

GOOD FRIDAY 2024
PSALM 118:22-29
THIS IS THE DAY!

Please turn in your Bibles this evening to Psalm 118 as we gather together on this Good Friday.

Now I know, some of you are wondering what I am doing in the Old Testament and specifically in Psalm 118 on this Good Friday. You may feel that we should be looking at this story in the New Testament.

As you will see, there is a very good reason to be in this portion of Scripture because, as you will see, Jesus will quote out of this Psalm as well as Peter. So there is something that is important for us here and that is what we will be looking at.

Now if I were to ask you *“What day in our history changed the world”* how would you respond.

And there can be lots of answers out there. The end of World War I. The end of World War II. The development of the nuclear bomb. The establishment of the United States of America. Cure for diseases like Polio and others. And the list can go on.

What I found interesting is that was not at the forefront. Do you know what day changed the world?

Americans say that it was September 11, 2001, the terrorist attacks upon our nation.

You see, those who planned and implemented the horrendous attacks of 9/11 could not have imagined all the different ways that their attempt to sow chaos would change the world. Nor could the leaders and policymakers who reacted to the events of that horrible day. Both were out to change the world. And they did.

But that event, as horrible as it was, does not stand against the greatest event in history that changed the world, not for evil or for destruction, but to give life, abundant life, everlasting life and that is the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ!

In fact, I believe what we will be looking at this evening is a sequence of events that make up this day. I believe it is the triumphal entry of Jesus as Messiah the King. I believe it is the crucifixion of Jesus on the cross of Calvary. And I believe it is His resurrection on the third day!

Our main focus this evening is His crucifixion.

Here in Psalm 118, in the verses we will be focusing on, I have broken them down into four main points. They are,

THE SUMMARY – PSALM 118:22-24

THE TRIUMPHAL ENTRY – PSALM 118:25-26

THE REJECTION/CRUCIFIXION – PSALM 118:27

THE GREATEST DAY – PSALM 118:28-29

Before we get to our text this evening, let me share with you the importance of the crucifixion. And we will look more into this as we move on, but we need to understand the fact that the New Testament has a lot to say about the crucifixion of Jesus.

We are told,

The late R. G. Lee wrote that Christ's crucifixion is mentioned in every book of the New Testament except Philemon, 2 John, and 3 John. Lee wrote that Matthew mentioned the crucifixion in 141 verses; Mark gave 116 verses to the crucifixion; Luke devoted two long chapters to Christ's arrest and crucifixion; and John used half his gospel to deal with the events immediately preceding the crucifixion.

Lee declared: "Taking the cross out of our preaching, whether that preaching be in a tent, crude tabernacle, the isolated church up the creek, the country church, or the big church in the city. It is like taking heat out of fire, melody out of music, numbers out of mathematics, fact out of history, mind out of metaphysics, words out of vocabularies."

- Encyclopedia of Illustrations #6190

Also, keep in mind that Psalm 118 is the last Psalm of the Hallel Psalms, which cover Psalms 113 through 118 and they are Psalms of praise, of thanksgiving unto God!

What is interesting about this Psalm is that during the night of the Last Supper, on the evening before Jesus was crucified for our sins, He shared the Passover meal with His disciples.

And after the meal we are told in Mark 14:26, "**And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.**"

I believe it is this Psalm that they sang before they went to the Mount of Olives, the place where Jesus was arrested.

With that said, let's begin reading Psalm 118 beginning in verse 22 and let's see what the Lord has for us on this Good Friday!

PSALM 118**VERSES 22-24**

I believe at this point that the writer has passed through the gate into the city of Jerusalem and is praising God. We see this in Psalm 118:19-21 where we are told, **“Open to me the gates of righteousness; I will go through them, And I will praise the Lord. This is the gate of the Lord, Through which the righteous shall enter. I will praise You, For You have answered me, And have become my salvation.”**

What is interesting is that the Psalmist is praising God for the salvation He has brought to him. And notice what he says, **“... For you have answered me, and have become my salvation.”** Psalm 118:21.

Did you see that?

Who has become his salvation?

God has become his salvation, and we see that in the Scriptures, that Jesus has become our salvation for us!

We see this spoken of in many places in the New Testament.

