Bartley Good Friday Service Dr. Rick Griffith

9 April 2004 Mt. Carmel 17 April 2003 Single Message

NIV 25 Minutes

**What’s So Good About Good Friday?**

***John 18–20***

**Topic:** Crucifixion

**Subject:** The reason Good Friday is called “Good”

Title

**Black**

**Complement:** is because on this day Jesus Christ paid for your sins.

**Purpose:** The listeners will respond to Christ’s death by trusting Him as Saviour.

# Introduction

### Sometimes the terms we use in English can be very confusing.

Terms

(auto)

#### Americans have a strange habit of giving children names that they never intend to call them. My name is Richard James Griffith but my parents never call me any of these three!

#### One of my sons once asked if “hamburgers” have any ham—and, of course, the answer is “no.” It’s all beef! This too is a confusing word.

#### Speaking of food, another confusing term is “hot dog.” To the unfamiliar this is a repulsive thought—eating a dog—but soon they discover that hot dogs really have nothing to do with our household pets at all.

#### Asians do this too, though. You use chopsticks, which certainly are sticks but are useless for chopping!

### The term for today’s holiday is also a confusing one—Good Friday. Maybe you haven’t thought about it, but this is a strange term to use for the day Jesus Christ died.

Good Friday

### Subject: What is so *good* about “Good Friday”? Why is the unjust death of a good man called “good” by Christians?

Jesus is God

### To get the context of this day we have to start before this Friday. I will do so in the gospel by John, so please turn there in your Bible.

#### John starts his account of Jesus’ life in John 1:1 (recite). This tells us that Christ has always existed as God Himself.

#### But 1:14 says that God became human in the person of Jesus Christ.

God became man

#### The rest of John’s gospel shares how Jesus lived over 30 years and taught about God’s love—and He showed it by performing many “signs”—healing people of diseases, even blindness and deafness, and even bringing some dead people back to life itself. This made Him very popular!

God’s love in signs

#### But there were many Jewish leaders jealous of His popularity.

Black

#### They were so jealous that they were plotting His death, which Jesus knew about right up until that final Friday.

### Which brings us back to our question: What makes that Friday good? Let’s see four reasons Christians call Good Friday “good.” First, it is good in that…

Good Friday

# I. Jesus *controlled* His own arrest (18:1-11).

I. Controlled Arrest

[This wasn’t surprise murder—that’s bad—but He *gave* Himself to accusers.]

## (18:1-3) Jesus put His life in danger by going to His normal meeting place for Judas to easily find Him. Turn to John 18:1 please…

### If people are trying to kill you, would you go to your regular place?

### Gethsemane means “olive press,” so some have observed that this is an appropriate place for Jesus Himself to begin to have His life “pressed” out of Him.

Gethsemane

## (18:4-7) Jesus showed that He knew His arrest began the events that would kill Him by causing the crowd to fall back when He said, “I am He.”

Judas kiss

### Elsewhere in John’s writing this phrase “I am” refers to Christ being God. Here’s the last time in the book it appears and saying it causes people to fall!

### If His *word* could keep them back, He was offering Himself for arrest *willingly*!

## (18:8-9) As doors protect homes, so Jesus protected His disciples from being killed. This shows His single-minded purpose—for Him to die for his followers—not for his followers to die for Him.

Doors of Jerusalem

## (18:10-11) Jesus rebuked Peter and healed Malchus to show His willingness to die according to God’s will.

Peter & Malchus (auto)

### Jesus states very clearly here that His arrest was according to God’s will—not a surprise but something which He controlled.

### Since Jesus was in control there was no need for Peter to defend Him.

Good Friday

(So Good Friday is called “good” because *Christ controlled the arrest* preceding His death on that day—He offered His life rather than being murdered by surprise. A second reason Good Friday is called “good” is because…)

# II. Jesus’ illegal trials proved Him *innocent* (18:12–19:16a).

II. Illegal Trials

[Christ had six unlawful trials, but John recorded only four—and each shows Him not guilty.]

## (18:12-27) Jesus’ first set of trials before **Jewish** leaders falsely accused him of *blasphemy* while Peter denied Him.

### (18:12-23) The former Jewish high priest Annas illegally tried Jesus at night without any witnesses while Peter denied Him once. [Read vv. 12-14, 19-23]

#### Annas hadn’t been high priest for 18 years so had no legal basis to conduct a trial.

Jewish trials (auto)

#### The trial was held at night (about 1 AM).

#### The trial was held in a home.

#### There were no witnesses.

#### There wasn’t even a charge—Jesus was asked to incriminate Himself.

Three Jewish Trials (auto)

Mocking--Illegal

#### Violence was committed against Him when Jesus challenged legal procedure.

### (18:24-27) Caiaphas tried Jesus before the Jewish ruling council [for *blasphemy*] while Peter denied Him two more times.

