

The Victorious Death of Jesus Christ
Week 10 – The Reality of the Spirit Realm
Good Friday

Message Mate

- In the time known as Middle English (1100 to 1500 AD) good meant holy or sacred. This is the origin of Good Friday which meant Holy Friday or Sacred Friday. Good Friday is the day that good conquered evil and Jesus' death brought victory over sin, death and the devil.
- Jesus was arrested, tried and charged with blasphemy. He was whipped, mocked, stripped naked and crucified on a cross, shamed and humiliated. Yet 1 Corinthians 2:6-8 shows us that his crucifixion was a wisdom and mystery to the rulers of "this age" referring to the religious and political leaders as well as to spiritual forces of evil (e.g. Ephesians 6:12). This wisdom is now to be made known through the church (Ephesians 3:10,11).
- Leviticus 17:11 reveals that the life of a creature is in the blood. This is true physiologically and spiritually. The blood shed through the sacrifice of an animal without blemish or defect brought temporary forgiveness of sin. When Jesus died as the innocent lamb of God, he became the sacrifice without blemish or defect that dealt with sin once and for all (Romans 3:25, 1 Peter 1:18,19). Jesus defeated sin, death and the devil (Ephesians 1:7, Hebrews 2:14,15). Since sin was dealt with, Satan and his demons lost their element of power over humanity.
- When the Romans crucified a criminal, they nailed a sign known as the *titulus crucis* over the head of the criminal stating their name and crime. Our sins were used by Satan to accuse us before God. It should have been us on the cross to pay for our sins, but Jesus took our certificate of debt and nailed it to his cross (Colossians 2:13-14), bearing ours sins in his body (1 Peter 2:24). When Jesus died, he took your sins from you so that you could have life.
- Jesus had been stripped of his clothes, now he stripped the spiritual forces of their power. As Jesus had been made a public display of humiliation, he made a public spectacle of the demonic beings by shaming and defeating them. When the demonic beings thought they had triumphed over Jesus by killing him, he triumphed over them by his death on the cross (Colossians 2:15, Revelation 12:10,11).
- Good Friday is the day when Jesus defeated sin, death and devil. If you can accept the truth that Jesus did this, and did this for you, then you can live (spiritually) because Christ died for you.

Some Questions to Consider

1. Until you heard the origin of the name for Good Friday, did you know why it was called Good Friday? Although Good Friday is a day of horror and torture for Jesus, can you see it as a good day?
2. Read 1 Corinthians 2:6-8 and discuss the significance of the statement of “None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of Glory”.
3. Read Leviticus 17:11 and discuss how Jesus met the criteria for being the lamb of God that takes away the sins of the world (see also Romans 3:25 and 1 Peter 1:18,19).
4. The sentence “Through his death on the cross, Jesus defeated sin, death and devil” has been used repeatedly in this sermon series. Read Ephesians 1:7 and Hebrews 2:14,15 and discuss how they show this and why this is so important.
5. When you were challenged to consider your name and your sins on a cross instead of Jesus, how did you feel? Read Colossians 2:14 and again discuss how Jesus nailed your name and sins to his cross made you feel.
6. Discuss the contrast between what the spiritual rulers thought they had achieved through Jesus’ death, versus what actually happened to them through his death (see Colossians 2:15 and see second last dot point above).

Pray –

Pray with thanks that Jesus defeated the power of sin, death and the devil and the impact that has had on your life.

Ask the Lord to realise more fully the significance of Jesus’ death on the cross for you and for all of creation.