First of all, in Hebrews 5:9 we are told, **“And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him.”**

Peter tells us in Acts 4:12, **“Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”**

Paul writes in Romans 6:23, **“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”**

And Jesus said in John 3:16-17, verses we are all probably very familiar with, **“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten 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 that the world through Him might be saved.*”**

Now you can reject that, but it does not change the fact that Jesus is the only means of salvation. There is no other name, there is no other way except through Him. And that gift of eternal life with Him is there for all to receive but not all will receive that gift of life, tragically!

I have called these verses – ***THE SUMMARY*** because it gives us an overview of what this day is all about and then we will look at it more specifically in our other points.

Notice how this opens up, with the stone being rejected by the builders. But what was rejected by them ended up being the supporting structure for the entire building!

What is that about?

In the New Testament, as Jesus was speaking to the Jewish religious leaders, He tells us in Matthew 21:42-45, **“... ‘Have you never read in the Scriptures: “The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone. This was the Lord’s doing, And it is marvelous in our eyes”? Therefore I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a nation bearing the fruits of it. And whoever falls on this stone will be broken; but on whomever it falls, it will grind him to powder.’ Now when the chief priests and Pharisees heard His parables, they perceived that He was speaking of them.”**

We see this again in Acts 4:11-12 as Peter tells us, **“This is the ‘stone which was rejected by you builders, which has become the chief cornerstone.’ Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”**

And in I Peter 2:6-8 Peter tells us again, **“Therefore it is also contained in the Scripture, ‘Behold, I lay in Zion A chief cornerstone, elect, precious, And he who believes on Him will by no means be put to shame.’ Therefore, to you who believe, He is precious; but to those who are disobedient, ‘The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone,’ and ‘A stone of stumbling And a rock of offense.’ They stumble, being disobedient to the word, to which they also were appointed.”**

Make no mistake about it, Jesus Christ is the stone that the builders rejected, the Jewish religious leaders, as well as the nation as a whole turned from their Messiah.

Thus, this gift that was given to the Jews to be a witness to the world of God has now been given to the Gentiles and it is Christ that has united Judaism and Christianity, for those who have come to Him by faith!

Let me add this little side note because Psalm 118:23 is connected to an ancient Jewish legend.

You see, when the Temple was being built the first stone from the quarry looked odd. It didn't fit the specs you might say.

Because of that someone concluded it must have been a mistake.

So they took that stone and they rolled the stone over the cliff, and ignored it for months.

The problem came when the construction neared completion, workers waited on the cornerstone.

And to their surprise someone said that the stone they were looking for was already sent!

The picture here is that Jesus Christ was that stone that didn't fit Jewish expectations for the Messiah. His ambitions were spiritual not geo-political.

And what they ended up doing, in a sense, was they rolled Jesus aside.

Now please don't come to the conclusion that God is done with the Jewish people. He is not!

You see, at the end of the age the Jews will look again for the cornerstone, and they'll realize the mistake they've made. They'll return to Jesus and set Him in His rightful place.

Now look at churches today that are turning from the Messiah, they are moving away from His Word, and they end up believing that many roads lead to God, many roads lead to everlasting life.

They negate that He alone is that foundation stone, there is no other and thus, there is salvation in no other.

Let me show you what I mean and please understand that this pastor is not alone in the way he thinks. We are told,

. . . Michael A. Walrond Jr. of Harlem's 10,000-member First Corinthian Baptist Church landed an ideological blow of his own in traditional Christendom.

Walrond, who was named "***One of the Lord's Foot Soldiers***" by Newsweek magazine, told his congregants that the belief that anyone who doesn't believe in Jesus is going to hell is "***insanity.***"

"There was a time when you would see people in the pulpit say, 'well, if you don't believe in Jesus you going to Hell. That's insanity in many ways because that is not what Jesus even believes," he said in a viral clip posted to Facebook.

People take many paths to God, he argued, noting that he personally celebrates the paths others take in finding Him - even if that path does not involve faith in Jesus. . . .

While Walrond's openness as a Christian to the idea that there are many paths to God beyond Christianity may have been shocking to some, new research shows a widespread departure among Christians from traditional Bible teaching such as Jesus being the only way to God.

And some scholars have blamed this ideological shift in part on influential divinity schools and charismatic church leaders.

