

Jesus Died to Save You

Sermon – Good Friday April 7, 2023

Golden Verse: *“For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, so that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him.”* (John 3:16-17)

This morning, I want us to consider together the truth that our hope is found in Christ alone.

1. Alone our Lord Jesus Christ was crucified for your salvation.

Our Lord Jesus Christ was crucified, so that everyone who believes in Him, trusting not in themselves but trusting in His sacrificial blood, would have eternal life. This is the absolute act of God’s love. Our righteous God brings healing and salvation to all of us in Christ. *“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”* (John 3:16).

God loves the sinful man. God created a plan to save you and me from sin and death. God loved us so much, that He gave His only begotten Son. Without Jesus, we all would perish. Jesus Christ came into this world to give an opportunity to everybody to bring their sin to His cross, Today, every person has an opportunity to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and to come to Him.

2. Trust in Him alone.

Today, you and I have a great opportunity to put our trust in Him as the only One who can save us from hell and give us eternal life. The Bible says that if I do not believe, I will surely perish. If I do believe, and I act accordingly, I will have eternal life. Your eternal life begins right here and now: believe and act. We have the guarantee of a place in Heaven when we die. Jesus was sacrificed for you and me so that everyone who trusts in Him would have eternal life. This is the supreme act of God’s love. Our hope is found in Christ alone.

When we are weak, Jesus is our strength. Whatever we face, good times or bad, our hope is in Christ alone. When we face difficulty, Jesus is with us, and we can trust Him to lead us through the fiercest storms of our lives. And with just a word, Jesus can command every storm to be still. We are loved with an everlasting love. In Christ alone can we find true peace: you do not need to be afraid because Christ is with you. The Holy Spirit, the Advocate, the Comforter, dwells within you when you are in Christ.

If you are in Christ, if you have trusted in Jesus as your Lord and your Saviour, you are able to stand before God as a person who has had his/her sins forgiven.

3. You have been justified by your faith in Christ alone.

Because of what Christ has done for you, carrying the punishment for your sins on the cross, suffering in your place, enduring the wrath of God the Father instead of you, you have been justified by your faith in Christ alone.

Justification, theologically speaking, happens when God pardons the sins of those who repent and believe in Jesus as their personal Lord and Saviour. Through justification, God forgives us of our sin and declares us righteous in sight. Your relationship, my relationship, with God is restored, just as if I had never sinned.

We are born as sinners. But, because of what Jesus did on the cross, when you turn to Jesus, your sins are forgiven, and you are justified by faith in Christ alone.

God is the best friend we could ever have, with us in good times and bad, snowy days, stormy days and sunny days, always with us. We are called children of God, because God loves us, cares for us, provides for us, leads us, teaches us, shows mercy and grace to us, and forgives us.

Jesus has provided the way for our salvation. In John 14:6, Jesus told His disciples, *“I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to God the Father except through me.”*

Jesus was incarnated into this world so that those who believe in Him could be saved. Peter in Acts 4:12 reminds us, *“There is salvation in **no one else!** God has given no other name under Heaven by which we must be saved.”*

We are justified by the sacrifice of Jesus Christ and saved by faith in Him alone. Jesus is the **only way**, the **only truth**, the **only one** who can give us eternal life.

In Christ **alone** are we assured of a place in Heaven. No other way, no other truth, no other option: in Christ alone our hope is found.

There are people who think that they can get themselves to Heaven by being “good enough,” based on their own standards of what they consider to be good or bad. Some people think they will get into Heaven based on what they do or do not do. But we cannot earn our way into Heaven. It is good to be a good person, but it is not good enough, It is good to help others, but it is not good enough.

We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are. God did this to demonstrate His righteousness, for He Himself is fair and just, and He makes sinners right in His sight when they believe in Jesus.

4. We are saved by faith in Christ alone.

Not by our works, not by our deeds, not by our own righteousness, we are saved in Christ alone.

Listen to the words of Jesus in John 3:16-18, *“For this is how God loved the world: He gave His one and only Son so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life. God sent His Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through Him. There is no judgment against anyone who believes in Him. But anyone who does not believe in Him has already been judged for not believing in God’s one and only Son.”*

Those who refuse to trust in Jesus, condemn themselves to an eternity without God. Those who place their trust in Jesus Christ, those who believe in Him as Lord and Saviour, will not perish but have eternal life.

Please call on the name of the Lord right now. Ask Jesus into your life, and the Holy Spirit will assure you that **YOU ARE SAVED**. Amen