

# 2022 Good Friday Service

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## *“The Day That Changed The World”*

A message by Pastor Phil Ballmaier

(4/12/22)

I want to take this opportunity to welcome all of you to our Good Friday service and a message I’m calling—*“Good Friday, the Day that Changed the World.”*

Ten years ago, I did a Good Friday message with that title—and I decided to Google it to see what secular people thought was *‘the day that changed the world.’* The number one hit was September 11, 2001. That day changed the world in a very profound way—but for the bad.

Good Friday changed the world in a profound way—but for the better (one of the great understatements of all time)!

As a teenager, I can still remember the day that Neil Armstrong became the first man to walk on the moon—the day was July 21<sup>st</sup>, 1969. Right after Neil Armstrong stepped onto the moon—Richard Nixon, the president of the United States, went on T.V. and said, *“This is the greatest day in the history of the world, man has conquered space...”*

The next day Billy Graham came out publicly and refuted that statement by saying,

*“Yesterday was not the greatest day in the history of the world, there have been at least 3 others that have been greater—the birth, the death, and the resurrection of Jesus Christ.”*

So Good Friday is one day in a *trilogy* of days that God used to change the world in a way that only believers in Jesus Christ can fully appreciate.

As we turn to the Gospels, the day that Jesus was crucified started out like any other day—except this was Passover and so Jerusalem was waking up with a holiday spirit containing a mixture of excitement and anticipation.

Passover is one of the three major Jewish feasts of the year—so it was and still is a big deal for the Jewish people drawing Jewish pilgrims from all over the known world to celebrate it in Jerusalem.

Pilate, while on his way to work that morning (no doubt with Starbucks in hand) probably thought— *“With every Jew in town pre-occupied with the Passover—maybe this will be an easy, uneventful day for me”*—little did he realize that nothing could have been farther from the truth!

Because as Pilate walked to his judgment seat to start his day—there waiting for him was a group of Jewish leaders with a prisoner in tow. Pilate immediately recognized the ‘Prisoner’ as Jesus—the Prophet from Nazareth. These Jewish leaders were waiting for Pilate (his court opened at sunrise) because they wanted to make sure that theirs was the first case he adjudicated that day.

At this point Pilate didn’t realize that Jesus had already been put through a religious trial at the house of Caiaphas the high priest, where some of the leaders of Israel had met and determined that Jesus was a blasphemer who was worthy of death.

But you see, they didn’t have the authority to actually carry out this death sentence—for that they would need Pilate.

However, these Jewish religious leaders knew that Pilate would never convict Jesus of a capital crime on religious grounds (on matters of Jewish law)—so they manufactured three political charges against Him that they knew the Roman Government would take very seriously:

1. *He was a revolutionary who posed a threat to the empire.*
2. *He urged people not to pay taxes, therefore undermining the prosperity of the empire.*
3. *He claimed to be a King, therefore threatening the power and position of the emperor.*

Pilate chose to focus on the third charge (“*that Jesus claimed to be a king*”)—because this was the most serious of the three charges leveled against Jesus.

Anyone who has studied this *civil* trial knows it was a joke—almost as big a joke as the *religious* trial which had taken place earlier at Caiaphas’ house.

In that trial, practically every Jewish law regarding the legal way to conduct a trial had been violated (the trial wasn’t to be conducted at night; the witnesses had to agree; the defendant couldn’t testify against himself; the entire Sanhedrin was to be present...and on and on it went).

The trial at Caiaphas’ was illegal in every way—a total ‘kangaroo court.’ At least Pilate, who knew Jesus was being ‘railroaded’, tried to let Him go free, even pronouncing Him innocent at one point—“*I find no fault in Him at all.*” (John 18:38)

But by this time the Jewish leadership, in their lust for Jesus’ blood, would have no talk of Jesus’ innocence or Pilate’s desire to set Him free—at this point, they were like sharks that smelled blood in the water—there was absolutely no reasoning with them on this matter.

So, they pressured Pilate to execute Jesus or else they would turn him in to Caesar as one who was aiding and abetting a Man who claimed to be a King in place of Caesar—which amounted to treason. Pilate was caught between the proverbial ‘*rock and a hard place*’—so he washed his hands in protest (and disgust), and then ordered the execution of Jesus the Christ.

So, by 9 am that morning Jesus was hanging on a cross—where He hung for the next six hours in excruciating pain.

As the shadow on the sundial touched 3pm we read in John’s Gospel (19:30) that Jesus said, “*It is finished*” and then bowing His head He dismissed His spirit.