Ken Stone, academic dean at Chicago Theological Seminary where Walrond serves as a trustee and adjunct faculty member, told the Christian Post that Walrond's celebration of "*multiple paths to God*" and the wisdom and truth found in various religious traditions is in line with the school's approach to faith. It is, said Stone, the "*future of theological education.*"

Shannon Johnson Kershner, who leads the 5,500-member Fourth Presbyterian Church in Chicago, Illinois, also caused a stir when she said in an interview last fall that she too didn't believe Jesus is the only way to God because "*God's not a Christian.*"

"God's not a Christian. I mean, we are . . . For me, the Christian tradition is the way to understand God and my relationship with the world and other humans and it's for the way for me to move into that relationship but I'm not about to say what God can and cannot do in other ways and with other spiritual experiences," she explained.

- <https://bit.ly/49eC5Ep>

And yet, what does the Bible *ACTUALLY* say!

In John 14:6 we see Jesus say that ". . . 'I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.'"

Let's say that you did not know anything about Greek, and you were new to the Christian faith, and you read John 14:6, what conclusion would you come to?

The only conclusion you can come to, from the lips of Jesus, is that He is the *ONLY* way and if you want to get to heaven, if you want to see God the Father, then you *MUST* come through Him!

And Jesus does speak of this issue in Matthew 7:13-14 as He tells us that we must **“Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.”**

I think that is perfectly clear. There is a broad way if you want to go down that path, but it leads to destruction. We must enter through the narrow gate, Jesus Christ for He alone is the way, the truth and the life!

We not only need to understand that, but we need to share that truth with others! He is that precious cornerstone and apart from Him; we will be crushed, ground to a powder. But, if we do come to Him, if we do fall upon Him, we will be broken of our self-will and receive that abundant life that is only found in Him!

Now, here in Psalm 118:24, what is the day that the Psalmist is speaking of?

I don't see this as just a literal day but a period of time or days that bring about what we have all been waiting for and in that we can rejoice and be glad in it!

I believe this day includes the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem. I believe it includes His death and resurrection and ultimately the setting up of the Kingdom and on into the eternal state. We long for that day to come when Jesus sets up His Kingdom here on earth!

I don't know about you but for me – ***I WILL REJOICE AND BE GLAD IN ALL OF THAT AND ULTIMATELY IN THAT ETERNAL STATE WITH OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST!***

So we looked at – ***THE SUMMARY!***

As we read on, we will be looking at – ***THE TRIUMPHAL ENTRY!***

VERSES 25-26

This is what the crowds were singing as Jesus made His triumphal entry into Jerusalem as Messiah, the King.

We see this played out in Matthew 21:7-11 as we are told, **“They [the disciples of Jesus] brought the donkey and the colt, laid their clothes on them, and set Him on them. And a very great multitude spread their clothes on the road; others cut down branches from the trees and spread them on the road. Then the multitudes who went before and those who followed cried out, saying: ‘Hosanna to the Son of David! ‘Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!’ Hosanna in the highest!’ And when He had come into Jerusalem, all the city was moved, saying, ‘Who is this?’ So the multitudes said, ‘This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth of Galilee.’”**

Matthew tells us that as this foal of a donkey was brought to Jesus, they laid their clothes on this colt and Jesus sat upon this animal.

Then we are told there was a **“very great multitude”** and there was a reason for all these people, it was ***PASSOVER!***

According to Josephus, about ten years after this time the number of sacrificial lambs that were slaughtered at Passover was 260,000.

Now keep in mind that one lamb could be offered for up to ten people. That means during this time, during this week of Passover the number of people in Jerusalem could have swelled to over 2,000,000.

I would tend to believe that the number of Jews in Jerusalem for this Passover when Jesus was crucified was around that same number. There was a **“very great multitude.”**

So as Jesus is riding down the Mount of Olives into the city of Jerusalem, across the Brook Kidron and through the east gate of the city, these multitudes are placing palm branches on the ground and they are crying out, **“Hosanna to the Son of David! ‘Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!’ Hosanna in the highest!”**

Now placing palm branches on the ground was to honor the person who was carried over them. It spoke of victory; it spoke of success.

These crowds are honoring Jesus, and they are also singing one of the Hallel Psalms which are Messianic in nature, Psalms 113-118.

Keep in mind that these Psalms are Psalms of praise unto the Lord. Also, these six Psalms were sung during the three major feasts of Israel. They were sung at Passover, Pentecost and Tabernacles. Specifically, here they are singing out of Psalm 118 verses 25 and 26.

And look closely at what the people were shouting, the words they were saying.

The people were shouting **“Hosanna!”** or **“Save now!”**

Save them from what?

Not their sins but they wanted to be saved from this Roman bondage! They wanted to be saved economically! They wanted to be saved from persecution! They were waiting for the Kingdom Age, and they thought it was here!

