25) Judas, who would betray him, answered, "Is it I, Rabbi?" He said to him, "You have said so." (26) Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body."

1 Cor.11:25 In the same way also he took the cup, 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

In the Traditional Jewish Passover there were 4 cups which were taken during the meal and all were symbolic. Each cup was connected with a corresponding promise from God for His people from Ex.6:6,7.

Exo 6:6-7 ESV Say therefore to the people of Israel, 'I am the LORD, and ¹I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and ²I will deliver you from slavery to them, and ³I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great acts of judgment. (7) ⁴I will take you to be my people, and I will be your God, and you shall know that I am the LORD your God, who has brought you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians.

1st cup) Cup of Sanctification, which corresponded to the promise; “I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians.”

2nd cup) Cup of Judgment corresponding to Gods promise: “I will rid you of their bondage.

3rd cup) Cup of Redemption which corresponded to God’s promise: “I will redeem you with an outstretched arm”.

It was this cup that Jesus held during the Last Passover, depicting His fulfillment of the redemption of God, in Christ as the Lamb of God, which takes away the sin of the world”.(Jn.1:29)

Jesus stated: "This cup is the new covenant in **MY** blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of **ME**." (1Cor.11:25)

Then there is the 4th Cup, which is referred to as the cup of Praise: Why would this 4th cup not be the cup Jesus took “after the supper”?

The 4th Cup was where Jesus stopped. The Last cup He took was the 3rd Cup of Redemption, and would be the focus of his statement in **Mat 26:39** as He was in the garden of Gethesemane praying: "My Father, if it be possible, let **this cup** pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will."

But Jesus did not partake of the 4th cup. We see that the 4th Cup is still prophetic, even today. **The 4th Cup** of the Passover is

connected to God's 4th promise in Ex.6: "I will take you to me for a people." This is still futuristic. This speaks of the time when the Lord will gather Israel again in the LORD. To the believer, in the Messiah, this cup also represents the great hope that someday Messiah is coming back to take us up, that is His true believers and followers, to be with Him in the air.(1Thes.4:17)

This is why after the 3rd Cup of Redemption, Jesus stopped short of taking the 4th cup of Praise – making this statement recorded in **Mat.26:29**: "I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."

This is expected to be fulfilled at the 2nd Coming of Christ. Because it will be at that time in the Father's Kingdom, that God's people Israel are brought back to Jehovah, through their blessed Messiah, Jesus. Then, Jesus will be accepted as Israel's Messiah, and the 4th cup will no longer be prophetic but then, fulfilled in Jesus the Christ, or "Yeshua Ha Messiah".

Each time we take the Lord's Supper it is a remembrance of what He accomplished at Calvary. And each time we remember His death-blood sacrifice for our sins, we are not only reminding ourselves of that event, but we are also preparing ourselves to be ready for His return and His righteous reign on this earth.

Take Communion

1 Cor.11:23ff

5) "Christ Crucified" John 19:17–30 (whip, dice, nail, cross,

Joh 19:17-30 (17) and he went out, bearing his own cross, to the place called The Place of a Skull, which in Aramaic is called Golgotha. (18) There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, and Jesus between them. (19) Pilate also wrote an inscription and put it on the cross. It read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews." (20) Many of the Jews read this inscription, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and it was written in Aramaic, in Latin, and in Greek. (21) So the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, "Do not write, 'The King of the Jews,' but rather, 'This man said, I am King of the Jews.'" (22) Pilate answered, "What I have written I have written." (23) When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his garments and divided them into four parts, one part for each soldier; also his tunic. But the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom, (24) so they said to one another, "Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see whose it shall be." This was to fulfill the Scripture which says, "They divided my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots." So the soldiers did these things, (25) but standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. (26) When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son!" (27) Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother!" And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home. (28) After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), "I thirst." (29) A jar full of sour wine stood there, so they put a sponge full of the sour wine on a hyssop branch and held it to his mouth. (30) When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, "It is finished," and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

The Crucifixion of Jesus Christ is God's way of **Preparing** us to spend eternity with Him in His holy presence – bringing forgiveness of our sins and salvation from eternal judgment for our souls.

