

MARANATHA BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

2 April 2021

Good Friday Combined Worship Service

"Present every man perfect in Christ Jesus" (Colossians 1:28)

Address: 63 Cranwell Road, Singapore 509851

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Sunday English / Chinese Worship Service: 10.45 am

Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 8.30 pm

**Rev Colin Wong (HP : 9665 8160); Elder Daniel Tau (HP : 9761 5415);
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Good News for You on this Good Friday!

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Well, friends, some of you may ask, "What so good about this Good Friday?" Others may think Christians are odd because it was on this day some two thousand years ago, when the founder of Christianity, Jesus of Nazareth, was crucified on the cross, died among thieves and was buried in a tomb of a man, named Joseph of Arimathea. (Matthew 27:57, 60)

First, we need to turn to the four Gospel accounts and find out who Jesus of Nazareth was. He was no mere man or just one of the sons of Joseph, the carpenter, and his wife Mary. The Gospel of Luke tells us Jesus was born of a virgin called Mary. He was conceived by the power of the Most High, the Holy Spirit. The angel told the virgin, Mary, that the child shall be holy – the Son of God. His name shall be called JESUS, for He shall save His people from their sins. (Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-31)

The reason Jesus came some two thousand years ago was to undo the curse of the first Adam. The first Adam and his wife Eve, our first parents, sinned against God in the Garden of Eden (Genesis 3:1-6) and brought about death – "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned." (Romans 5:12) "For as in *(first)* Adam all die. (1 Corinthians 15:22)

After the sin of Adam in the Garden of Eden, humanity was seriously affected by this First Sin, this First Disobedience, also called the Original Sin. The nature of men is marred by sin, our spirit is no more alive to God, we inherently have no desire to seek God nor to please God. Worst, we are hell bound, suited only to be cast into the lake of fire. (Revelation 20:14)

John MacArthur says, "Not a particular sin, but the inherent propensity to sin entered the human

realm; people became sinners by nature. Adam passed to all his descendants the inherent sinful nature he possessed because of his first disobedience. That nature is present from the moment of conception (Psalm 51:5), making it impossible for man to live in a way that pleases God.

JESUS of Nazareth was born to undo the curse of the Original Sin. Jesus came to make it possible for man to live in way that pleases God. To put in us the desire to seek God. Jesus is the second Adam. The apostle Paul said, “For as in (*the first*) Adam all die, even so in Christ (*Jesus, the second Adam*) shall all be made alive. And so it is written, the first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit.” (1 Corinthians 15:22, 45). Jesus came to undo the curse of the Original Sin that we might be made alive unto God.

The Good Friday is a good day for all of us to remember what Jesus has done for us. It is a day of the good news. For God since the fall of man in the Garden of Eden hath set forth His divine plan to save men from the curse of the first sin. For God said to the serpent, who deceived Adam and Eve, “And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.” This statement is the promise of God to send a Saviour to restore man to God. This is called the first gospel.

John MacArthur says, “This "first gospel" is prophetic of the struggle and its outcome between "your (*thy*) seed" (Satan and unbelievers, who are called the devil's children in John 8:44) and her seed (Christ, a descendant of Eve, and those in Him), which began in the garden. In the midst of the curse passage, a message of hope shone forth—the woman's offspring called "He" is Christ, who will one day defeat the serpent. Satan could only "bruise" Christ's heel (cause Him to suffer), while Christ will bruise Satan's head (destroy him with a fatal blow).”

Jesus, of Nazareth, the Son of God, who was born without sin because He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, born of a virgin, born not of the natural way of sinful man, was God in the flesh.

The apostle Paul, by the Spirit of God, said with certainty concerning Jesus Christ – “Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made Himself of no reputation, and took upon Him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.” (Philippians 2:6-8)

Jesus, the Son of God, being equal to God the Father, left heaven and came to this earth to take on the form of man, in obedience, went to the cross at Calvary some two thousand years ago to die for our sins that “we in Him might have life eternal”. The phrase “we in Him might have eternal life” refers to those who hear this good news and believe – this good news is God’s plan to save sinful man from the bondage of sin which leads to death, God’s way which leads to freedom from the power of sin.

For in the Gospel of John, chapter 3, we learn that “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved. He that believeth on Him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already,

because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.” (Joh 3:16-18)

Dear friends, I pray by now you are fully aware of your sin, your sinful nature which puts you at odd with the Holy God, our Creator, and this sin separates you from the Holy God, this sin results in your spiritual death and if you do not deal with it rightly, in the manner which God has set out for you, then, I am afraid you are still in the jaw of sin, which leads to death and God’s wrath and condemnation remain in you. However, if you were to take hold of this good news and understand and believe that Jesus died for your sins, and believe all that was said concerning who He is, then, you are blessed, for you shall become a child of God, free from the bondage of sin, free to live a life pleasing to God, for God shall by the Holy Spirit enable you to live a life pleasing to Him.

Your belief in Jesus Christ of Nazareth shall not be in vain. This is because though Jesus died on the cross, was buried in the tomb but on the third day, He rose again from the dead. He was resurrected from the dead by the mighty power of God. He is alive. Jesus said in Revelation 1:18, “I am He that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.” This is exactly the reason for Christians all over the world to celebrate on the Sunday immediately after Good Friday, the Easter Sunday, the Resurrection Sunday.

Dear friends, your faith in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour shall not be in vain, for Jesus the righteous and beloved Son of God paid fully for your sins on the cross at Calvary, His atoning sacrifice was accepted completely by God. So, come and believe in Jesus Christ. Make this Friday, your Good Friday to remember and rejoice, forever. Amen and God bless you.

Elder Daniel Tau

Theme for the Quarter :
FREE IN CHRIST
(An Exposition on the Epistle of Paul to the Galatians)

Rev Colin Wong speaking at the Good Friday Combined Service on
What Good is Good Friday? (Matthew 27:11-56).
Interpreter : Brother Seow Zhi Fa.