How do I know that?

Because Mark tells us they were shouting, “**Blessed is the kingdom of our father David That comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!**” Mark 11:10.

They missed the reason for the Messiah to come and thus, when that didn't happen, in just a few days, they would be shouting for Jesus to be crucified!

How erratic people can be when things don't go their way. How many do the same with Jesus today, things don't go the way they want, and they just dump Him! That tells me that they never really had a relationship with Him in the first place.

We may be totally appalled by the Jews and what they were doing, shouting “**Hosanna**” one minute and then “**Crucify Him!**” the next! But think about the numbers of people that come to Jesus today because of the mess that they are in. They do not want a Savior to save them from their sins; they want someone to deliver them from the trouble they are in.

So we are no different!

Now there is another important point we need to bring out here. This is the only time that Jesus allowed the people to worship Him as King. At other times He just walked away from them, not allowing this to happen, but not this day!

Why was this day so special?

Because, over 600 years earlier, Daniel prophesied this exact day!

In Daniel chapter 9, we are told that 483 years will pass until the Mashiach Nagid, or the Messiah the King would come.

Using the Babylonian calendar of 360 days, for that is where Daniel was captive, it comes to 173,880 days from the starting point to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until the King comes.

According to Nehemiah chapter 2, that command was given by King Artaxerxes to Nehemiah on March 14, 445 B. C.

So from March 14, 445 B. C. to March 14, 32 A. D. is 476 years, remember there is no year from 1 B. C. to 1 A. D.

Now we need to multiply the years into days and we take the 476 years and multiply it times 356 days a year, our calendar, and add 116 days for the leap years, we come to 173, 856 days. But we are still 24 days short.

In adding those 24 days, we come to 173,880 days, which brings us to April 6, 32 A. D., we call it Palm Sunday! The exact day that was spoken of came to pass!

It is a day that they should have known, and they didn't, and Jesus holds them accountable for not knowing the day of His visitation!

THIS IS THE DAY THE LORD HAS MADE; WE SHOULD REJOICE AND BE GLAD IN IT!

Now there must have been a large crowd that followed Jesus because as He entered through the east gate the whole city shook!

The word for "**moved**" in verse 10 is the Greek word ***SEISMIC***, which we use for earthquakes.

Now the city did not shake physically, but mentally and emotionally as the people were taking all these things in!

They are trying to figure out who Jesus is and some of the people shouted, "**This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth of Galilee.**"

This is – ***THE TRIUMPHAL ENTRY!***

As we read on, we will now look at – ***THE REJECTION!***

VERSES 27

Keep in mind that it is Passover and the city of Jerusalem, and the surrounding areas are filled with people who came to celebrate this feast.

For Pilate, when he got up that morning, I don't think he was too concerned about things. Maybe he thought this would be an easy day as the Jews were focused on celebrating Passover. But he was very wrong, it would be the most difficult day he would ever face.

You see, as he went to work, he found waiting for him this large group of Jewish religious leaders with many Jews there as well, and with them was a prisoner. And this prisoner was Jesus of Nazareth!

As Pilate would sit in his judgment seat, beginning at sunrise, this Jesus was going to be his first and most difficult case!

Prior to this Jesus faced three religious' trials. Matthew does not recount this but in John 18:12-14 we see Jesus taken to Annas, the previous High Priest and many feel the power behind that position.

In John 18:13 we are told, "**And they led Him away to Annas first, for he was the father-in-law of Caiaphas who was high priest that year.**"

From there Matthew tells us that Jesus was taken to Caiaphas who was the High Priest. And also with Caiaphas were the chief priests, the elders and the whole council. Now they had a problem because before they could even bring Jesus before the secular courts, the Roman authorities, they had to have a reason and they didn't.

And the problem was that no one seem to agree what Jesus did wrong and finally, they accused Him of blasphemy, that He claimed to be the Son of God and thus, worthy of death!

And then it was the third religious trial was before the Sanhedrin in Matthew 27:1-2 where we are told, **“When morning came, all the chief priests and elders of the people plotted against Jesus to put Him to death. And when they had bound Him, they led Him away and delivered Him to Pontius Pilate the governor.”**

It was kind of a summation of what had transpired already and the delivering of Jesus to Pilate!

To actually carry out this death sentence they would have to go through Pilate, and they knew that Pilate would not put Jesus to death on just religious grounds, he could care less about that!

