

The Cross: A Good Friday Message (Steve Greenberg's Handout April 3, 2026)

1Cor 6:20 For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

1. WHY THE CROSS?

Before we even get to the events of Good Friday, we must understand why the cross was necessary.

We must go back to Adam and Eve.

Gen 3:6 So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.

Gen 3:21 Also for Adam and his wife the LORD God made tunics of skin (God sacrificed an animal, Lev 17:11), and clothed them.

Man was created with the ability to respond to God, to think, make decisions; we are not programed as robots, we are able to express love, and worship God.

Rom 3:23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

Rom 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

We stand guilty before a holy God.

Sin separates us from God.

The penalty is not just physical death, but spiritual death eternal separation from God.

Only a sinless substitute could bridge that gap.

Jesus was forsaken, so we could be forgiven.

Jesus was condemned, so we could be justified.

Jesus was broken, so we could be healed.

Jesus died, so we might live.

2. The Cross Was Foretold

The cross was not an accident—it was always God's plan.

Gen 3:15 And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel.

Genesis 3:15 – Clarified with Names and Roles

“And I [God**] will put enmity between you [**the serpent/Satan, Rev 12:9; 20:2**] and the woman [**Eve-Rep Humanity**], and between your seed [**the followers of Satan**] and her Seed [**Jesus, the Messiah**]; He [**Jesus**] shall bruise your [**Satan's**] head (**fatal blow**), and you [**Satan**] shall bruise His [**Jesus'**] heel (**non-fatal blow at the cross, resurrection, death could not hold Him, Acts 2:24**)).”**

Isa 53:5 But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed.

Psa 22:1, 16, 19... My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me? Why are You so far from helping Me, And from the words of My groaning? v16 They pierced My hands and My feet; v19 But You, O LORD (My GOD), do not be far from Me; O My Strength, hasten to help Me!

David prophesied Jesus' exact words and His experience on the cross, hundreds of years before actual event (Mat 27:46).

3. The Path to the Cross

Jesus endured injustice, abuse, and abandonment—yet opened not His mouth (Isa 53:7).

Mat 26:38 Then He said to them, "My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Stay here and watch with Me."

Mat 26:39 He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, "O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will."

Jesus felt the weight of GOD's wrath for sin, not just physical suffering.

The Cup expresses divine judgment due for sin

Luk 22:44 And being in agony, He prayed more earnestly. Then His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground.

The battle for the cross, was won in prayer and surrender to GOD, before the first nail was driven.

Jesus was not afraid of death; He was taking upon Himself the sin of humanity.

Jhn 1:29 The next day John (the Baptist) saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"

Heb 12:2 Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy (believers) that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

4. The Trial: Condemned Though Innocent

Mat 27:22 Pilate said to them, "What then shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?" They all said to him, "Let Him be crucified!"

Mat 27:23 Then the governor said, "Why, what evil has He done?" But they cried out all the more, saying, "Let Him be crucified!"

Mat 27:24 When Pilate saw that he could not prevail at all, but rather that a tumult was rising, he took water and washed his hands before the multitude, saying (Pilate said), "I am innocent of the blood of this just Person. You see to it."

Mat 27:25 And all the people answered and said, "His blood be on us and on our children."

Mat 27:26 Then he released Barabbas to them; and when he had scourged Jesus, he delivered Him to be crucified.

The crowd chose Barabbas, a guilty criminal, instead of the innocent Son of God.

A beautiful picture of the gospel: Jesus takes the place of the guilty, so the guilty can go free.

5. The Crucifixion: Love Displayed in Suffering

Jhn 19:16 Then he(Pilate) delivered Him to them to be crucified. So they took Jesus and led Him away.

Jhn 19:17 And He (Jesus), bearing His cross, went out to a place called the Place of a Skull, which is called in Hebrew, Golgotha,

Jhn 19:18 where they crucified Him, and two others with Him, one on either side, and Jesus in the center.

Roman crucifixion was brutal and deigned for the person to suffer as long as possible, it was shameful form of death.

Old Testament Prophecies Fulfilled on Good Friday:

<u>Prophecy</u>	<u>OT Reference</u>	<u>Fulfillment in the New Testament</u>
Betrayed by a close friend	Psalm 41:9	John 13:18–21 (Judas the betrayer)
Sold for 30 pieces of silver	Zechariah 11:12–13	Mat 26:14–15; 27:3–10
Silent before His accusers	Isaiah 53:7	Mat 27:12–14
Beaten and spit upon	Isaiah 50:6	Mat 26:67; Mark 14:65
Mocked by bystanders	Psalm 22:7–8	Mat 27:39–44
Hands and feet pierced	Psalm 22:16	John 20:25–27; Luke 24:39
Cast lots for His garments	Psalm 22:18	John 19:23–24
Given vinegar to drink	Psalm 69:21	Mat 27:34, 48; John 19:28–30
No bones broken	Psalm 34:20	John 19:33, 36
Pierced side	Zechariah 12:10	John 19:34–37
Buried with the rich	Isaiah 53:9	Mat 27:57 (Joseph's tomb)

Luk 23:34 Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do." And they divided His garments and cast lots.