When Jesus said, “*It is finished*” He was saying that the work of redemption was done—the payment for humanity’s sin was now complete. You see, God had said all the way back in Leviticus 17:11—

**Leviticus 17:11 (NKJV)**

<sup>11</sup> For the life of the flesh *is* in the blood, and I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it *is* the blood *that* makes atonement for the soul.’

The Hebrew word for ‘atonement’ means ‘to cover’—but under the Old Covenant, the blood of animals could only *temporarily* cover sin—it could not pay the price for sin and take it away. That would take the blood of the sinless Lamb of God to finally pay for and remove completely the stain of sin forever from the human race.

Exactly, as John the Baptist said when he first introduced Jesus to the crowd, *“Behold the Lamb of God Who takes away the sin of the world!”* (John 1:29)

In fact, when Jesus said, *“It is finished”* in the Greek He said ‘tetelestai’ which means—*“paid in full”*.

This gets into something Paul the Apostle alluded to in Colossians 2 verse 14 Paul said—

**Colossians 2:14 (NASB)**

<sup>14</sup> having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us, which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, **having nailed it to the cross.**

When Paul says in verse 14 that Jesus took our sins out of the way—*“having nailed it to His cross”* he is referring to a practice by which guilty criminals paid their debt to society.

- Talk about all his crimes being written on a piece of parchment and nailed to his dungeon door. When he finished paying for his crimes, they would take the piece of parchment and write across the bottom “tetelestai” which meant “paid in full” and give it to him as proof he had paid for his crimes)

Paul said that Jesus took all the handwritings of crimes we had committed—everything that would ever be written in our ledger and nailed it to His cross—paying our debt with His own blood.

And then Jesus, before He died, said from the cross, *“It is finished* (tetelestai—“paid in full”).”

Now, if a person refuses to receive what Jesus Christ did on Calvary’s Cross—His death which paid for all of their sins—then they will have to stand before God someday and be sentenced to pay for their own crimes against God (amounting to eternity in hell).

*“That’s OK I know I’m a good person and when I stand before God, I’ll plead my case and show Him all the ‘good things’ I’ve done. I believe He’ll be fair and let me into heaven.”*

J.Vernon McGee—

*“Yes, my friend, you will be able to get a fair trial there. Your life is on tape, and Jesus Christ, the Judge happens to have the tape. I think He will have it on a television screen so that you can watch it, too (“This Was Your Life”). Do you think your life can stand the test?*

*Are you willing to stand before God and have Him play the tape of your life?*

*I do not know about you, but I could not make it. Thank God for His grace—“For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God.” (Ephesians 2:8)”*

But besides that, you need to understand—your ‘case’ has already been decided—the verdict was pronounced in the Garden of Eden—all the children of Adam are guilty.

*“In Adam all die”*—because all bear Adam’s guilt.

And then everyday people add to that guilt by continuing to break the commandments of God. At the Great White Throne Judgment (Revelation 20:11-15) people won’t plead their case—their case has already been decided and the verdict has already been rendered—GUILTY!

Look, Jesus didn't come to give pretty good people a 'little help' getting to heaven—He came to pardon guilty sinners who were already condemned and doomed to spend eternity in hell.

**John 3:17-18 (NKJV)**

<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. <sup>18</sup> He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

**Ephesians 1:7 (NKJV)**

<sup>7</sup> In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace...

The Greek word translated "**forgiveness**" in Ephesians 1:7 means "*to send away*."

No doubt, Paul had in mind the Day of Atonement or Yom Kippur—Leviticus 16:1-10.

But again, the Greek word Paul uses in Ephesians 1:7 means "*to send away*"—but it also speaks of canceling a debt or granting a pardon.

Here's the thing about a pardon—it must be *accepted* if it's going to be a benefit to the one being pardon.

Back in 1830 George Wilson was convicted of robbing the United States Mail and was sentenced to be hanged. President Andrew Jackson issued a pardon for Wilson, but he refused to accept it. The matter went to Chief Justice Marshall, who concluded that Wilson would have to be executed. "*A pardon is a slip of paper,*" wrote Marshall, "*the value of which is determined by the acceptance of the person to be pardoned. If it is refused, it is no pardon. George Wilson must be hanged.*"

Jesus was able to offer us a pardon—because He paid for our sins with His own blood. But again, for a person to benefit from God's pardon thru the death of His Son on their behalf—they have to accept it.

Then and only then will Paul's statement in Colossians 2 become a reality in their life—

**Colossians 2:14 (NLT2)**

<sup>14</sup> He canceled the record of the charges against us and took it away by nailing it to the cross.