So they manufactured three political charges against Him and they knew that Pilate would condemn Jesus to death for them.

What were those charges?

He was a revolutionary who posed a threat to the empire.

He urged people not to pay taxes, therefore undermining the prosperity of the empire.

He claimed to be a King, therefore threatening the power and position of the emperor.

And Pilate chose to focus on the third charge, that Jesus claimed to be a King because this was the most serious of the three charges leveled against Jesus.

But in the end Pilate saw Jesus as an innocent man but the Jewish religious leaders got the crowds to join in and they wanted Jesus crucified!

You see, as I have said, Pilate pronounced Jesus as innocent at one point. He said, **“I find no fault in Him at all.”** (John 18:38)

But by this time the Jewish leadership, in their lust for Jesus' blood, would have no talk of Jesus' innocence or Pilate's desire to set Him free. At this point, they were like sharks that smelled blood in the water and there was absolutely no reasoning with them on this matter.

Pilate was caught between the proverbial "*rock and a hard place*" and all he could do is wash his hands in protest and in disgust, which did not cover his guilt, and then he ordered the execution of Jesus the Christ.

So, by 9 am that morning Jesus was hanging on a cross, where He hung for the next six hours in excruciating pain.

Now, look at how this plays out here in Psalm 118.

The Psalmist speaks of God giving us light and the Scriptures tell us that Jesus is the light of this world.

When God became flesh and dwelt among us, He pierced the darkness that this world was in!

Then the Psalmist speaks of binding the sacrifice with cords to the horns of the altar, what is that about?

He is speaking of the altar of sacrifice. The altar of sacrifice was basically a huge barbecue pit that had four horns, one on each corner.

This was used to tie up the animals that were to be used in the sacrifice so they would not walk away.

Jesus was bound to the cross of Calvary for our sins, to pay the debt that was due for them and that is how our Lord "*Saves now!*"

It is through His sacrifice. And please understand that it was not the nails that held Him to that cross, bound Him to that cross, it was His love for us that held Him there!

But I think there is even more because Jesus also says that we are a light in this dark world, and we are to shine for Jesus.

Paul, in speaking of our Christian life, said in Romans 12:1, “**I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.**”

In other words, we are to give our lives freely to the Lord as a sacrifice, and we don't have cords that bind us to the altar, but love, just as our Lord had. That is the only motivation that God will accept. He will not accept our sacrifice with murmuring and complaining, but in love. You see, it is the cords of love that bind us to the altar of sacrifice!

As we can see – ***THE REJECTION AND CRUCIFIXION!***

Keep in mind that as the shadow on the sundial touched 3 pm we read in John's Gospel (John 19:30) that Jesus said, “**It is finished**” and then bowing His head He dismissed His spirit.

When Jesus said, “**It is finished**” what did He mean by that?

He was saying that the work of redemption was done. The payment for humanity's sin was now complete.

Why did Jesus have to shed ***HIS*** blood and die for ***OUR*** sins!

This is the way it was in the Old Testament, and it is the way it is in the New Testament, and it is the way today. Listen carefully to what we are told in Leviticus 17:11, “**For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood that makes atonement for the soul.**”

The Hebrew word that is used for “**atonement**” means “***to cover.***”

Please understand that the shedding of blood of the different animals could never take away your sins, they could cover them until you sinned again. That is why the sacrifices continued on a daily basis!

But Jesus has come to take away the sins of the world by the shedding His blood on the cross of Calvary. Remember what John the Baptist said when he saw Jesus, **“The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, ‘Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!’”** John 1:29.

The blood of bulls and goats could never pay the price for sin to take it away, but the spotless Lamb of God could remove the stain of sin completely from our lives. By His shed blood He cast our sins as far as the east is from the west to be remembered no more! (Psalm 103:12, Isaiah 43:25)

Now let’s think about what went on in the Temple and what Jesus has done for us.

In the Temple there were no chairs for the priest to sit upon because the work was never done. Day in and day out various sacrifices were made.

But as Jesus was giving up His Spirit on the cross of Calvary He cried out –

TETELESTAI!