Luk 23:35 And the people stood looking on. But even the rulers with them sneered, saying, "He saved others; let Him save Himself if He is the Christ, the chosen of God."

Even in agony, Jesus prayed for His enemies

Luk 6:27 "But I(Jesus) say to you who hear: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you,

Luk 6:28 "bless those who curse you, and pray for those who spitefully use (or hurt) you.

Jhn 19:30 So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished (Gr: Paid in full!)" And bowing His head, He (voluntarily) gave up His spirit.

Jesus completed the work of redemption.

No more sacrifices, no more rituals, grace purchased all those who would put their trust in Him.

6. The Atonement: The Great Exchange

What actually happened at the cross?

The sinless Son of God took our place.

Jesus did not just die for sin—He died as sin, experiencing full separation from the Father.

Rom 5:8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

2Cor 5:21 For He(God) made Him(Jesus) who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him(Jesus).

Gal 3:13 Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us, for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs (crucified) on a tree (cross)",

Col 2:14 having wiped out the handwriting of requirements (in the OT law) that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.

Col 2:15 Having disarmed principalities and powers (supernatural forces of evil), He(Jesus) made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it (victory of them by way of the cross).

Isa 53:10 Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise Him; He has put Him to grief. When You make His soul an offering for sin, He shall see His seed, He shall prolong His days, And the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in His hand.

The Father's punishment came because of divine justice.
Jesus stood as our substitute, taking our sin and its full penalty.
The cross is where mercy and justice meet.
God's love did not ignore sin; He paid the price for it.
The cross is not just about death, it is about the great exchange: His righteousness for our sin.

7. Death Defeated: Hope Secured in His Death

Though He died, His death broke death's power.

Heb 2:14-15 ...through death He (**Jesus**) might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage

Jesus conquered death by entering death Himself, and then rising from the dead (Resurrection Sunday!).

What the Cross-Accomplished, For You

<u>Biblical Truth</u>	<u>Scripture</u>	<u>Result</u>
Substitution: Jesus took your place	Isaiah 53:4-6	You are forgiven
Redemption: Jesus bought you back	1 Peter 1:18-19	You are no longer a slave to sin
Justification: You are declared righteous	Romans 5:1	You are at peace with God
Reconciliation: Relationship restored	Colossians 1:19-22	You are brought near
Victory: Sin and Satan defeated	Colossians 2:14-15	You are more than a conqueror
Adoption: Brought into God's family	Galatians 4:4-7	You are a child of God

8. Jesus Death on the Cross-makes it Personal to Me and You

Gal 2:20 "I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

This is not just a historic event; this is now your story.

If you have trusted in Christ, then your sin was nailed to that cross, and your freedom from sin was sealed with His blood.

Good Friday Leads to Sunday and the Resurrection (This Sunday 8:30 and 10:30 services)
(No Sunday pm service this week)

"We call it Good Friday not because the cross was painless—but because it was powerful.

Not because Jesus deserved to die—but because He chose to lay down His sinless life so we could have eternal life."

Communion

1Cor 11:28 **But let a man (each believer) examine himself (prayerfully examine their relationship with Christ before they partake), and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup.**

1Cor 15:3 **(Paul rehearses what we are to believe)** For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,
1Cor 15:4 and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures,

1Cor 11:23 **(Probably the first written description of the Lord's Supper since this letter from Paul is dated earlier than any of the Gospels)** For I (Paul) received from the Lord that **(instruction)**, which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread;

1Cor 11:24 and when He **(Lord Jesus)** had given thanks, He broke it and said, "Take, eat; this is My body, which is broken **(offered as a sacrifice)** for you; do this in remembrance of Me."

We understand this to represent His body in a symbolic sense.

1Cor 11:25 In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

This new covenant is ratified and established through His sacrificial death, a new relationship God establishes with His people.

We do as often as we can the ongoing act of remembering and honoring Christ's sacrifice.

This covenant is established through His death

Heb 9:15 **And for this reason He is the Mediator of the new covenant, by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions under the first covenant, that those who are called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.**

1Cor 11:26 **For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes.**

We understand this as symbolically proclaiming His death.

The desire to practice continually with expectation of His return

Communion connects past (the cross), present (now remembrance), and future (anticipating Christ return)