[Read John 19:17-18]

6) Christ's Burial –Mat.17 (strips of cloth or grave wrap)

From the manger to the cross; from swaddling clothes to grave cloths. The purpose for the birth and life of Jesus Christ was being accomplished.

Mat 27:57-66 When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who also was a disciple of Jesus. (58) He 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 shroud (60) and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had cut in the rock. And he rolled a great stone to the entrance of the tomb and went away. (61) Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb. (62) The next day, that is, after the day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate (63) and said, "Sir, we remember how that impostor said, while he was still alive, 'After three days I will rise.' (64) Therefore order the tomb to be made secure until the third day, lest his disciples go and steal him away and tell the people, 'He has risen from the dead,' and the last fraud will be worse than the first." (65) Pilate said to them, "You have a guard of soldiers. Go, make it as secure as you can." (66) So they went and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone and setting a guard.

Christ is buried in a tomb, concealing His tortured body. But it was also **Preparation** for a glorious and victorious ending to this Holy Week.

[Read Mat. 27:59-60]

We will pick up here on Sunday morning at 8:00am on the hill for our Sunrise Service.



"Sonrise Service"

Text: Jn.12:1-11; 12:20-36; Jn13:1-17; 1Cor.11:23ff *March 24, 2016*

Theme: "Christianity" what it means to be Christian

Job 14:14 ESV If a man dies, shall he live again? All the days of my service I would wait, till my renewal should come."

"But for you who fear my name, the ***sun of righteousness*** shall rise with healing in its wings. You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall.

--Malachi 4:2

SONrise Service

March 27, 2016

Chairs. Hymnals; Grave cloths, burial shroud

Introduction

We met Thursday evening have the Lord's Last Supper together and looking ahead to the crucifixion of our Lord Jesus. On Thursday, our key word was ***Preparation***. This morning our key word is ***Emptiness***.

Psalm 16:9-11 ESV Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices; my flesh also dwells secure. (10) For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol, or let your holy one see corruption. (11) You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

John 10:10 ESV The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

HYMN: “I Serve A Risen Savior” - #220 .

Key word today: “**Emptiness**”. For many in this life, there is little more than emptiness.

There is...

Emptiness of Truth – I may be purposefully or not purposefully – yet having no source of truth or hope upon which faith and hope can grow.

There is...

Emptiness of Faith – there is little of no sense of anything beyond this physical life. The only thing certain is the pain of today. There is nothing beyond the grave. Perhaps there was nothing real in the past. For some, life is only real because they are presently living in it. Before their existence, however that may have occurred, there was nothing. After they die, there will be nothing. Reality is only what it is because they personally, are presently in the picture. The emptiness of self-focused reality. What a cursed perspective on human existence.

There is...

Emptiness of Hope, because of the emptiness of faith. For

those, the **Empty Tomb** is only a perception, or a feel good ideal, because of our own empty perception, of our own empty lives.

Emptiness of life and purpose – there is an emptiness of faith, and hope and Truth, therefore an emptiness of life, emptiness of purpose, resulting in an...

Emptiness of overall existence : no wonder people end their own lives, because emptiness is something we cannot live with.

Today I'd like you to image the emptiness of a life without Holy Week

Imagine the emptiness of No Cross and no Crucifixion.

Imagine the emptiness of No Good Friday, because there was no Crucifixion.

Imagine the emptiness of No Forgiveness of sins because there was No Good Friday, with no cross, and no Crucifixion.

Imagine the emptiness of No Salvation from eternal judgment, because there was no forgiveness of sins, because there was no cross with no crucifixion with no Good Friday.

Imagine the emptiness of No promise of eternal life, because there was no salvation of the soul, because there was no forgiveness of sins, because there was no payment for those sins, because there was no cross or crucifixion.

Imagine the emptiness of No relationship with God, because there was no payment for our sins, which have separated us from God, therefore we would remain forever separated from God and apart from His family.

