

CORINTH CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

BECAUSE JESUS DIED

SCRIPTURE READING:

Matthew 27:45-56

INTRODUCTION:

A. We are approaching the most important and significant week in Christendom.

1. Palm Sunday – April 13, 2025 (Matthew 21:1-11)

Palm Sunday is the day we celebrate the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem during which palm branches were placed in His path, before His arrest on Holy Thursday and His crucifixion on Good Friday. It marks the beginning of Holy Week, the final week of Lent.

2. Easter – Resurrection Sunday – April 20, 2025

Easter is a Christian holiday which is the annual celebration of Christ's resurrection to life after His crucifixion and death.

B. The Scripture passage – Matthew 27:45-56 – tells the story of the Cross.

It reveals that Christ's death was accompanied by at least five miraculous events:

1. Darkness (v. 45)

2. Veil Torn (v. 51a)

3. Earthquake and Rocks Split (v. 51b)

4. Saints were raised from the dead – They “went into the Holy City” (Jerusalem) and gave testimony to the death-destroying, life-giving power of Christ (vv. 52-53).

5. The Centurion's Testimony – He watched Jesus die and said, “Truly this was the Son of God” (v. 54).

C. Jesus is Eternal Life

- “Jesus saith ... I am the way, the truth, and the life” (John 14:6)
- “Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life” (John 5:24).
- “He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life” (1 John 5:12).

The death of Jesus on the Cross and His glorious resurrection answers the questions as to Why He Died.

BECAUSE HE DIED

I. OUR SINS CAN BE FORGIVEN (Acts 3:19)

“Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord” (Acts 3:19).

- **Repent** means to change one's mind, heart and purpose; to feel sorry or remorseful for what one has done (sin).
- **Convert** means to turn again, to bring back

A. A Person Must Repent and Turn to God

1. It is to turn away from sin and turn toward God
2. It is to forsake sin – putting sin out one's thoughts and behaviors.

B. When a Person Repents and is Converted, Two Things Happen:

1. His sins are “blotted out” – erased, wipe out – just as writing is erased from a blackboard.

- “Hide thy face from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities” (Ps 51:9).
- “As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us” (Ps 103:12).
- “I, even I, am he that blotteth out thy transgressions for mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins” (Isa 43:25).
- “For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more” (Heb 8:12).

2. God will send “seasons of refreshing” from His presence.

The converted person will experience seasons of: joy, comfort, renewal, peace, rejoicing and deliverance – spiritual renewal and refreshment from God.

a. Repentance is essential for forgiveness which is a pardon for an offense or penalty (sins) – treating the offender as not guilty.

b. The converted person cannot continue in sin and expect forgiveness from God. The sincere person will repent and turn to God.

- “Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon” (Isa 55:7).
- “Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee” (Acts 8:22).
- “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9).

**c. What can wash away my sin? Nothing but the Blood of Jesus
What can make me whole again? Nothing but the Blood of Jesus**

- **Repentance**

To “repent means to have a heartfelt change of mind about sin, to agree with God about the ugliness of their disobedience to God, about the rightness of His standard, about the reality of their own sin. Repentance involves a sorrow over the harmful effects of sin toward God, toward others, and toward self. It involves a decision to turn from sin and to Christ. Just as we receive Christ by repentance and faith we need to continue to walk in the same way as we grow. –(Paul Apple, The Spread of the Gospel).

II. OUR PRAYERS CAN BE HEARD (Matt 6:9-13)

“⁹ After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. ¹⁰ Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. ¹¹ Give us this day our daily bread. ¹² And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. ¹³ And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen” (Matt 6:9-13).

- One of Jesus’ disciples asked Him to teach them how to pray (Luke 11:1-2). Jesus gave His disciples this model prayer to show them how to pray – How to go about praying.

A. Jesus is the Only One who makes it possible for Believers to have sweet communion with God the Father.

B. Prayer is Sharing and Fellowship with God

The Believer must spend time alone with God – focusing his thoughts and attention on God. There are also times when the Believer should spend time with God and others – focusing his thoughts and attention on both God and others.

C. Prayer is Surrendering to God

1. When the Believer says “**Father**” – He is surrendering to God
2. When the Believer says “**Our Father**” – He is surrendering to the family of God.
3. When the Believer says “**Which art in Heaven**” – The Believer is surrendering and focuses his heart and mind on the Kingdom of God and His righteousness.

- “**Our Father**” is indicative of a family relationship:
It shows that God is the Believer’s Father, a relationship between a Believer and other Believers. It shows that God is the Believer’s source of love, care and needs.

