

Colossians 1:13-20

“God for You”

Christ the King Sunday

November 20, 2016

Our Redeemer

Rev. Brent Hartwig

Grace, mercy and peace be unto you from God, our Father, and Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen. Dear brothers and sisters in Christ:

[**Introduction**] Christ the King Sunday.

Well, there He is! Jesus! Look at Him! Do you see Him?

You wouldn't know it by just looking at Him.

But St. Paul tells you that this man Jesus ***“is the image of the invisible God.”***

Through this man Jesus ***“all things were created; things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible” including all the angels described as “thrones or powers or rulers or authorities.”***

In this man Jesus, ***“all the fullness of God dwells in bodily form,”*** (Col. 1:15-19).

All of God – is contained in that man Jesus.

Look at that man Jesus and you see God!

He is the ***“radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of His being,”*** (Heb 1:3).

Born of the Virgin Mary, and yet, God of God, very God of very God.

He even preached it Himself: ***“Before Abraham was born, I AM!”*** (John 8:58).

[**God Dies**]

But now take another look.

Is this how image-of-the-invisible-God Jesus should act?

Is this how all-the-fullness-God-dwelling-bodily in Jesus should be treated?

It's shocking. It's really quite scandalous. Look at where He is! He's been romanly escorted to the place called “the Skull.”

When you hear “Skull” what comes to mind?

Yes, that's right: SKULL = DEATH.

You can smell it. The place called “the Skull” reeks of death's strange stench.

Do you hear the hammer blows?

The stakes are pounded through His limbs – pinning and hanging Him to the timber.

It's absolutely, agonizing, excruciating!

But Luke puts it so matter of factly.

Leaves out the gory and brutal details.

“There they crucified him along with the criminals....”

He is a man. That’s absolutely true. However, He’s also God.

The God-man in one person! And the two cannot be separated!

Remember the truth revealed from Paul’s letter to the Colossians?

Jesus is God in the flesh!

So, the one who suffers, bleeds,

and experiences the excruciating pain of the crucifixion and sting of death

is not just a man but God Himself in the body or person of Jesus.

If Jesus suffers, bleeds, and dies only as a man,

then you are still in your sins and you will be damned in them.

After all...

No man can deliver sinners from the hellish paycheck their sins have earned.

No man can answer for sin.

No man can reconcile sinners to God.

No man can put a fork in death.

No man can crush Satan’s head.

However, the God-man can!

And He did!

To all of the above!

In the flesh of the man Jesus in which all the fullness of God dwells!

That man on the cross is God!

His human blood is divine blood.

His human suffering is divine suffering.

In His human body He, the holy and sinless God of all creation bears all your sin

as well as the sin of the world. ***“God made him who knew no sin to be sin,”*** (2 Cor 5:21).

No doubt! There are mysteries here beyond our grasp.

Follow this:

On Jesus is put ***“the iniquity of us all,”***

and He was ***“numbered with the transgressors”*** (Isaiah 53:6, 12).

Bearing the ***“sin of many ... the punishment ... was put upon him,”*** (Isaiah 53:5, 12).

[Punishment]

What punishment? You ask...

The curse and damnation of hell! ***“He was made to a curse,”*** (Galatians 3:13).

So He laments: ***“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”*** (Matthew 27:46).

And when the man Jesus dies on the cross – God dies on the cross.

He lays down His life and He takes it back up again (John 10:18).

Told you it was scandalous –

He does this for you and for your salvation!

Not just as a man – BUT PRECISELY AS GOD!

For... Only God can save sinners: you, me and a whole world full!

Only God can crush Satan’s head.

Only God can give eternal life.

[Satin]

Satan knows this. He doesn’t like it nor does he want a Good Friday to take place.

This is precisely why Satan uses several people as his tools or mouth.

The bystanders, the rulers, the soldiers, and one of the criminals crucified.

They offer the satanic temptation:

TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF! SAVE YOURSELF!

GOD CAN’T SUFFER! GOD CAN’T DIE!

HOP OFF THAT CROSS AND THEN PEOPLE WILL BELIEVE IN YOU!

“He saved others;

let him save himself if he is the Christ of God, the Chosen One,” (23:35).

“If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself,” (23:37).

“Aren’t you the Christ? Save yourself and us!” (23:39).

God-man Jesus stays put. He won’t save Himself.

He will save sinners. Save them even unto His own death!

No wonder then that He prays:

“Father, forgive these sinners. They don’t have a clue. They think they do but really they don’t. So I beg you Father, don’t hold any of their sin against them. Cleanse and wash them from their sin and unbelief because of my divine blood that stains this cross and bloodies the world.”

Jesus prays: *“Father, forgive them.”*

Who prays like this? Not sinners. Do you ever pray for your enemies in this way?

Kids, do you pray for your parents, coaches, sibling and teachers in this way?

Parents, do you pray for your children in this way?

Our Redeemer, do you pray for your fellow members and your pastor in this way?

Of course YOU DON'T! But God-man Jesus does.

And His prayer is for you. "Father forgive them"

His prayer of pardon bears fruit.

His forgiveness changes a man – recreates him.

[**Conclusion**]

Because Jesus says so.

Because Jesus promises.

Because He suffered.

Because He died. As the GOD-man for you.

Colossians 1:19-22 –

“For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, making peace through his blood shed on the cross. Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. But now he has reconciled you by Christ’s physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation,”

That’s how God is for you! Amen!

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, ...

to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus

throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.