

# A JUST AND FAIR GOD

CMBC Good Friday 2015

1 Peter 3:18; 2:24 – 25; 1:18 - 19

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This is not a Memorial Day or a Memorial Service – a sad day of remembering a loved one who has died.

This is a day of celebration, but a sober celebration.

Supposed that you had committed a serious crime. The verdict was guilty, in fact you admitted your guilt and pled guilty.

- The sentence was a huge fine, or life in prison.
- The fine was such that if you sold everything you had, it would not even come close to paying the fine. It seemed that life imprisonment was inevitable.
- Then you were told that the person against whom you had committed the crime, paid your fine. You were debt free.
- There would be great rejoicing.
- But then you heard that in order for this person to pay your fine, they had sold everything they had, their car, their house, cashed in their retirement saving, everything.
- The celebration of your freedom would be a sober rejoicing, and your thanks to that person would seem totally inadequate.

That is the celebration of Good Friday, a sober rejoicing at the gift Jesus has offered you.

**1 Peter 3:18** For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God.

**24** He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed.

- And some people have refused to accept this gift from Jesus. Don't you think that is an affront, an insult to Jesus?
- Some of us have accepted this gift, but take it lightly, take the gift but live according to our own desires, our own rules, and blame Him that our lives don't have the joy He promised.

There are 3 important facts to remember.

1. The cross was not murder. This was a sacrifice.
  - a. Jesus said that He came to take the punishment for our sin.
  - b. He gave his life for you.
  - c. He said no one could take his live unless he gave it.
2. Secondly, this was not suicide.
  - a. We hear of suicide bombers today. They give their lives in order to kill others.
  - b. Jesus gave his life in order to save others, to give others life.
3. Thirdly, this was not a cruel God who out of anger demanded death for His Son.
  - a. A teaching today that frowns at a Father who would do this to His Son  
**Isaiah 53:10** Yet it was the LORD's will (it pleased God) to crush him and cause him to suffer,

- b. Remember, the Father and Son are part of the Trinity. There is one God which includes the Father and Son.  
Together they have agreed to make this sacrifice for our sin.
  - c. So the Son gave Himself.
  - d. His cry in the Garden tells us of the horribleness of taking on our sin – the horribleness of living in sin – the hopelessness of the consequences of our sin.
  - e. Unless God intervenes, and it is a costly intervention
4. Couldn't God just forgive our sin?
- a. To believe that, is not to understand sin
    - i. To believe that, is not to understand a just God
    - ii. **ILL** If a judge in our courts today would just forgive the guilty law breaker, then there would be no justice and no law.
  - b. The Bible says that **"The wages of sin is death."**
    - i. Sin causes death, eternal death.
    - ii. That is the result as surely as gravity results in pulling us to the ground – falling.
  - c. God intervened for us and God the Son come to pay that penalty for all who would believe and receive it.  
**"For God so loved that world that He gave is His one and only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him. Whoever believes in Him is not condemned but whoever does not believe stands condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son." John 3:16 – 18**
  - d. You can know this: God is a just God, and when you accept His give of salvation and you stand before Him at the judgement day, He will declare that your sin, your crime debt has been paid. He has given you His righteousness, His holiness, His just forgiveness.
5. Today we celebrate that sobering act of love from God.
- a. Don't take that gift lightly. Love Him. Get to know Him. Let Him change your life.
  - b. You can celebrate at this Lord's Table, not because you are good enough, but because you believe and are committed to follow Him.

Jesus died on the cross, not because He was weak. He died because He bore your sin. It was your sin that caused the cross to kill him that day.