

Good Friday

For the Joy Set Before Him

April 7, 2023

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Mary Craig Ministries, Inc.



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Satan had offered Jesus the kingdoms of this world if only...Jesus would bow down and worship him. Skip the crucifixion, side step the suffering.

Jesus responded...

⁵Then the devil, taking Him up on a high mountain, showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. ⁶And the devil said to Him, “All this authority I will give You, and their glory; for *this* has been delivered to me, and I give it to whomever I wish. ⁷Therefore, if You will worship before me, all will be Yours.”

And Jesus answered and said to him, “Get behind Me, Satan! For it is written, ‘You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.’ ” Luke 4:5-8 NKJV

Jesus was sent by the Father on a mission to save a people, to bear witness to the Truth, to glorify His Father, to bring reconciliation as the perfect Mediator between God and Man...

Jesus would do this by means of the Incarnation, the Word become flesh and dwelling among us. He came with a message, which we call the Gospel of Jesus Christ. His face was set to finish His mission and glorify His Father.

Hebrews 12:1, 2. ¹Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ²looking unto Jesus, the [author](#) and [finisher](#) of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. NKJV

Jesus, the Author and Finisher of our Faith, would fulfill the eternal plan of redemption, accomplishing God's hope to demonstrate through spectacle and mega power that His Word does not return void. Of everything God says is going to happen, it will happen. God keeps His promises. And Jesus is the Faithful Amen.

For the joy set before Him, Jesus endured the Cross, despising the shame, and Jesus sat down at the right hand of the throne of God to rule and reign as King of kings and Lord of lords.

Jesus Christ, fulfilled all righteousness. Jesus had a goal. That goal required that He live the life as set forth for Him in the Word of God, a life of radical obedience even to death on the Cross. Though Jesus had no personal sin, He would bear every kind of sin and offer Himself as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

Jesus endured the Cross. Without the shedding of blood, there is no forgiveness of sin.

8 places where the Blood of Christ was shed...

1. Jesus was circumcised the 8th day. He received the sign of the covenant under Mosaic law.
2. Jesus shed great drops of blood like sweat in the garden of Gethsemane. **Luke 22:44 And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground.**
3. Jesus shed His blood at the whipping post. He took 39 stripes upon His back. **John 19:1 Then Pilate therefore took Jesus, and scourged him.**
Isa 53:5 But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.
1Pe 2:24 Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.
4. Internal bleeding.
5. The crown of thorns, blood shed from the head of Jesus. **John 19:2 And the soldiers platted a crown of thorns, and put it on his head, and they put on him a purple robe,**
6. His hands being nailed to the cross.
(I do not find scripture speaking directly of the nailing of His hands and feet to the cross, but only that they crucified Him, which by the custom of crucifixion, it was the practice to do such and known therefore how it was done).
7. His feet being nailed to the cross.
8. The piercing of His side. **John 19:34 But one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, and forthwith came there out blood and water.**

Jesus despised the shame of the Cross. When applied to us, what Jesus accomplished is the means by which a person can be loosed from their shame. Jesus bore the wrath of God. Jesus paid the penalty for sin. He died, the godly for the ungodly. He satisfied divine justice.

We cannot be reminded enough. 5 aspects.

1. **Sacrifice.**

Jesus Christ in obedience offered Himself up as a substitutionary sacrifice to God for our sins on the cross.

This overcomes and presupposes our human sin and guilt.
[1 Cor 5.7](#); [Eph 5.2](#); [Heb 9.23,26](#); [Heb 10.12](#) and many others.

2. **Propitiation.**

Jesus Christ fully satisfied (propitiated) God's wrath against us by the offering up of Himself on the cross.

This overcomes and presupposes previous divine wrath against us.
[Rom 3.25](#); [Heb 2.17](#); [1 John 2.2](#)

3. **Reconciliation.**

Jesus Christ "reconciled" us to God -- restored us through His sacrifice on the

cross to God. (the meaning of "atonement") Jesus made peace through the Blood of the cross.

This overcomes and presupposes our previous state of alienation from God.
[Rom 5.10,11; 2 Cor 5.17-21; Eph 2.14-17; Col 1.19-22](#)

4. Redemption.

Jesus Christ redeemed us from the curse, dominion of, and bondage to Satan (Gen. 3), purchasing us back to God through His blood shed on the cross.

This overcomes and presupposes our previous slavery or bondage.
[Matt 20.28; Mark 10.45; 1 Peter 1.18,19; Rev 5.9; Rev 14.3,4](#)

5. Cross work of destruction.

Jesus Christ destroyed the works of the devil through his work on the cross.

This overcomes and presupposes a kingdom of evil (satan).
[1 John 3.8; Matt 12.29; Luke 11.21,22; John 12.31; John 16.11; 1 Cor 15.24-26; Col 2.13-15; Heb 2.14,15](#)

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Step by step, Jesus went through the examination of the Lamb, which had to be without spot or blemish. He was tempted in all points, but without sin. He was poked and prodded as men plotted one scheme after another to test Him, trap Him, and disqualify Him. It was all in the plan. Even on the Cross, ...

For the joy set before Him, Jesus endured the Cross, despising the shame.

And now to the destruction work of the Cross. Jesus did not sidetrack the Cross and misuse His power and position. He destroyed the works of darkness. Satan lost whatever governing power he had or claimed to have.

Separation from the Father, forsakenness. We cannot imagine it. We are finite and God is infinite and eternal. God doesn't change. He is holy and just as well as gracious, merciful, loving, and good.

Today is Good Friday. Jesus endured the Cross for the joy set before Him. He glorified His Father. Amen.

Mary Craig, D. Min.



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