Imagine the emptiness of No Church family, because there was no new birth into His family.

Imagine the emptiness of No Lord's Supper Remembrance, because there would be nothing to remember!

Imagine the emptiness of No Empty Tomb, because there was no cross, nor any dead body to place into the tomb.

Imagine the emptiness of no Savior and No Resurrection.

Question: How long has there been a concept of the resurrection in religion"? The scholars tell us that the book of Job was written sometime during the book of Genesis. Lets look at what Job knew and believed about life after death.

Job 14:7-14 ESV "For there is hope for a tree, if it be cut down, that it will sprout again, and that its shoots will not cease. (8) Though its root grow old in the earth, and its stump die in the soil, (9) yet at the scent of water it will bud and put out branches like a young plant. (10) But a man dies and is laid low; man breathes his last, and where is he? (11) As waters fail from a lake and a river wastes away and dries up, (12) so a man lies down and rises not again; till the heavens are no more he will not awake or be roused out of his sleep. (13) Oh that you would hide me in Sheol, that you would conceal me until your wrath be past, that you would appoint me a set time, and remember me! (14) *If a man dies, shall he live again?* All the days of my service I would wait, till my renewal should come.

In chapter 14, Job reveals his thoughts and questions about he after life. So does Job believe in a resurrection of the dead?

HYMN "Because HE Lives" - #213 .

Isa 26:19 ESV Your dead shall live; their bodies shall rise. You who dwell in the dust, awake and sing for joy! For your dew is a dew of light, and the earth will give birth to the dead.

Daniel 12:1-2 “At that time shall arise Michael, the great prince who has charge of your people. And there shall be a time of trouble, such as never has been since there was a nation till that time; but at that time your people shall be delivered, every one whose name shall be found written in the book. ²And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.

Daniel 12:13 - "As for you, go your way till the end. You will rest, and then at the end of the days you will rise to receive your allotted inheritance."

So did Job really believe in the resurrection of the dead? Yes Job did, along with Isaiah and Daniel and many others.

Job 19:25-26 ESV For I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last he will stand upon the earth. (26) And after my skin has been thus destroyed, yet in my flesh I shall see God,

From New Testament Scripture..

Luk 24:1-12 ESV But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared. (2) And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, (3) but when they went in they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. (4) While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men stood by them in dazzling apparel. (5) And as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, "Why do you seek the living among the dead? (6) He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, (7) that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful

men and be crucified and on the third day rise." (8) And they remembered his words, (9) and returning from the tomb they told all these things to the eleven and to all the rest. (10) Now it was Mary Magdalene and Joanna and Mary the mother of James and the other women with them who told these things to the apostles, (11) but these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. (12) But Peter rose and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; and he went home marveling at what had happened.

"Our God Reigns" - #229 .

"He Is Lord" - #105 .



"Christ's Resurrection and Our Own"

Text: compilation and 1 Cor.15

March 27, 2016

Theme: What it means to be Christian

-- Easter Sunday--

{ "In a little while the people of this world won't
be able to see me, but you will see me. And because I live,
you will live." --John 14:19 CEV }

Every parting gives a foretaste of death,
every reunion a hint of the resurrection.

- Arthur Schopenhauer

INTRODUCTION

Today ends the passion week of our Lord Jesus. It also ends our study on "The Events Surrounding Holy Week", which forms the foundation for all that we believe about being a Christian.

Thursday night we met as we observed the Lord's Last Supper or Passover and its significance to us as Christians today. Since then,

Good Friday has occurred, as He was sacrificed as the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.

We begin with...

A SUMMARY OF THE RESURRECTION STORY

* Mat.28; Mk.16; Lk.24; Jn.20; 1 Cor. 15.

A Compilation of the resurrection passages

Mat.28:1> Now after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, **Mk16:1**> , Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome went to see the tomb. [they] bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him.

Mk.16:3> And they were saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance of the tomb?" **Mat. 2**> And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. 3 His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. 4 And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men.

