

Good Friday 2008
What's So Good About Good Friday
Phil 2:6-8, 1 Peter 3:18, Rom 8:38-39

Welcome:

Couple of announcements before we begin:

- 1) Chn stay in, for the younger ones we will have some sheets and some pens to go around after the chn's song today
- 2) Collection today will be in the box near the door
- 3) After this morning Hot Cross Buns at 55 Banksia St all welcome

Again Welcome to Evans Head Pressie Church, good to see you here.

- • It has been tradition for different churches to celebrate Good Friday since the fourth century. Some churches have a 3 hour service between 12noon and 3pm (the time the sun went dark while Jesus was on the cross), others a 5 hour ceremony – we'll not go that long this morning.

But we are going to be considering what's so good about good Friday.

Because Good Friday is about celebrating a death, the death of Jesus.

How can someone dieing be good.

How can someone, who was innocent, dieing be good.

What's so Good about Good Friday?

I pray that as you sit here this morning, as you watch, as you hear as you sing then you will start to get the picture about why Good Friday is so Good, in fact it is the best day of all time.

We are going to hear from the bible, we are going to sing a couple of songs, we are going to watch a skit we are going to watch a presentation on the screen, we are going to listen to me for a short while to try to bring it all together, but I pray that as you look at all this you will piece together for your self "What's so Good about Good Friday."

Bible Reading: Phil 2:5-8

^{PHP 2:5} Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus:

^{PHP 2:6} Who, being in very nature God,
did not consider equality with God something to be grasped,

^{PHP 2:7} but made himself nothing,
taking the very nature of a servant,
being made in human likeness.

^{PHP 2:8} And being found in appearance as a man,
he humbled himself
and became obedient to death--
even death on a cross!

Song: Is this the King (Colin B)

Skit: Lay Your Burden Down - Ben, Dave, one more person

Song: God is a Holy God (The King, The Snake the Promise)

Prayer

Song: When I survey the Wondrous Cross (Key board)

Presentation: Innocent Eyes (DVD player Innocent Eyes 2004)

Bible Talk: What's so Good about Good Friday, include Rom 8

Song: His Forever

Have you pieced it together?

What is so *Good* about *Good Friday*?

Notice that it has nothing to do with the fact we are able to eat as many hot cross buns as we like, or about rabbits that poop chocolate eggs, or that over eating of chocolate is not just acceptable but expected, or that it is the start of an extra long long weekend.

No it is all about Jesus.

From the first reading we see that Jesus who was *God*, not just a unique human who taught great things and gave us good morals.

But he was *God* who came and lived amongst us.

That is stunning, the creator became like the created.

There is that song that goes "what if *God* was one of us"

Well *God* became like one of us.

Belittled himself, went from his throne, his position with *God the Father* and came and lived amongst us.

Prince Harry of recent times was a soldier in the regular army in Afghanistan, and they pulled him out due to some magazines revealing that he was there. Therefore the Taliban and other possible terrorist organizations knew where he was and therefore Prince Harry was in danger. Great to see the Prince, royalty willing to get down and dirty with

the troops and fight for his country, to fight for his people. But he was pulled out, due to the increased threat to his life.

Jesus the King of the Universe comes amongst us and isn't pulled out by his father when there is danger but actually takes the danger head on, he takes on the enemy, not just his enemy but our enemy.

He takes on Sin and DEATH.

Why did he do that?

Well that is where the skit came in.

Our sacks of burdens, or sin, are on all our backs and there is nothing we can do to remove it.

God knows this and as the chn's song said we can't be friends with God because of that sin.

What is sin, seven deadly sins, all sins are deadly, not just the outright open ones or ones that a church decides to highlight.

Sin is everything that we do that says to God I know better than you, I want to be ruler of my life and everyone is deadly, everyone causes us to be separated from God.

And none of us are innocent, as the song we just saw states.

We start out as what would seem like very innocent little babies, but it doesn't take long.

I was at our Mum's and Bub's play group the other day and with little babies that are only a few months old they already knew how to rip a toy of another baby because they wanted it, and how to manipulate their mothers with cries just to get a cuddle or an extra Easter egg.

And as we grow older we just get better at that. We still want what the other has, we still look to manipulate people.

We still spit the dummy to try and get our own way.

We have just grown up to be better at being selfish.

We are not innocent.

(3 Things wrong a day illustration)

So how can we get rid of this ever growing burden?

That is why Jesus came.

That is why it is Good Friday.

Jesus the innocent went to death, on a cross, for the guilty (you and me) to bring you to God (Innocent Eyes 1 Peter 3:18)

Jesus died instead of you.

Instead of me.

Instead of us.

Took all our sacks and nailed them to that cross. (may actually do that)

Now if we believe this if we trust in this then our burdens our sin, our sacks are nailed up there.

Like the song says Jesus came and washed us clean when we put our trust in him.

Then God opens his arms and welcomes us in.

And he welcomes us for eternity, he will never let you go.

Read Rom 8:38-39

"Now I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither the present or the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Never outside God's love, never not loved.

Always loved, in the presence of our heavenly Father experiencing His love demonstrated in Jesus for us now and for eternity.

That is what is so Good about Good Friday.

That is why we celebrate a death, because that death was ours.

Jesus who was God with flesh on, came and died on the cross to take all our sin off us, to set us free, to bring us to God, so that we can be Innocent again, in the loving presence of God for all eternity.

Just as stunning is what happened on Easter Sunday so come along on Sunday to hear more but today

I pray that this Good Friday will be a great Friday for you as you take this on for yourself, that you put your trust in Jesus who gave up all for you.

Place your sack of ever growing sins on the cross, experience Him setting you free, and know that you are loved for ever.

If you do that for the first time for yourself this morning or you recommit your life to Jesus again today.

Which ever is for you this morning, Do it, then you will truly experience what is Good about Good Friday.