

Biblical Counseling Center introduces eCounselor's Weekly guide, to encourage counselors and all believers in discipleship and daily growth.

### Is there any Good in Good Friday?

By Dr Ronald Allchin

The very words Good Friday seem almost paradoxical. When we examine only what happened to Jesus on Good Friday it seems anything but good. A kiss of betrayal, arrest, denial by His closest disciples, beatings, crucifixion. What is good about Good Friday?

#### The Blood and the Cross made Good Friday Good.



Jesus' punishment was cruel and unusual punishment. There was a lot of blood. It started the night before when He was praying in emotional anguish, sweating drops of blood. Hematidrosis is the medical term where humans under extreme emotional duress actually sweat blood when capillaries break into the sweat glands. What can be good about that? Then he was beaten and scourged and literally had the skin of His body broken over and over again. More blood. Good????? The crown of thorns, the nails, and spear producing even more blood. How can that be good?

His agony was for our good! It was good, even necessary for Jesus to bleed. His blood represented the eternal payment for sin, redemption for all who believe. "Without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins" (Heb 9:12,22). When He said on the Cross, "It is finished," the price of our redemption was paid in full. For those of us who know Him as Savior, Good Friday was really Good because there is no other means to pay for our debt of sin. The hymn says it this way, "What can wash away my sin? Nothing but the Blood of Jesus."

#### One Thief on a cross knew that Good Friday was Good.

There were two of them – one on His right, the other on His left. Both died shortly after He died, but the outcome of each was dramatically different. For the thief that blasphemed Jesus and went along with the crowd, Good Friday became "A Very Bad Friday." His rejection of Jesus led him to a hopeless eternity. But the other thief who repented was ushered into an eternity with God. Good Friday for him turned out very good! "Today you shall be with me in Paradise."

Good Friday is only good for those who, like the thief, repent of their sins, realize Jesus paid the penalty through His blood and trust Him as their Savior and Lord. It is a good day for those who realize that God is "not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance" (2 Pe 3:9).

#### Jesus' model to us makes Good Friday Good.

Jesus showed us that pain, trials, sacrifice, and even death can result in a Good Friday. Jesus showed us that wonderful and amazing good can come out of events that on the surface first appear as something tragically bad. He modeled sacrifice for those He loves, giving His life. He showed us what it means to *take up a cross*. He gave us the assurance that even in difficult times with difficult circumstances, "all things work together for Good..." (Rom 8:28).

We are to now live recognizing we have been crucified with Christ, learning daily what it means to deny ourselves and to live a life reflecting love for God and others as Jesus did. He showed His greatest love on Good Friday when He modeled John 15:13, "**Greater Love has no man than this, that a man should lay down his life for his friends.**"

**Counselor's Insight: As counselors we must point others to the Cross and to the Savior Who suffered and died for them. When a person recognizes the sacrifices Christ made for him he can be motivated by love to live for Christ as Lord and Savior of his life.**

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