D. “Hallowed be thy Name” – The Believer is to pray using the Name of God as Holy and different from all other names.

- “¹⁵ But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; ¹⁶ Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy” (1 Pet 1:15-16).

E. Christian Quotes on Prayer:

1. “Any concern too small to be turned into a prayer is too small to be made into a burden.” – Corrie Ten Boom

2. "Prayer is not learned in a classroom but in a closet." – E.W. Bounds
3. "I have so much to do that I spend the first three hours in prayer." – Martin Luther
4. "Prayer will make a man cease from sin, or sin will entice a man to cease from prayer." – John Bunyan
5. "Faith in a prayer – God will make a prayer-loving Christian." – Andrew Murray
6. "The greatest tragedy of life is not unanswered prayer, but unoffered prayer." – F.B. Meyer
7. "To be a Christian without prayer is not more possible than to be alive without breathing." – Martin Luther King, Jr.

F. Bible Verses on Prayer:

- "Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and show thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not" (Jer 33:3).
- "Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them" (Mark 11:24).
- "And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint" (Luke 18:1).
- "Pray without ceasing" (1 Thess 5:17).

G. Answered Prayer On A Plane

Grant Stubbs and Owen Wilson were flying up the sloping valley of Pelorus Sound in New Zealand, admiring the beautiful panoramic view. Then there was a cough. "Bless you, Owen." "For what, Grant?" - "Your cough." - "I didn't cough." - "Oh."

Then there was a wheeze and a sputter, then silence as their micro light plane engine died. Both men turned out to be Christians. They told the Associated Press that they both immediately prayed to God for help.

He said he prayed during the ill-fated flight Sunday that the tiny craft would get over the top of a ridge and that they would find a landing site that was not too steep--or in the nearby sea. Wilson said that the pair would have been in deep trouble if the fuel had run out five minutes earlier. "If it had to run out, that was the place to be," he said. "There was an instantaneous answer to prayer as we crossed the ridge and there was an airfield--I didn't know it existed 'til then." After Wilson glided the powerless craft to a landing on the grassy strip, the pair noticed they were beside a 20-foot-tall sign that read, "Jesus is Lord--The Bible." "When we saw that, we started laughing," Stubbs said. – (Sermon Central).

III. OUR NAMES CAN BE WRITTEN IN THE BOOK OF LIFE (Rev 13:8; 20:12)

- “And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world” (Rev 13:8).
- “And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works” (Rev 20:12).
- The Book of Life contains the names of those who will live with God forever in Heaven. It is the roll of those who are saved – Born-Again Believers.

A. Jesus is the Only One who carries the full authority to write the names of those who are called His children in the Book of Life.

B. Repent of sin and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as your Savior to ensure that your name is written in the Book of Life.

- “And I intreat thee also, true yokefellow, help those women which laboured with me in the gospel, with Clement also, and with other my fellowlabourers, whose names are in the book of life” (Phil 4:3).

C. A name written in the Book of Life will never be erased

- “³⁷ Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. ³⁸ For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, ³⁹ Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Rom 8:37-39).
- “He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels” (Rev 3:5).

D. Quotes on the Book of Life:

1. “The Book of Life is a heavenly record that contains the names of those who belong to God, signifying eternal life and salvation.” – Bible Hub
2. The Book of Life “retains the names of all who have eternal life.” – Precept Austin
3. “Those whose names are written in the Book of Life are said to have their names “written in Heaven” (Luke 10:20) – Precept Austin
4. “It is very remarkable, that in the Book of Life, we find some almost of all kinds of occupations, who notwithstanding served God in their respective generations, and shone as so many lights in this world.” – George Whitfield

E. I Serve A Risen Savior

I serve a risen Savior, He's in the world today.
I know that He is living, Whatever men may say.
I see His hand of mercy; I hear His voice of cheer;
And just the time I need Him. He's always near.

He lives, He lives, Christ Jesus lives today!
He walks with me and talks with me along life's narrow way.
He lives, He lives, salvation to impart!
You ask me how I know He lives? He lives within my heart.

CONCLUSION:

- A. “.... Christ died for our sins ... He was buried, and ... He rose again according to the Scriptures” (1 Cor 15:3-4).**
- As Christians, the true meaning of Easter is the celebration of Jesus Christ's resurrection from the dead, symbolizing victory over death and the promise of eternal life for those who believe.
- B. “For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him” (2 Cor 5:21).**
- C. Romans Road (Rom 3:10, 23; 5:8; 10:9, 13)**



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April 9, 2025

“... the word of our God shall stand for ever” (Isa 40:8).