It is a Greek word that means – ***PAID IN FULL!***

That was Paul’s point in Colossians 2:14 when he wrote, **“having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.”**

The Amplified Bible puts this verse like this, **“Having cancelled and blotted out and wiped away the handwriting of the note (bond) with its legal decrees and demands which was in force and stood against us (hostile to us). This [note with its regulations, decrees, and demands] He set aside and cleared completely out of our way by nailing it to [His] cross.”**

And the Living Bible tells us, **“And blotted out the charges proved against you, the list of his commandments which you had not obeyed. He took this list of sins and destroyed it by nailing it to Christ’s cross.”**

Back then they would write the crimes of a criminal on a piece of parchment, and they would nail it to the dungeon door.

When he finished paying for his crimes, served his time, they would take that piece of parchment and write across the bottom ***“Tetelestai!”***

They would then release him and give him this paper as proof that he has paid in full the penalty for his crimes.

Paul said that Jesus took all the handwritings of crimes we had committed, and it would be a huge ledger of crimes we have and will commit in our life, and Jesus nailed it to the cross. He paid in full the debt of sin we owed.

And now there is no record of any of our sins, past, present or future! Jesus paid for them all!

How can I be sure the work is done?

Because, when He was raised in glory He sat down at the right hand of God the Father, showing that God accepted the sacrifice, and the work was completed. There is no more work to be done!

Keep in mind that we were all spiritually dead in our trespasses and sins before we came to Christ!

We were not sick in need of a doctor, but we were dead in need of a Savior, in need of Jesus – we needed resurrection!

And thus, God stepped in; paying in full the penalty for our sins and brought our spirits back to life so we could have fellowship with God once again!

In Isaiah 1:18 we are told, **“‘Come now, and let us reason together,’ Says the LORD, ‘Though your sins are like scarlet, They shall be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, They shall be as wool.’”**

In other words, this is a rational choice on our part. Once we see ourselves as sinners separated from God, our only hope, our only answer is Jesus, the Savior of the world. And it doesn't matter how bad you were, you are cleansed by Him, washed as white as snow!

Not only that, but God forgave us of all our transgressions, all our sins.

Now, these **“handwriting of requirements”** was the debt a person owed, and the debt of sin condemned us to Hell, it **“was against us.”**

As I have said, God has come, taken all our sins, nailed them to the cross, and they are completely taken away, and the parchment which contained all our debts has written on it

TETELESTAI or paid in full!

But what about this sin or that sin?

TETELESTAI!

Jesus completed the work for us and all we must do is receive the free gift by faith!

We are gathered here this evening to praise and thank the Lord for what He has done for us!

Yes, we have seen – *THE REJECTION – CRUCIFIXION* by the Jews upon Jesus but apart from His death and resurrection we would still be dead in our trespasses and sins!

THIS IS THE DAY THE LORD HAS MADE; WE SHOULD REJOICE AND BE GLAD IN IT!

Now listen how the Psalmist concludes; it is how he started out this Psalm!

And the focus here is – ***THE GREATEST DAY!***

VERSES 28-29

Notice the personal relationship that the Psalmist has with *HIS* God!

How did that happen?

Through the sacrifice that was made, the perfect sacrifice by Jesus for the sins of the world.

That is how our sins can be cast as far as the east is from the west to be remembered no more! And thus, **“Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever.”**

And as the Psalm concludes I believe he is looking ahead to the Millennial Kingdom and ultimately the eternal state with God!

This is the fulfillment of the promise that God made to the Jewish people, that the Messiah would sit on the throne of David and rule and reign and then, onward into the eternal state!

An interesting Psalm that was the last Psalm sung by Jesus with His men before He went to the cross to die for our sins! He was singing about what He was going to do!

Let me share this with you and think about what this father did for his son.

There was this small boy who was consistently late coming home from school.

His parents warned him one day that he must be home on time that afternoon, but nevertheless he arrived later than ever.

As he arrived home late, his mother met him at the door and said nothing.

At dinner that night, the boy looked at his plate. And to his astonishment all that was there was a slice of bread and a glass of water!

He looked at his father's full plate and then at his father, but his father remained silent.

As you can imagine, the boy was crushed.

The father waited for the full impact to sink in, then quietly took the boy's plate and placed it in front of himself. He took his own plate of meat and potatoes, put it in front of the boy, and smiled at his son.

What was that all about?

When that boy grew to be a man, he said, "*All my life I've known what God is like by what my father did that night.*"

In other words, what Paul said in II Corinthians 5:21, "**For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.**"

We can't stand before a holy and righteous God in our own righteousness, which are like filthy rags before Him. (Isaiah 64:6) That is all the good we think we are doing and it is not good before Him.

And what Jesus has done is He took our sin and gave to us His righteousness so that we can come before God the Father and have eternal life!

