

The Lily Pad

“I am a rose of Sharon, a lily of the valleys.” Solomon 2:1



IT WAS THE BLOOD THAT MADE THE DIFFERENCE

- On Friday, the disciples were running, Peter was denying and Judas was betraying.
- On Friday, Jesus heard the crowds that cried Hosanna scream crucify, crucify.
- On Friday, Pilate crumbles to will of sinful people, Jesus suffers a mockery of a trial and is sentenced to death.
- On Friday, the disciples are questioning, Mary is crying and the scribes

are scheming.

- On Friday, the Romans beat Jesus until He is no longer recognizable, He is robed in scarlet and crowned with thorns.

- On Friday, a cross is dropped on Jesus' back, He is forced to Golgotha, crowds scoff and spit on him.

- On Friday, the romans nail Jesus' feet to the cross, the romans nail Jesus hands to the cross.

- On Friday, the priests were insulting, the Pharisees were celebrating and Hell was dancing.

- On Friday, Jesus cries out about being forsaken, He cares for His mother and speaks of His thirst.

- On Friday, the sky grows dark, the earth shakes and quakes.

- On Friday, evil is smiling, death is winning and Satan is laughing.

- On Friday, Jesus says It is **Finished** and gives up His spirit.

- On Friday, soldier pierce his side – **Blood and water flows** – Jesus is dead.

- On Friday, Joseph of Arimathea claims His body, Nicodemus prepares the spices and oils and Jesus is buried in a borrowed tomb.

- On Friday, a stone is placed in front of the tomb, the Romans add their seal and guards watch over the dead.

- On Friday, the grave has won, hope is lost and sin is overcoming.



The good news is today isn't Friday!

The crucifixion of the Lord Jesus Christ stands at the center of the history of humanity. It marks the apex of the entire mediating work of Jesus Christ on behalf of God's chosen who are by nature guilty, corrupted, and depraved. The Bible teaches us that before the foundation of the world, God chose a people out of Adam's fallen, sinful race and determined to save them and give them all eternal blessedness and grace.

God is holy, righteous, and just. He always deals in truth. His judgments are always based on truth without respect of persons. Wherever His holy law and justice finds sin, it demands death. Wherever His holy law and justice finds righteousness, it demands life. So, God could not give His chosen people, guilty sinners, His blessings apart from His holy law and justice being satisfied. "The soul that sin shall die" (Ezekiel 18:20). God will "by no means clear the guilty" (Exodus. 34:7). Therefore, before God could give eternal life, favor, and blessings to any one of His chosen, He had to provide a way to remove their guilt and defilement, to redeem them and atone for their sins to satisfy His holy law and justice. He had to provide a righteousness that would enable Him to be just and yet justify the corrupt; a righteousness that would demand salvation and grace.

On Good Friday, Jesus died as our substitute, making atonement for all our sins. John 19:31-34 offers this unique account that occurred at the end of Jesus' crucifixion: "Since it was the day of Preparation, and so that the bodies would not remain on the cross on the Sabbath, the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken and that they might be taken away. So, the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first, and of the other who had been crucified with him. But when they came to Jesus and saw

that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. But one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once there came out **blood and water.**"

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The precious blood of the Lamb of God made the difference at Calvary.

"God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son" (John 3:16). Jesus loved us and gave himself for us on the cross. The Son of God died in our place; he died in our place for our sins. He died that we may live forever in eternal happiness with God.

Jesus had come into town for the Passover celebration and was nearing the time when he would be betrayed by one of his disciples, publicly humiliated and mocked, beaten beyond recognition, and hung on a cross to die. It was the night before his suffering when he made his special request for his followers to remember that He gave his body for them and poured out his blood as a sacrifice for them.

Jesus himself said on the night he was betrayed: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you" (Luke 22:20). It was not the blood of animals; it was Christ's blood that was poured out for our benefit, for the salvation of everyone who believes in him. All our sadness, despair, shame, humiliation, hopelessness, and depression are due to sin and guilt. The blood of Christ alone brings forgiveness. So, Jesus said, "This is my blood of the covenant which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins" (Matt. 26:28). Paul reflects on this, quoting Christ: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood" (1 Cor. 11:25).

The Bible regards blood as the symbol and source of life. Leviticus 17:14 states, "For the life of every creature is its blood: its blood is its life. Jesus Christ, the one perfect God-man, came to offer the pure, complete and everlasting sacrifice to make payment for our sin. Hebrews chapters 8-10 beautifully explain how Christ became the eternal High Priest, entering heaven (the Holy of Holies), once and for all, not by the blood of sacrificial animals, but by his own precious blood on the cross. Christ poured out his life in the ultimate atoning sacrifice for our sin and the sins of the world.

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In the New Testament, the blood of Jesus Christ, therefore, becomes the foundation for God's new covenant of grace. A death has occurred which the covenant demanded. God shed his own blood in the death of Jesus Christ, and the church is bought with that blood. In Mark 10:45 we read, "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve and give his life as a ransom for many." The price of our redemption was the death of Jesus Christ. He paid that price on Good Friday on the hill of Calvary that we may live, that we may be happy, and blessed. It was not optional; it was necessary, demanded by God in his covenant. So, Jesus self-consciously makes this statement: "Did not the Christ have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?" (Luke 24:26). It was divinely determined in the covenant of redemption, and agreed to by the Son of God that he would do it. Christ must die.

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The Blood of Jesus Has Power to:

- *Redeem Us - *Ephesians 1:7; Hebrews 9:12*
- *Reconcile Us to God - *Romans 3:25*
- *Pay Our Ransom - *1 Peter 1: 18-19;*
Revelation 5:9
- *Wash Away Sin - *1 John 1:7*
- *Forgive Us - *Revelation 1:5*
- *Free Us - *Romans 5:9*
- *Justify Us - *Romans 5:9*
- *Cleanse Our Guilty Conscience -
Hebrews 9:13-14
- *Sanctify Us - *Hebrews 13:12*
- *Open the Way to the Presence of God -
Ephesian 2:13
- *Give Us Peace - *Colossians 1:19-20*
- *Overcome the Enemy - *Revelation 12:11*

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A death has occurred, blood has been shed, and we are sprinkled clean. Moses sprinkled blood upon the Israelites when he ratified the Mosaic covenant. But now a new covenant is established. Christ himself died in our place and his blood is shed upon us. Paul says, "He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification" (Rom. 4:25). We are saved, cleansed, and happy in Jesus.

The thick veil that kept us out has been torn apart, and we can now come into God's presence to rejoice in intimate relationship with him. As a result of Christ's death, benefits come to us daily. We are the beneficiaries of God's covenant, which is in force because our testator died on Good Friday. Christ's once-for-all offering of himself on Good Friday was eternally sufficient. His new covenant has our names on it. But not only did he die, he also rose again. Now he lives, to divide and distribute blessings to his people.

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God is love. And the greatest expression of His love toward us is the blood of Jesus. That love covers every need humanity has had or ever will have. Good Friday; Easter's message of hope, salvation, eternal life!

*May your Easter basket be full of
Joy, Happiness, & Peace
Today & Always
Happy Easter*

*Pastor Clarissa, Martín, Marissa, Biancha, Sophia, Nicolás,
Cookie, Hachi, and Sadie*