



Great Expectations

Peter therefore went out, and the other disciple, and were going to the tomb. So they both ran together. —John 20:3-4

What do you think about on Good Friday? Do you think about a sinless God the Maker of the whole universe, Who came down here to pay the penalty for all your sins and mine? With all that you're facing right now, do you wonder about how all that could possibly have any meaning for you today?

When that gloomy day of the homicide of Jesus drew to a close, it seemed as though the most wonderful of all persons who had ever lived had come to a tragic end. He was murdered. It ended on a bloody cross of all things, how depressing. For a couple brief years, Christ's ministry had dumbfounded the masses and His followers with the divine wisdom of His teaching and the power of His miracles. But now it looked like things only went from bad to worse for Him. And Jesus opted not to save Himself from death—now His life was extinguished. It was like nothing more could be expected of Him. And man, would He be missed. Hope came back strong, however, on that resurrection morning. I'm so grateful for the cross, I'm feel so grateful Jesus came out of that hole in the ground!

Have you ever seen that painting by Eugene Burnand that portrays Peter and John darting towards the tomb in a footrace? Shortly after dawn, Mary Magdalene told these two guys that she and her friends had discovered the tomb empty. It was body-less. In the Burnand painting, you can see how the faces of Peter and John were filled with contending emotions of anguish, bewilderment and relief, of sorrow, suspense and sudden surprise, of despair and wonder as they ran to the tomb. Their gaze is eagerly fixed forward, turning the viewer's attention to the hollow sepulcher. And what did they find? Yup, an empty tomb—the Savior was alive and out of there! Oh the JOY!

*A wonderful joy is now flooding my heart, giving assurance that will not depart.
My Savior is living and reigning above; life has rich meaning because of His love.*
—Bosch

Jesus Christ the Maker of the entire universe—the Maker of you and of me—He lives today! You can be born a new of His Spirit. Good Friday is a good day for us... if we will but receive Him by faith. Billy Graham says, *"We must by faith accept this great fact of*

the death and the resurrection of Jesus Christ. No person will be in heaven who has not by faith received Christ as personal Savior." Jesus Christ was physically resurrected and He will soon return for His own. Do you still feel that you belong to you? You don't. You were bought at a high price. Will you be ready?

This is a day of great celebration and joy! But many of us trudge on from day to day, from week to week, and from month to month lonely as if He never emerged from that cold, dark hole in the ground. How much better to look beyond the empty tomb to the One who can fill our lives today with the power of His resurrection! —Dave Egner

*Christ left the grave one glorious day and vanquished death and sin;
He opened wide the gates of heaven that we might enter in. —Anon*

The Victim of Good Friday has become the Victor of Easter!

Please checkout the Maker of the whole universe today in the Bible!

*The Maker of the universe,
As Man, for man was made a curse.
The claims of Law which He had made,
Unto the uttermost He paid.
His holy fingers made the bough,
Which grew the thorns that crowned His brow;
The nails that pierced His hand were mined,
In secret places He designed.
He made the forest from whence there sprung
The tree on which His body hung;
He died upon a cross of wood,
Yet made the hill on which it stood.
The sky that darkened o'er His head,
By Him above the earth was spread.
The sun that hid from Him its face,
By His decree was poised in space.
The spear which spilled His precious blood
Was tempered in the fires of God.
The grave in which His form was laid
Was hewn in rocks His hands had made.
The throne on which He now appears
Was His from everlasting years;
But a new glory crowns His brow,
And every knee to Him shall bow:
The Maker of the universe.
By: F. W. Pitt*

Abraham told Isaac, **“God will provide Himself a lamb for a burnt offering”** (Gen. 22:8 kjv). It's interesting how the Bible doesn't say that God will provide for Himself a lamb. And Paul agrees with Abe here saying, **“God was in Christ, reconciling the**

world unto Himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the Word of reconciliation” (2 Cor. 5:19).

Now is the time! Do you want to be washed totally clean from all sin and stand pure before your God? Then tell Him so – put your trust in Jesus Christ and ask Him to be your Savior. His ears still work. Pray something like this following prayer and mean it:

"O God, I admit that I am a sinner and I am really sorry for hurting You by breaking your holy laws. I am willing to turn away from my sin and follow You, in fellowship with other believers in Your Church. By faith, I now receive You into my life, Jesus. I repent in the best way that I know how and confess that I need you to be my Savior and Lord. I choose to be permanently done with a life of sin. Fill me with Your Holy Spirit. From now on I want to do things Your way, not my own. Please use me, keep me and guide me for your glory. In Jesus' name. Amen."

Go ahead. Do it today. Happy Good Friday!

In the Fisher's mighty hand,
kurt



When you get the time, you'll love reading the Bible verses above in their own context. It's wise to use the Bible to interpret the Bible.

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