

GOOD FRIDAY

EASTER: MYTH OR REALITY?

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RESPONSE TO GOOD FRIDAY MESSAGE

Why is Good Friday called 'good'? Why was Jesus crucified?

Why did He have to experience such agony? What does Jesus' death have to do with me? These are the most important questions anyone could ask - and the answer to each of them is contained in the Bible.

As we consider these questions, reflect on the events of Good Friday, and what Jesus accomplished by His death on the cross, we invite you to read through the list below. These are from John Piper's book, *Fifty Reason Why Jesus Came to Die*. Each reason builds the case for why God sent Jesus to His death, and why Jesus willingly complied. Each reason provided is validated by a corresponding biblical truth. We invite you to participate in the following Good Friday exercise--either individually, with those you live with or as a family.

- **Read** each of the 'reasons' below (and the corresponding Scripture)
- **Identify** any of the 'reasons' below you don't understand and read the corresponding Scripture for more insight (if you still don't understand, email admin@thecrossing.org or text 925-344-6722 with your question)
- **Highlight** any of the 'reasons' for which you are especially grateful in your life
- **Share with someone else** the reason(s) why you are particularly thankful for what Christ has done for you on the cross
- **Pass out slips of paper** to each person who is participating in this exercise with you. **Write down** a sin (or sins) you are currently struggling with, and then fold the paper in half. Place all the slips of paper in an envelope and seal the envelope. Then find a way to safely burn the envelope (outdoor fire pit, fireplace, etc.) or safely destroy it another way (such as shredding it).
- **Spend time in prayer**, thanking Christ for his sacrifice for you and the power he has given us to experience victory over sin!

Fifty Reasons Why Jesus Came to Die

1. To Absorb the Wrath of God (Romans 3:25; Galatians 3:13; 1 John 4:10)
2. To Please His Heavenly Father (Isaiah 53:10; Ephesians 5:2)
3. To Learn Obedience and Be Perfected (Hebrews 5:8; 2:10)
4. To Achieve His Own Resurrection from the Dead (Hebrews 13:20-21)
5. To Show the Wealth of God's Love and Grace for Sinners (Romans 5:7-8; John 3:16; Ephesians 1:7)
6. To Show His Own Love for Us (Ephesians 5:2; 5:25; Galatians 2:20)
7. To Cancel the Legal Demands of the Law Against Us (Colossians 2:13)
8. To Become a Ransom for Many ((Mark 10:45)
9. For the Forgiveness of Our Sins Ephesians 1:7; Matthew 26:28)
10. To Provide the Basis for Our Justification (Romans 5:9; 3:24; 3:28)
11. To Complete the Obedience That Becomes Our Righteousness (Philippians 2:8; 3:9; Romans 5:19; 2 Corinthians 5:21)
12. To Take Away Our Condemnation (Romans 8:34)
13. To Abolish Circumcision and All Rituals as the Basis of Salvation (Galatians 5:11; 6:12)
14. To Bring Us to Faith and Keep Us Faithful (Mark 14:24; Jeremiah 32:40)
15. To Make Us Holy, Blameless, and Perfect (Hebrews 10:14; Colossians 1:22; 1 Corinthians 5:7)
16. To Give Us a Clear Conscience (Hebrews 9:14)
17. To Obtain for Us All Things That Are Good for Us (Romans 8:32)

18. To Heal Us from Moral and Physical Sickness (Isaiah 53:5; Matthew 8:16-17)
19. To Give Eternal Life to All Who Believe on Him (John 3:16)
20. To Deliver Us from the Present Evil Age (Galatians 1:4)
21. To Reconcile Us to God (Romans 5:10)
22. To Bring Us to God (1 Peter 3:18; Ephesians 2:13)
23. So That We Might Belong to Him (Romans 7:4; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20; Acts 20:28)
24. To Give Us Confident Access to the Holiest Place (Hebrews 10:19)
25. To Become for Us the Place Where We Meet God (John 2:19-21)
26. To Bring the Old Testament Priesthood to an End and Become the Eternal High Priest (Hebrews 7:23-27; 9:24-26; 10:11-12)
27. To Become a Sympathetic and Helpful Priest (Hebrews 4:15-16)
28. To Free Us from the Futility of Our Ancestry (1 Peter 1:18-19)
29. To Free Us from the Slavery of Sin (Revelation 1:5-6; Hebrews 13:12)
30. That We Might Die to Sin and Live to Righteousness (1 Peter 2:24)
31. So That We Would Die to the Law and Bear Fruit for God (Romans 7:4)
32. To Enable Us to Live for Christ and Not Ourselves (2 Corinthians 5:15)
33. To Make His Cross the Ground of All Our Boasting (Galatians 6:14)
34. To Enable Us to Live by Faith in Him (Galatians 2:20)
35. To Give Marriage Its Deepest Meaning (Ephesians 5:25)
36. To Create a People Passionate for Good Works (Titus 2:14)
37. To Call Us to Follow His Example of Lowliness and Costly Love (1 Peter 2:19-21; Hebrews 12:3-4; Philippians 2:5-8)
38. To Create a Band of Crucified Followers (Luke 9:23; Matthew 10:38)
39. To Free Us from Bondage to the Fear of Death (Hebrews 2:14-15)
40. So That We Would Be with Him Immediately After Death (1 Thessalonians 5:10; Philippians 1:21, 23; 2 Corinthians 5:8)
41. To Secure Our Resurrection from the Dead (Romans 6:5; 8:11; 2 Timothy 2:11)
42. To Disarm the Rulers and Authorities (Colossians 2:14-15; 1 John 3:8)
43. To Unleash the Power of God in the Gospel (1 Corinthians 1:18; Romans 1:16)
44. To Destroy the Hostility Between Races (Ephesians 2:14-16)
45. To Ransom People from Every Tribe and Language and People and Nation (Revelations 5:9)
46. To Gather All His Sheep from Around the World (John 11:51-52; 10:16)
47. To Rescue Us from Final Judgment (Hebrews 9:28)
48. To Gain His Joy and Ours (Hebrews 12:2)
49. So That He Would Be Crowned with Glory and Honor (Hebrews 2:9; Philippians 2:7-9; Revelation 5:12)
50. To Show That the Worst Evil Is Meant by God for Good (Acts 4:27-28)

SONGS

"How Deep the Father's Love for Us" - Jason Ingram, Paul Baloche

"Rock of Ages" - Thomas Hastings, Augustus Montague Toplady

"O Come to the Altar" - Christopher Brown, Mack Brock, Steven Furtick,
Wade Joye

"Oh Praise the Name" - Dean Ussher, Marty Sampson, Benjamin Hastings

"The Cross Has the Final Word" - Cody Carnes