



Truly Free!

Colossians 2:13-15

Sermon given on April 19

Calvary Chapel French Valley

Good Friday Service

@ FRM

Pastor Rick Lancaster

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Colossians 2:13-15

Greeting

- Hello, I am Rick Lancaster - Welcome to Calvary Chapel French Valley
- Recently, an anti-religion activist group tried to have a 93-year-old WWI Memorial on federal land torn down because the Memorial was in the shape of a cross
- The Supreme Court ruled that the memorial did not violate the Constitution and therefore would not be torn down
- This is just the latest in an ongoing effort by anti-Christian groups to remove all religion from the public eye
- There is a steady relentless erosion of our religious freedoms in this country
- And, if we don't stand up for our rights, we will lose them all
- And then, we will not be free to do this or anything like this
- But this is not going to be a political message
- My point is – The cross is a symbol that means different things to different people
- Before I was saved – the cross was a symbol of a religion I didn't believe in and therefore had no meaning to me
- 22 years ago, that changed – the cross is still a symbol, but not of a religion
- Now, to me, the cross is a symbol of freedom
- As we gather here on Good Friday, I thought it good to remind ourselves of the freedom we have through the cross of Jesus Christ
- **Pray!**

Teaching

- **Truly Free!**
- Turn to **Luke 22**
- Every year on the first Sunday after the first full moon following the Vernal Equinox churches around the world celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ

- The secular world has commercialized this as Easter Sunday
- The Friday before Easter, or Resurrection Sunday, is called Good Friday
- It remembers the event that gives Easter Sunday its significance
- We gather on Good Friday to remind ourselves that Jesus died on a cross and what that means for the world
- It is also a time to reflect on what that means to each of us individually
- Because most of the people who come to a Good Friday service are believers, we will spend more time on reflecting on the meaning of the cross
- We will end that time of reflection by partaking of Communion together
- All four gospels describe the crucifixion of Jesus Christ
- Since we have been going through Luke's gospel, I figured we could use his account this evening
- The Sunday prior to Easter is called Palm Sunday – Jesus rode into Jerusalem on the foal of a donkey – predicted in Scripture
- People spread palm branches - rejoiced and praised God
- At some point between Sunday and Thursday Judas agrees to betray Jesus
- **Luke 22:1-6**
- Then on Thursday afternoon Jesus has His last meal with the disciples
- He then leads them out to the Garden of Gethsemane
- **Luke 22:47-48**
- The Savior of the World then endures a mock trial where He is falsely accused and condemned, mocked, and beaten and then turned over to Pilate who eventually gives in to the Jewish religious leaders
- He has Jesus scourged and then hands Him over to the soldiers to be executed
- **Luke 23:33-34**
- There hanging between two criminals was the Creator of Heaven and Earth
- On that cross hung God's perfect expression of His love – rejected and despised by the very ones He was sent for

- And then Jesus died on that cross
 - **Luke 23:44-46**
 - The death of Jesus Christ on the cross was part of God's plan from the very beginning
 - When God the Father and God the Son were in heaven and they looked down upon humanity and established the plan of salvation – they determined that the way salvation would be made possible would be through the atoning sacrifice of the Son
 - Turn to **Colossians 2**
 - Romans 5 tells us that salvation is a free gift given to anyone who will choose to accept it
 - And anyone who accepts that gift has a place reserved for them in heaven
 - But my experience working with Christians for over 20 years is that they often don't take advantage of everything that gift offers
 - The result is hopelessness, loneliness, depression, fear, & others
 - The cross of Jesus Christ frees us from those things **John 8:36**
- Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.**
- There is no way that I can describe all the ways the cross of Christ sets us free in a single message, but I would like to address three ways through this text in Colossians
 - **Colossians 2:13a** - 'And you...'
 - The Apostle Paul, the human author inspired to write this letter is telling his readers, which includes us that this applies to all of us
 - One of the main steps to freedom, and the hope, joy and peace that comes through that freedom is believing those Scriptures which apply to us
 - In these three verses we will look at three of the freedoms we have in the cross of Jesus Christ
 - The first freedom – **Freedom to live with God!**
 - **Colossians 2:13a**
 - All three apply to all of us, but each of us will identify with one over the others
 - For me, this one still stirs my soul to praise God more than the other two

- It says we were dead, but because of the cross of Christ, we have been made alive
- Dead = spiritually incapable of sensing or responding to God
- Just as this podium is incapable of sensing or responding to me
- But God made me and you alive – so that we can live with Him
- God loved me so much that He sent Jesus to die on a cross so that I would never be alone again
- So that my life would have meaning and purpose
- So that He could be my heavenly Father
- So that I would be free to be in an unrestricted, intimate, fellowship communion with Him every single day for the rest of my life and then for the rest of eternity
- I can't think about that without being blown away
- The cross of Jesus makes me and you free to live with God
- The second freedom of the cross of Jesus – **Freedom from Guilt!**
- **Colossians 2:13b-14**
- Guilt can be described two ways – first is judicial – a trial is conducted to determine guilt or innocence in relation to an offence
- The second is emotional – it a feeling of remorse for an offence
- In our verse – trespasses = offences or sins
- At the cross, how many of your sins were forgiven? 'all trespasses' 2 **Corinthians 5:17-19**

Therefore, if anyone *is* in Christ, *he is* a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. Now all things *are* of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation.

- Through the cross of Jesus, we are made new – our guilt was taken away – innocent before God
- And then because we sin as we walk through this world **1 John 1:9**
If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

- All my sins, past, present, and future were nailed to the cross of Christ – wiped out – as if I had never sinned
- What some Christians struggle with is the feelings of guilt

- Listen – you WERE guilty – own that – but because of Jesus – nailed to the cross – wiped out – it is a matter of faith – believe that God forgave you and made you a new creation in Christ
- For me that means my past doesn't have to influence my present or future – I can leave my past in the past and I am free to live with God with a clear conscience
- Freedom to live with God – Freedom from guilt
- Third and final point for tonight – **Freedom from Defeat!**
- **Colossians 2:15**
- Before Christ, we were controlled by our passions, desires, and the temptations of a world controlled by Satan, the enemy of our soul
- We didn't really understand those things
- But once saved, we begin to understand that there is a battle going on to determine who will control our lives
- Because of the cross of Jesus, we never have to be defeated again **1 John 5:4-5**

For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

- This doesn't mean we won't stumble occasionally – it means that when we stumble into sin, we repent, Jesus' blood wipes away our mistake, and we go back to living with God with a clear conscience
- We were created to be the objects of God's love – to be in an unrestricted, intimate, fellowship communion with Almighty God
- Sin came into the world and ruined that for us all
- But through the cross of Jesus, we can experience that relationship with God today and then forever in heaven
- Tonight, as we remember Good Friday, we will partake of Communion - We will remember that Jesus died on the cross for each of us individually
- Remind yourself – through the cross of Christ – you are free
- Free to live with God – Freed from guilt – freed from defeat
- Let's live in the freedom of the cross – truly free!
- **Pray**
- **Communion**