In other words, our ledger is now stamped "*paid in full*" by the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on Calvary's Cross—the work is done!

Let me be clear—nothing else needs to be (or can be) offered in the way of *human* works to add to what Jesus did on the cross to pay for our sins! However, there are many churches and groups that teach that what Jesus did on the cross merely *started* the work of salvation for us—but now we have to finish it through our works (being 'good', going to church, working in the local homeless shelter, etc.)

Even though on the cross Jesus said, "*It is finished*" they feel what He really meant to say was, "*It is almost finished...I've done My part now it's up to you to do your part and finish what I have started.*"

You see that's the difference between law and grace, between the religion and Christianity.

No doubt the biggest lie the devil has ever fed the human race  
is the lie that you get to heaven by being *good*,  
that heaven is a reward for deserving people—that is the lie of religion.

There are really only two ‘religions’ in the world—the religion of *human achievement*, and the religion of *divine accomplishment*.

Every religion and religious system in the world apart from Christianity falls under the category of human achievement—what we do for God to earn His favor.

**Only Christianity (which is not a religion but a relationship) falls under the category of divine accomplishment—what God has done for us.**

Someone has said, “Religion is spelled “DO” (as in ‘do’, ‘do’, ‘do’ and maybe someday you’ll earn heaven)—but Christianity is spelled “DONE” (as in “It is finished” —John 19:30).

Religion comes from man and is an expression of his pride (to show he’s good enough to work for and earn a place in heaven)—it is man-centered and works oriented.

Christianity comes from God and is Christ-centered and grace oriented (i.e., salvation isn’t something we earn by works it is free gift we receive by faith—Ephesians 2:8-9).

Trying to add any work or works (no matter how religious and well intentioned they might be) to the completed work of Jesus on Calvary’s Cross as a way of earning salvation—is an abomination in the sight of God Who will not share His glory for the work He has done with anyone!

I grew up in the Roman Catholic Church (RCC) and we were taught that religious practices and observances like—going to mass, the lighting of candles, the keeping of holy days, praying the rosary, the abstaining from food during lent and other acts of ‘piety’ would earn us ‘installments’ of grace that would accrue and eventually earn the faithful Catholic their salvation.

For centuries the RCC taught (and still teaches) that we must punish ourselves as a way of paying for our sins and lessen our time in purgatory. So faithful Roman Catholics in some parts of the world, would (and still do) walk barefoot on roads containing sharp rocks while flagellating themselves with whips until their feet and backs were raw and bloody as a way of earning God’s favor and meriting heaven (like Roman Catholics living in the Philippines).

This is an unmitigated blasphemy against the completed work of Jesus Christ Who said from the cross, “*It is finished*”—also:

**Isaiah 53:5-6 (NKJV)**

<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.

One pastor said, “*If you add one ounce of works to a billion pounds of grace you negate grace.*”

In other words, you forfeit grace (God will not offer you grace anymore) and have divorced yourself from the completed work of Christ on Calvary’s Cross. (Galatians 5:2-4)

Which means, what Jesus did in paying for your sins will not help you at all if you try to add to it, in any way, human works as a way of ‘helping’ to purchase or earn your salvation.

Paul hits this hard in the book of Galatians—*“If human works, rituals, ceremonies, sacrifices etc. could save us then Christ died in vain.”* (Galatians 2:21)

Seeking to add anything in the way of human works to earn salvation is BLASPHEMY!—

**Ephesians 2:8-9 (NKJV)**

<sup>8</sup> For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God, <sup>9</sup> not of works, lest anyone should boast.

Don't ignore or even worse—try to add to what Jesus did on the cross in paying for your sins.

**Jesus is saying to you,  
“I have paid in full your debt,  
now come to Me by faith and be saved!”**

But listen carefully, it isn't enough to believe that Jesus is God Who died on the cross and three days later rose from the dead—the Devil and his demons believe all of that.

You must also *receive* Him as your *personal* Savior if you're going to benefit from His sacrifice on the cross for your sins as the Lamb of God. (John 1:12)

Listen, even though John the Baptist said—*“Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world”*—he wasn't implying that the whole world would automatically be saved when Jesus died on that cross.

