“United With Christ | In His Death”
Good Friday 2016
Romans 6:5
March 25, 2016

Prayer | Confession of Sin

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your name. Amen.

Scripture Readings

- Romans 5:12-14
- John 19:1-6
- Romans 5:6-9
- Luke 23:26-27, 32-38
- Romans 6:3-5
- Luke 23:44-46

Sermon | Romans 6:5

- A death like his
    - Cicero — “extreme and ultimate punishment of slaves,” and the "cruelest and most disgusting penalty."
    - Josephus — “the most pitiable of deaths”
    - Seneca — Can anyone be found who would prefer wasting away in pain dying limb by limb, or letting out his life drop by drop, rather than expiring once for all? Can any man be found willing to be fastened to the accursed tree, long sickly, already deformed, swelling with ugly welts on shoulders and chest, and drawing the breath of life amid long-drawn-out agony? He would have many excuses for dying even before mounting the cross.
- Jesus Suffered:
    - Physically
    - Emotionally
    - Spiritually | Luke 22:44, Matthew 27:46

Why on earth would we want to be united with that?

United With Christ’s Death

1. Because our sin caused his death | Acts 2:23
    a. John Stott — We ourselves are also guilty. If we were in their place, we would have done what they did. Indeed, we have done it. For whenever we turn away from Christ, we “are crucifying the Son of God all over again and subjecting him

to public disgrace" (Heb 6:6). We too sacrifice Jesus to our greed like Judas, to our envy like the priests, to our ambition like Pilate. "Were you there when they crucified my Lord?" the old negro spiritual asks. And we must answer, "Yes, we were there." Not as spectators only, but as participants, guilty participants, plotting, scheming, betraying, bargaining and handing him over to be crucified. We may try to wash our hands of responsibility like Pilate. But our attempt will be as futile as his. For there is blood on our hands. Before we can begin to see the cross as something done for us…we have to see it as something done by us.

2. Because Jesus took our place | 2 Corinthians 5:21
    a. J.I. Packer — Jesus knew on the cross all the pain, physical and mental, that man could inflict and also the divine wrath and rejection that my sins deserve; for he was there in my place, making atonement for me. "All we like sheep have gone astray … and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all" (Isaiah 53:6).
3. Through faith alone in Christ alone | Ephesians 2:8-9
    a. John Owen — This is that I aim at: unless a man be regenerate, unless he be a believer, all attempts that he can make for mortification, be they never so specious and promising — let him follow them with never so much diligence, earnestness, watchfulness, and intention of mind and spirit — are to no purpose.
4. By taking up our cross and following him | Matthew 16:24-25
    a. John Piper — Imitation is not salvation. But salvation brings imitation. Christ is not given to us first as model, but as Savior. In the experience of the believer, first comes the pardon of Christ, then the pattern of Christ...In fact, only when we experience the pardon of Christ can he become a pattern for us.

Questions:

1. Do you see that you are united with Christ's death because you caused it?
2. Do you believe that you are united with Christ's death because he stood in your place?
3. Are you united with Christ's death by faith?
4. Does the pattern of your life follow Christ's call to die?

Prayer | Assurance of Pardon

Hear the good news! Christ died for us, Christ rose for us, Christ reigns in power for us, Christ prays for us. Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life has gone; a new life has begun. Believe the good news of the gospel: In Jesus Christ you are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

Communion | Luke 22:14-20

Closing Scripture Reading | Galatians 2:20