

Title: The Heart of Golgotha
Text: Romans 5.8
Theme: Christ died for us.
Occasion: Good Friday Night – 2005
Prop Stmt. Christ died for us

Read Text: Romans 5.6-8

Near the beginning of his public ministry, Jesus went into the synagogue that was in his hometown of Nazareth. He read from Isaiah 61 where it says, “The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.” Luke says that after he read this “he rolled up the scroll gave it back to the attendant and sat down.” With “the eyes of everyone in the synagogue” fastened on him he said, “Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.”

Jesus knew that Isaiah 61 was about Him. Jesus also knew that Isaiah 53 was about him too. How old was Jesus and where was He when he became aware of this? Was He sitting in the synagogue listening to the reading of the Scriptures, when the Holy Spirit revealed to Him His part in this passage? Was He standing in the temple courts watching the lambs being led to their death for the sins of the people? Did He listen to older people describe a crucifixion they had seen in Jerusalem? I don’t know. There is so much about this that I do not know. One of which is how incredibly amazing is the love of God. God loves us and seeks us out with such desire and persistence even though God is not in anyway in need of the people that He loves.

C.S. Lewis said of the love of God, “bottomlessly selfless by very definition; it has everything to give and nothing to receive.” Even though God does not need us, God loves us. Even though we are the ungodly described in Romans 5.6; the enemies of God described in v. 10, the sinners described in v.8, we are the ones for whom He died. God does not need us, and yet God loves us. Even though we cannot do anything for Him, He does everything for us. God, who is totally and completely perfect, has pledged to us His deepest and most personal love.

This love is described in Isaiah 53.12 as the pouring out of his soul unto death. This phrase describes how Christ fully entered into His mission. He did not just “gut it out” and “hang in there” until the ordeal was over. He poured out his soul. His soul suffered (v.11). His whole being suffered. His heart was on the cross. He was fully engaged in what He was doing. He poured out his soul unto death. There are many difficult things that we face. Sometimes we are coached to focus on something else. Think about other things. Distract yourself. Try to concentrate on something that is happy, or pleasant or anything to get your mind off of what is so bad. Jesus was not distracted. Jesus was not in denial. When Christ died for you, all of Christ died for you. Not just body, but life and soul as well.

This love is also described as being numbered with the transgressors. Christ loves you so much, He identified Himself as you. How many times have we tried to distance ourselves from people that we think will harm our reputation and have said, “Hey, don’t put me in that group.” “I am not like one of them.” “I’m not with them.” Jesus Christ loves you this deep. He said about you, he said about us, “I’m one of them.” He was numbered with the transgressors. He was counted as being one of us. He looked at all of us sinners and said, “that’s my group.” “I am part of them.” That is what He did when He went to the cross for us. He died in between two thieves. Isaiah 53.12 says, “he bore the sin of many and made intercession for the transgressors.”

This amazing love is so selfless, that he loves with no resentment. When we love, as hard as we try, we have expectations that come with our love. A dad may take his family on a vacation. It’s not that he expects the kids to weep and break down and cry and profess undying gratitude to him for taking them, but he does at the very least expect them not to whine and complain about every little thing. Has this conversation ever occurred in your home? “You guys don’t appreciate anything around here?” Or, “Look, I’ve had it. I’m tired of this. You guys are ridiculous.” Our love has its limits. When our love is not accepted or acknowledged, we are very prone to resentment. We have spurned the love of Christ so much in thought and deed. Even though he poured out his soul unto death, even though he was numbered with us, even though we still like sheep go astray, he pleads our case. He made intercession for the transgressors.

