

## What is Good about Good Friday?

19 So then Pilate took Jesus and scourged *Him*. <sup>2</sup> And the soldiers twisted a crown of thorns and put *it* on His head, and they put on Him a purple robe. <sup>3</sup> Then they said, “Hail, King of the Jews!” And they struck Him with their hands. <sup>4</sup> Pilate then went out again, and said to them, “Behold, I am bringing Him out to you, that you may know that I find no fault in Him.” <sup>5</sup> Then Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. And *Pilate* said to them, “Behold the Man!” <sup>6</sup> Therefore, when the chief priests and officers saw Him, they cried out, saying, “Crucify *Him*, crucify *Him!*” John 19:1-6

### *I. At first glance, absolutely nothing –*

#### *1. Roman soldiers mock the King of the Jews –*

*A. Crowning Him with thorns, causing pain :2*

*B. Dressing Him with a purple robe, making fun, thinking themselves superior, not only to Jesus, Who was certainly a humble sight, but to the entire Jewish nation whom they ruled over!*

*C. They strike Him because as members of a beast kingdom – Daniel 7:23*

<sup>23</sup> **“Thus he said: ‘The fourth beast shall be a fourth kingdom on earth, ... Daniel 7:23 A - this is how they rule and roll, by brute force, like a beast!**

#### *2. You might say there is a little good in Pilate in that he says –*

**<sup>4</sup> Pilate then went out again, and said to them, “Behold, I am bringing Him out to you, that you may know that I find no fault in Him.” John 19:4**

*But this is little good at best!*

*A. If there is “no fault” in Him, why let your soldiers mock and beat Him?*

*B. If there is “no fault” in Him, why let the Jews who wrongly accused Him in the first place have a say in what happens to Him?*

*Pilate is factually right, Jesus was faultless, sinless!*

*Yet, he is procedurally WRONG!*

3. *The Jewish people, His own people, those who were taught about Him by Scripture; these don't recognize Him –*

**53 Who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? <sup>2</sup> For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant, And as a root out of dry ground. He has no form or comeliness; And when we see Him, *There is no beauty that we should desire Him.* <sup>3</sup> He is despised and rejected by men, A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, *our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.* <sup>4</sup> Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted. <sup>5</sup> 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.* <sup>6</sup> All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.**

#### **Isaiah 53:1-6**

1. *His own do not recognize Him!*

2. *They despise Him, and hide their face from Him – Isaiah 53:3*

3. *They yell for His crucifixion –*

**<sup>6</sup> Therefore, when the chief priests and officers saw Him, they cried out, saying, “Crucify Him, crucify Him!” John 19:6**

4. *They esteem Him smitten by God -*

**Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted.**

5. *Worse yet, He really was forsaken by God –*

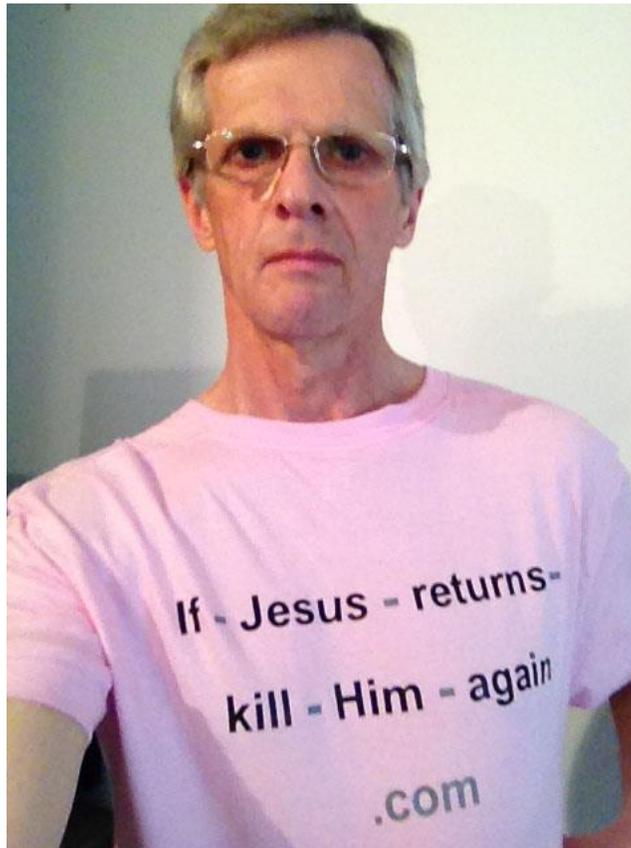
**1 My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me? *Why are You so far from helping Me, And from the words of My groaning?* Psalm 22:1**