Mat.28: 5 But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. **Lk.24:5** > "Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, for he has risen, as he said.

Lk.24:6-8 Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, 7 that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise." Come, see the place where he lay. 8 And they remembered his words,

Mat.28:6-7 ...go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and behold, he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him. See, I have told you." 8 So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples.

Jn.20:11 But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb, and as she wept she stooped to look into the tomb. 12 And she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had lain, one at the head and one at the feet. 13 They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." 14 Having said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing, but she did not know that it was Jesus. 15 Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." 16 Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned and said to him in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means Teacher). 17 Jesus said to her, "Do not cling to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" 18 Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"—and that he had said these things to her.

Lk.24:9-12> 9 and returning from the tomb they told all these things to the eleven and to all the rest. 10 Now it was Mary Magdalene and Joanna and Mary the mother of James and the other women with them who told these things to the apostles, 11 but these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. 12 But Peter rose and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; and he went home marveling at what had happened.

Mat.28:11 While [the disciples] were going, behold, some of the guard went into the city and told the chief priests all that had taken place. 12 And when they had assembled with the elders and taken counsel, they gave a sufficient sum of money to the soldiers 13 and said, "Tell people, 'His disciples came by night and stole him away while we were asleep.' 14 And if this comes to the governor's ears, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble." 15 So they took the money and did as they were directed. And this story has been spread among the Jews to this day.

1Cor. 15:3-7 ESV For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, (4) that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, (5) and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. (6) Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. (7) Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles.

This documentation of 5 writers shows us that *Holy Week* is not the concoction of some Christian cult. The Passion Week of Christ is not the history of Roman Catholicism. It is Biblical Christianity. It is the very foundation of all that we believe as Christians. If the devil can make us minimize this week, then he can get us to minimize our faith. That's not what it is. That's never what it was.

The contents of *Holy Week* is distinctly and Biblically Christian and it is directly and originally from the Jewish Passover, now fulfilled in Jesus Christ. Today's message is Biblical, though not as much Theological as it is practical. We will consider the reality of how the resurrection of Jesus Christ affected the lives of the disciples and how it can affect our lives today.

So there is the compilation of the Resurrection of Christ.....

THE POWER AND PRACTICAL EFFECT OF CHRIST'S RESURRECTION

The Crucifixion staggered their faith

As Christ encouraged His disciples in John 14, He gave them this promise.

Joh 14:18-19 ESV "I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. (19) Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. ***Because I live, you also will live.***"

YET HE DIED!

So imagine how devastated they were to see their Messiah crucified and laid in a tomb. Judas betrayed; Peter denied; Jesus is now dead and buried. Their hope is crumbling.

Just as significantly as the crucifixion devastated their faith...

The Resurrection of Christ Significantly Revived their faith

* After all, their hope is not lost –even more, it is strengthened.

Mat 28:1-8 ESV (8) So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples.

Luk 24:10-13 ESV Now it was Mary Magdalene and Joanna and Mary the mother of James and the other women with them who told these things to the apostles, (11) but these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. (12) But Peter rose and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; and he went home marveling at what had happened.

The spark of hope was being re-kindled.

SUMMARIZE THE ROAD TO EMMAUS

Luke.24:13 That very day two of them were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem,

Luk 24:28-36 ESV So they drew near to the village to which they were going. He acted as if he were going farther, (29) but they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, for it is toward evening and the day is now far spent." So he went in to stay with them. (30) When he was at table with them, he took the bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them. (31) And their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And he vanished from their sight. (32) They said to each other, "Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?" (33) And they rose that same hour and returned to Jerusalem. And they found the eleven and those who were with them gathered together,

Now their hope is being fueled by Jesus Himself, as He taught them from the Holy Scriptures concerning the promised Messiah.

Then there was Thomas the doubter. Jesus had appeared to the other disciples, but Thomas was absent.

Joh 20:24-26 ESV Now Thomas, one of the Twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. (25) So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe." (26) Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you."

Joh 20:27-28 ESV Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe." (28) Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!"