During the Revolutionary War there was a faithful preacher of the gospel named Peter Miller. He lived near a fellow who hated him intensely for his Christian life and testimony. In fact, the man violently opposed him and ridiculed his followers. One day this unbeliever was found guilty of treason and sentenced to death. Hearing about this, Peter Miller set out on foot to intercede for the man’s life to George Washington. The General listened to the minister’s earnest pleas, but told him he did not feel that he should issue a pardon for his friend. “My friend?!” “He is not my friend!” answered Miller, “In fact he is my worst living enemy.” “What” said Washington. “You have walked 60 miles to save the life of your enemy? That, in my judgment puts the matter in a different light. I will grant you your request.” With pardon in hand, Miller went as fast as he could all the way back to where his neighbor was to be executed and arrived just as the traitor was walking to the scaffold. When the traitor saw Miller coming, he said, “Old Peter Miller has come to have his revenge by watching me hang!” But he was astonished as he watched the minister produce the pardon that spared his life.

Christ made intercession for the transgressors. He pleads your case, because he has the grounds upon which to do so.

So, when Paul writes that “Christ died for us.” We see that in four words, he told the story of Golgotha.

Let’s look at those 4 words.

Christ – He is our:

Adam
Advocate (1 John 2:1)
All in all
Almighty (Rev. 1:8; Mt. 28:18)
Alpha and Omega (Rev. 1:8; 22:13)
Amen (Rev. 3:14)
Anchor of our souls
Ancient of Days
Anointed
Apostle of our Profession (Heb. 3:1)
Arm of the Lord
Atoning Sacrifice for our Sins (1 John 2:2)
Author of Life (Acts 3:15)
Author and Perfecter of our Faith (Heb. 12:2)
Author of Salvation (Heb. 2:10)
Balm of Gilead
Beginning and End (Rev. 22:13)
Begotten of God
Beloved
Blessed and only Ruler (1 Tim. 6:15)
Branch
Bread of God (John 6:33)
Bread of Life (John 6:35; 6:48)
Bridegroom
Bright and Morning Star
Brightness of God's glory
Capstone (Acts 4:11; 1 Pet. 2:7)
Captain of salvation
Chief Cornerstone (Eph. 2:20)
Chief Shepherd (1 Pet. 5:4)
Chosen of God
Comforter
Commander
Creator (John 1:3)
Counselor
Dayspring
Daystart
Deliverer (Rom. 11:26)
Desire of all nations
The Door
Eternal Life (1 John 1:2; 5:20)
Everlasting Father (Isa. 9:6)
Gate (John 10:9)
Faithful and True (Rev. 19:11)
Faithful Witness (Rev. 1:5)
Faith and True Witness (Rev. 3:14)

First and Last (Rev. 1:17; 2:8; 22:13)
Firstborn From the Dead (Rev. 1:5)
First & the Last (Rev. 1:17)
First begotten of the dead (Rev. 1:5)
Firstborn and Firstfruits [of them that slept] (1 Cor. 15:20, 23)
Foundation (Isa. 28:16; 1 Cor. 3:11)
Friend of sinners (Mt. 11:19; Lk. 7:34)
Fulness of the Godhead (Col. 2:9)
Gift of God (Jn. 4:10; 2 Cor. 9:15)
Glory of God (Isa. 60:1)
God (John 1:1; 20:28; Heb. 1:8; Rom. 9:5; 2 Pet. 1:1; 1 John 5:20; etc.)
Good Master (Mt. 19:16)
Good Shepherd (John 10:11,14)
Governor (Mt. 2:6)
Great Shepherd (Heb. 13:20)
Great High Priest (Heb. 4:14)
Guide (Ps. 48:14)
Head of the Church (Eph. 1:22; 4:15; 5:23)
Heir of all things (Heb. 1:2)
High Priest (Heb. 2:17)
Holy and True (Rev. 3:7)
Holy One (Acts 3:14)
Hope (1 Tim. 1:1)
Hope of Glory (Col. 1:27)
Horn of Salvation (Luke 1:69)
I Am (John 8:58)
Image of God (2 Cor. 4:4)
Immanuel
Intercessor
Jehovah (Isa. 26:4; 40:3)
Jesus (Mt. 1:21)
Judge (Micah 5:1; Acts 10:42)
Just One (Acts 7:52)
King Eternal (1 Tim. 1:17)
King of Israel (John 1:49)
King of the Jews (Mt. 27:11)
King of kings (1 Tim 6:15; Rev. 19:16)
King of the Ages (Rev. 15:3)
Lamb (Rev. 13:8)
Lamb of God (John 1:29)
Lamb Without Blemish (1 Pet. 1:19)
Life (John 14:6; Col. 3:4)
Light of the World (John 8:12)
Lion of the Tribe of Judah (Rev. 5:5)
Living One (Rev. 1:18)
Living Stone (1 Pet. 2:4)

