

Keynotes from Pastor Tim's am YouTube Sermon on Good Friday 10th April 2020

A surprising accomplishment of Christ's death.

(Please read these notes whilst watching or listening to the sermon)

Reading:- John 17 verse 1

On Good Friday, Christians around the world remember a death unique in human history – the death on a cross 2000 years ago of the eternal God made flesh.

We remember this death because of what it accomplished. Our normal response is to say that Jesus' death secured:

- my salvation from sin
- removal of my sin and guilt
- my forgiveness before a holy God
- healing for my soul
- the removal of the righteous wrath of God that my sin deserves

1. The question that needs asking is whether that is the main thing the death of Jesus accomplished?

His death did secure all those things for us, but a story with you and me at the centre is a very small and insignificant story. There must be more to it than this, or Christianity would not have survived globally for the last 2000 years, nor would Christians keep coming back to the cross not only on Good Friday but also Sunday after Sunday.

- Jesus answered that question in the prayer he prayed to his heavenly Father just before he went to the cross, as recorded by John in **Ch17**. It starts like this:

17 When Jesus had spoken these words, he lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, **"Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you, ² since you have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. ³ And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ**

whom you have sent. ⁴ I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do. ⁵ And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed.

- Jesus the eternal son of God says to God (his own Father) - **Father, the hour has come** (v1)

2. What hour is this?

It is the time for him to go to the cross:

- He will be arrested by a mob, wrongly charged with blasphemy, handed over to the Roman government, beaten to a point where he is almost unrecognisable as a human being, stripped naked, nailed to a wooden cross to die of suffocation, all the while enduring the mockery of the crowds.
- Yet Jesus knew this would happen even before he came as a man to this earth. It was planned in eternity
- It is what he came for, what he has been telling his followers about
- The time when he will experience the divine displeasure of God because of our sin.

3. What does Jesus ask his Father to accomplish through it –: v1 “Father, the hour has come; **glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you,**

- the longing of his heart is shown in the first thing he prays for - for God’s glory to be put on display
- He asks that the hour of his death, resurrection and ascension back into heaven would result in him being glorified so that the Father might be glorified in the Son

The cross of Christ put God’s glory on display for the world to see – so much bigger than a story about me.

- This is a narrative about the glory of God gone global
- There is greater joy and assurance for us in seeing God’s glory than if it was just our story
- We need to really grasp this and have our hearts are changed

What does the glory of God in the cross of Christ look like?

We see something of the character of God in the cross.

1. The holiness of God

- We might not think our sin is a big deal and we find ways to excuse our 'failures', blaming them on other people, circumstances in our lives, or saying it's just the way I am.
- We are not as shocked by the awfulness of our sin as we should be
- When we see that Jesus was hung on a cross and punished for our sin, we see a God of absolute holiness who doesn't treat sin lightly.

If sin wasn't a big deal, do you think God would have done that to his own son?

Our holy God cannot ignore our sin and the cross is at the heart of the Gospel.

2. The mercy of God

- The essence of sin is loving **anything** more than we love God.
- We are all guilty and deserve eternal punishment.
- God chose to punish his own Son in our place so he can forgive us.

In the cross we see the greatest display of mercy the world has ever witnessed.

3. The love of God

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

- It's not that God saw us turning to him and then thought how can I rescue them?
- While we were in full rebellion against God, Christ went to the cross to rescue us.

This is God's love and it is supremely seen in the cross

- ### 4. The justice of God – how can a holy God show mercy to sinners and not treat them as their sins deserve?

Romans 3:23-26 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵ whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had

passed over former sins. ²⁶ It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

God's justice is satisfied in the death of his Son who dies as a substitute for sinners.

5. The power of God

At the heart of the Gospel stands the cross of Christ as Paul shows us:

- **Romans 1:16** For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.
- **1 Corinthians 1:18** 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.

This is only a glimpse of the glory of God, through looking at some of his attributes. By taking these texts and meditating on them, you will discover more of the depths of his glory and character.

How does this happen?

6. The wisdom of God

Paul, in his letter to the Romans, spends 11 chapters exploring the Gospel. By the time he gets to the end all he can do is worship God: **Romans 11:33 – 36** Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgements and how inscrutable his ways! ³⁴ "For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counsellor? ³⁵ "Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid?" ³⁶ For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory for ever. Amen.

- Contemplation of the Gospel with the cross of Christ at its heart leads Paul to worship God for his wisdom. Why is this?

There is a great divine dilemma. How can a holy God show mercy to sinful people and yet remain just?

- No human mind could fathom that out, but God can and does.
- He comes in the person of his own Son to satisfy his justice himself and having done that, he offers mercy to all who will come to Jesus, confessing

their sin and believing that his life, death and resurrection are sufficient to put us right with God.

That's the wisdom of God and it's seen in the cross of Christ. When a person sees this and sees it with the eyes of their heart, they aren't offended that God's ultimate goal in the cross is to glorify himself.

- A person who is born again has a new set of eyes to see this God as being altogether lovely, and a new heart that loves the Lord Jesus Christ who gave his life on the cross.
- Though thankful for their salvation, it's a thankfulness that sees the beauty of Christ, and delights in Christ with a joy that is overwhelming.

We see this God who reveals himself supremely in the cross of Christ and we rejoice in him, and love and treasure him. We want to live godly lives that will glorify him.

Is that you this morning? If not then above all you need to turn to Jesus and discover the mercy of God. Ask him to open your eyes to the beauty of his glory.