Jesus died on Passover (John 19:13-14) as the sacrificial Lamb of God—let's see what God said about the lamb sacrificed on the very first Passover (law of first mention)—

**Exodus 12:1-7, 12-13 (NKJV)**

<sup>1</sup> Now the LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, saying, <sup>2</sup> "This month *shall be* your beginning of months; it *shall be* the first month of the year to you. <sup>3</sup> Speak to all the congregation of Israel, saying: 'On the tenth *day* of this month every man shall take for himself a lamb, according to the house of *his* father, a lamb for a household. <sup>4</sup> And if the household is too small for the lamb, let him and his neighbor next to his house take *it* according to the number of the persons; according to each man's need you shall make your count for the lamb. <sup>5</sup> Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year. You may take *it* from the sheep or from the goats. <sup>6</sup> Now you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of the same month. Then the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it at twilight. <sup>7</sup> And they shall take *some* of the blood and put *it* on the two doorposts and on the lintel of the houses where they eat it....<sup>12</sup> For I will pass through the land of Egypt on that night, and will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I *am* the LORD. <sup>13</sup> Now the blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you *are*. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you; and the plague shall not be on you to destroy *you* when I strike the land of Egypt.

I want you to notice the progression—**“a lamb”, “the lamb”** and then **“your lamb”**.

This happens to be how many in the world think of Jesus, the Lamb of God:

**1. Some believe that Jesus is a Lamb**

They believe that Jesus is one of many roads that lead to God—that He is ‘a way’ even though Jesus Himself said in John 14:6—“I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”

## **2. Others believe that Jesus is the Lamb**

They believe that Jesus really is the Son of God the one and only Savior of the world—the only way to heaven.

Maybe they grew up in church and went to Awana’s when they were young—so they know the gospel—but they stop short of committing their life to Him, often because they are living a life of sin and disobedience toward God and they are not willing to give it up to follow Jesus.

That was my testimony as a Roman Catholic (Explain).

## **3. You must make Jesus your Lamb if His blood is going to protect you from the judgment that’s coming**

Even as Paul called Jesus our “Passover” (1 Corinthians 5:7)—in other words Jesus in His earthly life not only *observed* the feast—He fulfilled the feast in His death.

Jesus was the Lamb of God, without spot (original sin) or blemish (acquired sin) who was killed and whose blood must be applied to the “*house of our heart*” by faith. This will cause the judgment of God to *pass-over* us just as it passed over each house in Egypt where the blood of the lamb was applied.

As I said earlier, the title of tonight’s message is—“*Good Friday, the Day that Changed the World.*”

**But listen, it doesn’t matter that Good Friday changed the world if it hasn’t changed your world.**

### **Matthew 27:15-18, 20-22 (NKJV)**

<sup>15</sup> Now at the feast the governor was accustomed to releasing to the multitude one prisoner whom they wished.\* <sup>16</sup> And at that time they had a notorious prisoner called Barabbas. <sup>17</sup> Therefore, when they had gathered together, Pilate said to them, "Whom do you want me to release to you? Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?" <sup>18</sup> For he knew that they had handed Him over because of envy...<sup>20</sup> But the chief priests and elders persuaded the multitudes that they should ask for Barabbas and destroy Jesus. <sup>21</sup> The governor answered and said to them, "Which of the two do you want me to release to you?" They said, "Barabbas!" <sup>22</sup> Pilate said to them, "What then shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?" They all said to him, "Let Him be crucified!"

Make no mistake about it—Jesus wasn’t on trial that day in Pilate’s court—Pilate was! In that regard Pilate becomes an example of the place every human being finds him or herself in when presented with the gospel—“*What am I going to do with Jesus who is called Christ?*”

Each person has to decide for themselves what they are going to do with Jesus—but the one thing you must never do is let the crowd make that decision for you.

Don’t be like Pilate who said to the crowd, “***What should I do with Jesus Who is called Christ?***”

Don’t ever let the crowd make that decision for you—too much is at stake!

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If you would like to know more about what it means to be a Jesus-follower—please reach out to us. It would be our greatest privilege to lead you into a saving relationship with Jesus Christ.

Reach out to us [here](#).

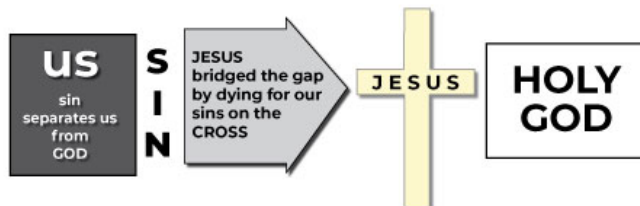
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## THE WRONG WAY TO GOD



**"I AM the Way, and the Truth, and the Life. No one comes to The Father except through Me." *John 14:6***

## THE ONLY WAY TO GOD



**"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." *John 3:16***