Little by little and appearance by appearance, the faith of the disciples was being revived as they were becoming convinced of Christ's resurrection. Now imagine how Christ's promise encouraged them.

Joh 14:19b ESV "*Because I live, you also will live.*"

They now realize that not even death can rob them of their hope in Christ and their eternity with Him.

So how has the resurrection of Christ affected your Christian life?

Hope? Assurance? Confidence? Deeper Devotion? Courageously living for Jesus?

I. The Resurrection Story

II. The Power and Effect of Christ's Resurrection

Now we consider

MY FAITH AND THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS

* Resurrection refers to life reentering a dead, lifeless body and rising to function once more.

IT is important to realize that the Resurrection refers first and foremost to the bodily, literal resurrection of Jesus Christ from the Dead. But secondly it must also be viewed as the resurrection of the faith of all the true believers and followers of Christ – who then were eyewitness, and who now, give us the Truth to strengthen our faith today.

Resurrection is Crucial for true faith

Without assurance of the resurrection of Christ, all we can believe in is a dead Savior. “For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by Christ’s death, how much more will we be saved by His life (Rom.5:10)

1Co 15:21-22 ESV For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. (22) For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.

Rom 10:9 ESV because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

If Christ is not presently alive, then He certainly cannot offer anyone eternal life, can He? He couldn’t give us a gift He didn’t Himself, possess.

Resurrection is Central for true hope & assurance

IF CHRIST WAS NOT RAISED from the dead, our faith is in vain, or is empty or is a hoax. (1Cor.15:14)

IF CHRIST IS NOT RAISED from the dead, there is no evidence that He was actually able to forgive sins.

IF CHRIST WAS NOT RAISED from the dead, then He has not eternal life to give us, because He does not possess it Himself. You can’t give a gift if you don’t first possess it.

If Christ is raised from the Dead, and we believe He is – then that is the foundation upon which all our faith is built. Everything else depends on that!

1Co 15:3-6 ESV For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the

Scriptures, (4) that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, (5) and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. (6) Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep.

These Historically documented appearances of Jesus to His followers, were crucial confirmations of His prophetic death and Resurrection. The Evidence of His resurrection, was proof of His victory over sin and death.

QUESTION: Why do you think all these references are given in the Bible, to the many appearance of Jesus, to so many people after His resurrection? Why not simply one report? Wouldn't that be enough?

Because this helps us today, to understand and to be assured, that this was not merely a made up story. It was not an hallucination of 3 thousand or more people. This was not all these people thinking they saw some Ghost, or a spiritual apparition of Jesus. It helps us be certain the resurrection of Jesus was not a figurative resurrection.

This was the literal, physical, visual resurrection of Christ.

BECAUSE I live, you too shall live.

Joh 14:19 ESV Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live.

And...

BECAUSE Christ was raised, we too will be raised.

1Co 15:20-24 ESV But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. (21) For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of

the dead. (22) For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. (23) But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. (24) Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power.

We end with...

OUR OBLIGATION

IF the resurrection is true, THEN I must live differently

We must stop pretending. We must put an end to half-hearted Christianity. Stop pretending I'm doing what is expected of me, when Christ is not the central focus of your life.

We have to view life differently. We have to view our faith differently. Not just a Sunday faith, but a 24 hour a day, part of every area of our life, reality.

IF the resurrection is true, THEN Christ must have first place if my life, in my speech, in my action,

If the events surrounding Holy Week are real to you – if its all true in your mind – then we are obligated before God to share it with others. It should be only reasonable that it becomes part of our conversations, part of our relationships, part of our purpose in living. It has to count for something and it has to affect us in some way, so as to make a difference in our reason for existing.



BUMPERSTICKER: Too many Christians live the Christian life like a bumper sticker. A Bumper sticker on a car has nothing

whatsoever to do with its performance. You can have a Maserati bumper sticker on a Ford Pinto and it changes nothing. A bumper sticker on a car has nothing whatsoever to do with its performance.