*Today we have foolish people who call Christ's cross, “Child Abuse” as they would make God the bad guy!*

*II. At second and third glance, Good Friday does not get better, in the eyes of the unregenerate, the unsaved –*

**<sup>18</sup> For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, ... 1 Corinthians 1:18**

*This hatred for Jesus continues right up to today, the picture is of Darwin Bedford, he considers himself the atheist Messiah -*



*He preaches if Jesus returns, we should kill Him again!*

*Why does he do this? Why will he get a following?*

**<sup>7</sup> Because the carnal mind *is* enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. Romans 8:7**

*III. The Goodness of Good Friday is seen only by those to whom God reveals Himself, to those who are “being saved” –*

**<sup>18</sup> For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. 1 Corinthians 1:18**

1. *God does not reveal Himself to proud, ungodly know-it-alls*
2. *God does not show Himself to the SELF-RIGHTEOUS, those who would consider Christ’s cross excessive ... for their little sins!*
3. *God reveals Himself to and chooses the humble –*

**<sup>6</sup> But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: “God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.” James 4:6**

**<sup>26</sup> For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, *are called.* <sup>27</sup> But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; <sup>28</sup> and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are, <sup>29</sup> that no flesh should glory in His presence. <sup>30</sup> But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God—and righteousness and sanctification and redemption—<sup>31</sup> that, as it is written, “*He who glories, let him glory in the LORD.*” 1 Corinthians 1:26-31**

4. *No one can see or enter God’s Kingdom, or understand Christ’s cross, without the New Birth –*

**Jesus answered and said to him, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”**

**<sup>4</sup> Nicodemus said to Him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?”**

**<sup>5</sup> Jesus answered, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. <sup>6</sup> That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. <sup>7</sup> Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’**

**<sup>8</sup> The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but**

cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit.” John 3:3-8

*We are helpless to change ourselves –*

<sup>23</sup> **Can the Ethiopian change his skin or the leopard its spots? *Then* may you also do good who are accustomed to do evil. Jeremiah 13:23**

*This is why Jesus counts us blessed (truly and eternally happy) when we understand our own depravity, and need –*

<sup>3</sup> **“Blessed are the poor in spirit, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**  
<sup>4</sup> **Blessed are those who mourn, For they shall be comforted.**  
<sup>5</sup> **Blessed are the meek, For they shall inherit the earth.**  
<sup>6</sup> **Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, For they shall be filled. Matthew 5:3-6**

*5. The New Birth is a total moral and spiritual do over and if you think all you need is a little improvement here, a little change of mind there – you have missed it!*

<sup>17</sup> **Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. 2 Corinthians 5:17**

*We need:*

*A. Nothing less than Christ death to pay the penalty due our sins –*

<sup>18</sup> **knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, <sup>19</sup> but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot. 1 Peter 1:18-19**

*B. Nothing less than God’s Holy Spirit working with God’s Word renewing and revealing –*

<sup>9</sup> **But as it is written: “Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him.”**

**<sup>10</sup> But God has revealed *them* to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. 1 Corinthians 2:9-10**

*C. When we are born again, we see Christ's and God's Love and forgiveness expressed in the cross –*

**<sup>14</sup> And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup> that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. <sup>16</sup> For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. <sup>17</sup> For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. John 3:14-16**

*D. When we are born again, we see God's Sovereign control over even the terrible events of the cross –*

**<sup>27</sup> “For truly against Your holy Servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the people of Israel, were gathered together <sup>28</sup> to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose determined before to be done. Acts 4:27-28**

*As God was sovereign over the sinful act of Joseph's brothers, selling Joseph into slavery, so He is also sovereign over Jesus being nailed to a cross –*

**<sup>20</sup> But as for you, you meant evil against me; *but* God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as *it is* this day, to save many people alive. Genesis 50:20**

*Man's evil is shown in the nailing of Jesus to the cross!*

*God's love is shown in the same event –*

**<sup>8</sup> But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. <sup>9</sup> Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.**

**<sup>10</sup> For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. <sup>11</sup> And not only *that*, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation. Romans 5:8-11**

*Arnold Brevicek*