

## **Good Friday 2023**

To contemplate and celebrate the Cross – this is our opportunity to pause and remember not only what happened on Calvary, but also why – and why remembering God’s love for us in Jesus is essential for our very lives. Last night at dinner, asking our daughters what does all this mean? Young or old, new Christian or the most mature saints among us, we all are to consider Jesus, and remember.

We know the story - but to remember it was my sin in part that put Jesus there is right and good, because it’s true. What does the Cross of Christ mean for us as we follow Christ in faith?

Jesus is the image of the invisible God – He upholds the universe by the word of His power, we see the very glory and character of God in the life of Jesus – because indeed, He is God.

### **So what does it mean for us to recognize the significance of Jesus’ crucifixion and death?**

Paul says it this way...

*<sup>2</sup> For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. <sup>3</sup> And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling, <sup>4</sup> and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, <sup>5</sup> so that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.*

*. (1 Co 2:2–5)*

### ***Does your faith rest in the power of God?***

Peter says it this way...

*<sup>18</sup> For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit,*

*(1 Pe 3:18)*

### ***Do you believe Christ has brought you to God?***

John says it this way...

*<sup>9</sup> In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup> In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.*

*(1 Jn 4:9–10)*

### ***Do you have life in His name? Are you living through Him?***

**To know Jesus who was crucified**

**To know Jesus who suffered for our sins to make us truly alive**

**To know Jesus as the atoning sacrifice for ours that we might live through him.**

*(Romans 5:6–8)*

*<sup>6</sup> For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. <sup>7</sup> For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— <sup>8</sup> but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

**Jesus died while specifically knowing you to be an ungodly sinner – Do you know His love for you?**

Romans 6:6-11

6 We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. 7 For one who has died has been set free from sin. 8 Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. 9 We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. 10 For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. 11 So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

**Do you consider yourself dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus?**

(Ro 8:1-4).

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. 2 For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. 3 For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, 4 in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

**Are you walking in the glorious freedom of the Spirit, knowing there is no condemnation for you because of Jesus?**

(1 Co 1:17-18)

17 For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel, and not with words of eloquent wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power. 18 For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

**Do you see the cross of Christ as the power of God to save you?**

(2 Co 5:17-21)

17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. 18 All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; 19 that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. 20 Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. 21 For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

**Do you know you are a new creation and reconciled by the work of Christ?**

Galatians 6:14

14 But far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world

**Is your greatest boast, the most known message of your life – Jesus Christ?**

(Eph 2:13–19)

13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. 14 For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility 15 by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, 16 and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. 17 And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. 18 For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. 19 So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God.

**Do you still live as though you are far from Christ? By faith, He has brought you near by his blood. Are you living with the peace of God by faith in Christ?**

(Php 2:5–11).

Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, 6 who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. 9 Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, 10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

**Does it bring you great joy to know the name of Jesus is above every name?**

(Col 2:13–15)

13 And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, 14 by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross.

**Do you know your record of debt, all of your sin, has been cancelled and nailed to the cross?**

**Jesus, Founder and Perfecter of Our Faith**

12 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, <sup>2</sup> 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.

(Heb 12:1–2)

**This is why we celebrate and contemplate the Cross. It is the miracle of the humble, Holy, mercy of God being both just and our justifier, cleansing us, freeing us, purchasing us, pardoning us, loving us at immeasurable cost, because He loves us and gave His very best to redeem us, so that we too can join the chorus of heaven, exalting the matchless unrivaled name of Jesus for now and all eternity.**