Some Christians live with a self-imposed bumper sticker on their life which says “Christian”, but sadly, that sticker fails to affect their life and performance. Not all and maybe not many – but there are Christians that live their lives, claiming to be a Christian, yet their life does not include Jesus in their speech or their attitude. So that they are little or no different than the rest of the world around them.

We talk about our spouses to others. “Oh, my wife is so beautiful” “Oh my husband is so wonderful”. “Oh our children are so cute” “Oh, My car is so cool”. “My position at work is so important”. “My accomplishments are so outstanding.”

But when it comes to talking to others about the most important person and relationship on this planet, some excuse themselves from ever mentioning the name of Jesus, because “they don’t want to offend someone; or that’s just a private part of my life.”

CHRISTIAN! We have to get past that!- Do we think those excuses are acceptable to God? We have to be talking about Him. We have to be allowing Him to change and govern our lives.

Jehovah’s Witness going door to door, feverishly attempting to earn their salvation. Muslims keeping their holidays like crazy, hoping their god will see that they have performed enough good deeds to earn their way into paradise.

But for many “Christians” they think they have their ticket into heaven, therefore they can relax, kick back, coast and do whatever they want or as little as they please for their dead and risen Savior, Jesus Christ – because they have what they wanted – that is a ticket to heaven.

Rev 3:15-17 CEV I know everything you have done, and you are not cold or hot. I wish you were either one or the other. (16) But since you are lukewarm and neither cold nor hot, I will spit you out of my mouth. (17) You claim to be rich and successful and to have everything you need. But you don't know how bad off you are. You are pitiful, poor, blind, and naked.

May Holy Week and especially the resurrection of our Lord Jesus, move us to not only live good Christian lives, but to be assured and courageous enough to talk to others about our faith and about Christ's resurrection.

The Events Surrounding Holy Week, are pivotal and crucially foundational to all we believe as Christians. Everything else is built on top of those events.

Holy Week is all about God's love for mankind. As His people, the church, why would we not want to demonstrate our own love for Him and serve Him faithfully, while sharing Him passionately.

“...and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.” --2 Cor. 5:15 ESV



Don't close this booklet yet

without considering this all important question.

Is Jesus Christ the Savior of *your* soul and the Lord of *your* life?

Every person is born guilty of sin and in need of forgiveness.

For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;
--Romans 3:23

Our sin is against God, therefore our forgiveness can only come
from God.

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only
begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should
not perish, but have everlasting life. --John 3:16

God has appointed His Son as the payment for sins and sent Him
to die in our place.

For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is
eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.
-- Romans 6:23

God's love is demonstrated through the sacrificial payment of
Jesus Christ in our place for our sins.

...but God shows his love for us in that while we were
still sinners, Christ died for us. ---Romans 5:8

For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord
will be saved." -- Rom 10:13

But to all who did receive him, who believed in his
name, he gave the right to become children of God, -
John 1:12

Before you close this book, why not be absolutely certain that you
are truly a citizen of God's eternal kingdom and loving family?

*Trust in Jesus Christ today and receive forgiveness for your sins
and citizenship into God's family and His Kingdom.*

The ABCs

A - Admit you have sinned and are in need of a Savior.

B - Believe Jesus died in your place, and you can no way help yourself.

C - Confess your sins to God. He already knows. Also Confess Jesus as you LORD. He desires and deserves to be your Lord.

Prayer: Take time to talk to God right now and open your heart and life to His instruction and leadership.

Connect with a local Bible believing, Christ centered church.

Commit yourself to meeting regularly with other Christians who are growing in their faith.

Heb 10:24-25 And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, (25) not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

Act 2:41-42 So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls. (42) And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

For more information or for spiritual help, please contact us at:
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Saegertown, Pa, 16433, Ph: 814-763-2934, www.christefca.org

*It is our prayer that you find **Jesus Christ** to be...
your highest calling,
your greatest purpose,
your soul's source and joy,
and your all-consuming passion.*

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May each lesson bring a growing submission, a deeper obedience and an increase of the righteous reign of the Lordship of Jesus Christ in the fullness of His Spirit, in His Church and throughout our mission field.

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