

apr 7

good friday

"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."
isa 53:5

what's so good about this friday? our savior died for each of us. i write this with expectant hope the body of Christ will never again be experiencing a good friday. it is my most earnest desire that our Lord retrieves us this year in a pre-tribulation rapture. if not this year, i will be expecting Him again next year, if i'm still here. if, for some reason i should unexpectedly enter the tribulation, i will believe for grace to accept martyrdom over the mark of the beast.

i know there are many speculations about exactly when the crucifixion was and if it really happened at all. there may be disagreements among believers about when but not if. this is the day our Lord Jesus Christ died for the sins of the world. yes, He died for those who don't believe in Him also. their payment is ready to be picked up. they just won't pick it up. there can be no unrighteousness in God if they refuse to receive what was freely given. there need be no effort to earn it.

while most disciples and confessed believers were in hiding, He took the full measure of our guilt and failure upon Him; the One passover lamb worthy enough to cover the sins of all, for all time. if we had

lived then, would we be standing at the foot of the cross as john and a few others were or would we be in hiding along with the others. it begs the question, are we in hiding still today?

my mind can't comprehend all the beating and mocking He endured, to be followed by the cross, the most tortuous means devised by man. this was not just a man dying; this was the One who created it all to begin with. just imagine the legions of angels He could have summoned; all at His beck and call, yet He opened not His mouth.

this one time of the year, i do not think it unseemly we remember how costly His blood was shed; blood that did not soak useless into the ground but was lifted and poured on the mercy seat of God, a sacrificial covering forever to all who would receive remission of their sins. the nails that pierced His hands and feet, the thorns which pierced His brow and the spear His side; - each contributing to His final breath, spent also in asking forgiveness for us. "with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption." heb 9:12

it is recorded Jesus spoke seven messages from the cross:

"My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?" matt 27:46

"I thirst." john 19:28

"Father forgive them. they don't know what they do."
luke 23:34

"behold this woman. woman, behold thy son." john 19:26-27

"truly, I tell you, today you will be with me in

paradise." luke 23:43

"it is finished." john 19:28

"Father, into your hands, I commit my spirit." luke
23:46

that's all the words it took to save a world of sin and sinners. then again, it didn't take many words to create the earth and all in it to begin with. there is coming another time when God will speak those words, "it is finished" - when all sin and suffering shall be no more; when all rebellion and rejection has been quelled; when every knee has bowed and every tongue confessed Him the Lord He is.

there will be a new heaven and earth, and as jerusalem is His joy now, we will be His new jerusalem to inhabit forever. we will be His cherished love and crowning achievement; His chosen jewel to shine above all others. what's more, it shall be in a place where time no longer exists; a new beginning with no end in sight. this is what that day was all about - a rejoining of what had been broken in the fall, fellowship between God and man. the veil between us and Him had been ripped as His flesh had been ripped with stripes. how costly indeed was that blood!

Father God, we thank you for your love and the plan you have for all of mankind. from the beginning, you loved each of us so much that you sent your son to us. we thank you for His ministry. we thank you for the life He led, and we are deeply grateful for His sacrifice on the cross.

as we go into the weekend, help us remember with wonder and awe how He suffered for us; how He paid the price, and it was at such a great cost. through the crowns of thorns and scourging, and through the cross, You carried our sins. we pray to remember to carry our cross and heed Your call to follow You.

may we never forget what Christ did for us. like a lamb to the slaughter, clothed in humility and grace, He willingly offered Himself to death so that we might live forever. we are truly thankful for the extent of His love, stretched out on a cruel wooden cross. we come to You in repentance and reconciliation and forgiveness. through the power of the cross, You have redeemed us. may we not dwell on our sufferings but leave them at your feet, trusting that You know what's best for us.

heavenly Father, how great and how gracious Your great redemption plan for mankind. we thank You greatly as we walk through this day and commemorate the great love and sacrifice of Your beloved Son Jesus. in Christ's name, we pray, amen!