But you must receive Him into your life by faith. You must admit that you are a sinner and ask Jesus to be Lord and Savior of your life.

That gift is for every person on this planet and yet, tragically, many refuse to come to Him and receive that gift.

It is like the story from time past of a man who was sentenced to death. You may have heard this story, but it is the story from back in 1830 when George Wilson was convicted of robbing the United States Mail and was sentenced to be hanged.

President Andrew Jackson issued a pardon for Wilson, but he refused to accept it.

The matter went to Chief Justice Marshall, who concluded that Wilson would have to be executed.

But why? I thought he received a pardon!

This is what Chief Justice Marshall wrote, ***“A pardon is a slip of paper, the value of which is determined by the acceptance of the person to be pardoned. If it is refused, it is no pardon. George Wilson must be hanged.”***

You see, he could have been set free, but because he refused the pardon, George Wilson was put to death!

The same is true today.

Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ has given to us a pardon, you might say.

How could He do that?

Because He paid for our sins with His own blood!

But again, for a person to benefit from God’s pardon thru the death of His Son on their behalf, they have to accept it!

When they do, then what Paul said in Colossians 2:14 becomes a reality in their life.

What did Paul say?

He said, **“He [Jesus] canceled the record of the charges against us and took it away by nailing it to the cross.”** (New Living Translation)

What Paul is saying is that the ledger of all our sins has stamped upon it – ***PAID IN FULL!***

How was that done?

By the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross of Calvary! The work is done!

You don't have to add to that work because if you do, then it is no longer a free gift from God, it is no longer grace, but it is works. You did this for God and now He owes you heaven!

That is never going to happen! God does not owe us anything and the reality is, we deserve death, eternal separation from Him!

But look at the numbers of people, and really all religions that believe good works will save them.

That is the greatest lie that Satan has given to us. You just be good enough, do enough good works, and you will get to heaven!

No, that is the way to Hell because you are already condemned by sin and the only solution is to repent of your sins and ask Jesus to be Lord and Savior of your life.

And here's the thing. It is either a finished work by Jesus like He said, or it is a lie and thus, why follow a liar! You can't have it both ways.

Jesus did not say,

IT IS ALMOST FINISHED!

MY WORK IS DONE, NOW YOU NEED TO DO YOUR PART!

And the reality is, that is the difference between Law and Grace, between religion and Christianity!

You see, religion is a works-based salvation while Christianity is a God based salvation!

Religion tells us to – ***DO!***

Christianity tells us – ***DONE or IT IS FINISHED!***

That is a huge difference and through Christ we can enter into that everlasting life and apart from Him, trying to do it on our own, we will never make it!

One writer put it like this in regard to the work being finished or not finished. He wrote,

Did Christ finish His work?

How dangerous it is to join anything of our own to the righteousness of Christ, in pursuit of justification before God! Jesus Christ will never endure this; it reflects upon His work dishonorably. He will be all, or none, in our justification.

If He has finished the work, what need is there of our additions? And if not, to what purpose are they?

Can we finish that which Christ Himself could not complete?

Did He finish the work, and will He ever divide the glory and praise of it with us?

No, no; Christ is no half-Savior.

It is a hard thing to bring proud hearts to rest upon Christ for righteousness. God humbles the proud by calling sinners wholly from their own righteousness to Christ for their justification.

- John Flavel

Let me close with this for you to think about.

Every person here, those listening on the radio, or watching on the Internet have to decide for themselves what they are going to do with Jesus!

You have to make this decision yourself and please don't let the crowds, this world make that decision for you!

Remember what Pilate said to the crowds, "**... 'What then shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?'**"

Pilate left it up to the crowds, the world to tell him what to do with Jesus and we see their response, "**'They all said to him, 'Let Him be crucified!'**" Matthew 27:22)

Don't ever let the crowd make that decision for you because too much is at stake!

Remember, "**For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten 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 that the world through Him might be saved. He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God.'**"

All that God has for us, may you receive Him into your life if you don't know Him and if you do, may we say as the Psalmist said, "**You are my God, and I will praise You; You are my God, I will exalt You. Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever.**" (Psalm 118:28-29)

Remember, the greatest event in history that changed the world, not for evil or for destruction, but to give life, abundant life, everlasting life and that is the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ!

THIS IS THE DAY THE LORD HAS MADE; WE SHOULD REJOICE AND BE GLAD IN IT!