Lord (2 Pet. 2:20)
Lord of All (Acts 10:36)
Lord of Glory (1 Cor. 2:8)
Lord of lords (Rev. 19:16)
LORD [YHWH] our Righteousness (Jer. 23:6)
Man from Heaven (1 Cor. 15:48)
Man of Sorrows
Mediator of the New Covenant (Heb. 9:15)
Messiah
Mighty God (Isa. 9:6)
Morning Star (Rev. 22:16)
Offspring of David (Rev. 22:16)
Only Begotten Son of God (John 1:18; 1 John 4:9)
Our Great God and Savior (Titus 2:13)
Our Holiness (1 Cor. 1:30)
Our Husband (2 Cor. 11:2)
Our Protection (2 Thess. 3:3)
Our Redemption (1 Cor. 1:30)
Our Righteousness (1 Cor. 1:30)
Our Sacrificed Passover Lamb (1 Cor. 5:7)
Peace
Power of God (1 Cor. 1:24)
Precious Cornerstone (1 Pet. 2:6)
Prince of Peace (Isa. 9:6)
Prophet (Acts 3:22)
Propitiation
Redeemer
Resurrection and Life (John 11:25)
Righteous Branch (Jer. 23:5)
Righteous One (Acts 7:52; 1 John 2:1)
Rock (1 Cor. 10:4)
Root of David (Rev. 5:5; 22:16)
Ruler of God's Creation (Rev. 3:14)
Ruler of the Kings of the Earth (Rev. 1:5)
Same (yesterday, today and forever)
Savior (Eph. 5:23; Titus 1:4; 3:6; 2 Pet. 2:20)
Seed of a Woman
Shiloh
Son of David (Lk. 18:39)
Son of God (John 1:49; Heb. 4:14)
Son of Man (Mt. 8:20)
Son of the Most High God (Lk. 1:32)
Source of Eternal Salvation for all who obey him (Heb. 5:9)
Sun of Righteousness
Teacher

Tender plant
The One Mediator (1 Tim. 2:5)
The Stone the builders rejected (Acts 4:11)
True Bread (John 6:32)
True Light (John 1:9)
True Vine (John 15:1)
Truth (John 1:14; 14:6)
Way (John 14:6)
Wisdom of God (1 Cor. 1:24)
Witness
Wonderful Counselor (Isa. 9:6)
Word (John 1:1)
Word of God (Rev. 19:13)

This was the Man who died for you.

Christ Died.

He had to die. He had to live for you, but his living for you would have not been of any benefit had he not died for you. His death satisfied the requirements of the law, even as his life had fulfilled the standard of perfection that the law set forth. The wages of sin is death. The soul that sins shall die. Those things result in death. But you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die. The income of the wicked brings them punishment. For every living soul belongs to me, the father as well as the son – both alike belong to me. The soul who sins is the one who will die. Although they know God's righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them. Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men because all sinned. It was our sin, and should have been our death.

But Christ, died, for

Upon this word stands the doctrine of the substitutionary atonement. The word speaks of a relationship that involves in the place of, or instead of. We were the Barabbas who should have died. There is a sense in which you could look at the back of the cross and see inscribed these words, this cross was made and designed for (put in your name). Justice built the cross for me, Christ took my place. Christ died for us.

Us.

What if we made a list of titles for us, what would it say? Before this truth it would read one thing, but after this verse it would read something else.

Enemy of God – Friend of God

Sinner - Saint

Slave to sin – Slave to holiness – you get the point. His death forever changed us!