#### The trial was held at night (about 3:30 AM).

Royal Porch

#### The trial was held in a home—not the Royal Portico.

#### Mark says there were false witnesses whose testimonies didn’t agree (14:55-59).

Interior

#### Jesus was beaten—this may not have occurred in a normal meeting place trial.

### (Synoptics) The Sanhedrin illegally convicted Jesus of blasphemy at the Royal Porch.

#### At the end of this long hallway a third Jewish trial occurred at daytime—but it was illegal in that the sentence had already been determined.

Meeting Place

#### It was also illegal to pay a bribe to arrest someone, which they had done to Judas so that this trial could take place.

Illegal Trial (auto)

#### They also illegally sent Him to Pilate without waiting the required two days that their own law stated.

(The trials to this point had been illegal but also unsuccessful in killing Jesus since the Sanhedrin had no authority for capital punishment. For this it had to send Jesus to the Romans and also to change the charge since Romans would not execute for religious reasons. So…)

Roman Trials

## (18:28–19:16a) Jesus’ second set of trials before **Romans** falsely accused him of *treason.*

### (18:28-38) Pilate illegally questioned Jesus but found him innocent.

#### Jesus was given no required defense attorney.

Three Roman Mockeries

#### Pilate found Him innocent (18:38).

### (Luke 23:6-12 alone) Antipas sought to have Jesus entertain him but made no charge.

### (18:39–19:16a) Pilate unlawfully tortured and killed Jesus even though he deemed Him innocent (19:4, 6b, 12).

#### He flogged and mocked Jesus without trial or evidence of treason (19:1-3).

#### Pilate finally delivered Him to be crucified without any evidence—but only to boost his image with the Jews, who hated him. (Ironically, three years later Pilate was banished to France where he committed suicide.)

Crucifixion Illegal

Good Friday

(So why is Good Friday called “good”? Jesus controlled His own arrest and He was deemed innocent even in illegal trials. Now for the third reason we call this day “good”…)

# III. Jesus’ death *paid* for our sin (19:16b-42).

III. Paid sin

[A good result occurred from His death—it wasn’t in vain, it was for us!]

## (19:16b-37) Christ *paid for others’ sin* since He was not guilty of any sin of His own.

### (19:16b-22) Pilate called Jesus king of the Jews even though he crucified Him.

#### Pilate’s sign read “The King of the Jews” (19:21-22). When asked why he didn’t write, “Jesus *claimed* to be King of the Jews,” he refused to change it.

#### It seems that Pilate was possibly convinced that Jesus was a King. In any case…

### (19:28-30) Jesus claimed that man’s sin had been paid in full.

#### The word “finished” in verse 30 literally means “paid in full.” This accounting term meant that the payment or debt had been fully paid—legally valid!

It is Finished

#### A judge once had a boy come before him for sentencing only to discover that the lad was his own son. To be fair to the law, he set the fine at the right amount, but then did something very unusual. Laying down his legal robes, he came down from the bench and paid the fine himself, thus satisfying the legal requirement while at the same time being gracious to the one he loved.

Black

#### Likewise, Christ saw our sin, except our penalty was much more severe—death itself. So Jesus laid aside his royal robes as God and came and paid that death penalty himself, thus satisfying the penalty while still showing us his grace.

### (19:31-37) Doctors tell us that the blood and water of verse 34 that flowed together from his pieced side show that Jesus died of a broken heart rather than by suffocation.

### Now we know that thousands of men have died by crucifixion. But do you see how Christ’s crucifixion was unique?

How unique?

#### Other men had fair trials before crucifixion—Jesus was killed even though the charge of treason was never proved.

#### Others died from their own sin—but Jesus died for our sin.

#### Others died from suffocation—but Jesus died of a broken heart.

Secure tomb!

## (19:38-42) Christ’s substitutionary death was validated by his *tomb burial* rather than His body being eaten by animals in the Potter’s Field.

(Do you see why this is called “Good Friday”? Jesus controlled His own arrest, illegal trials show His innocence as a good man, and most importantly, He died for all of us. This concludes what happened on Friday. But the events of Sunday validate the events of Friday as good…)

Good Friday

# IV. Jesus’ resurrection proved He is God who can give us *eternal life* (ch. 20).

IV. Resur-rection

[Since He’s alive, He can offer us life forever too if we trust Him to do it.]

## (20:1-10) On Sunday morning many people witnessed His empty tomb.

## There have been many attempts to explain how the tomb became empty:

Empty tomb?

### Some say He never died in the first place, but the Romans were professional killers!

### Others say three days later after having been severely deprived of food, water, and medical care Jesus pushed the stone away and fought past the guards. That would have been almost as miraculous as a resurrection itself!

### Others claim the disciples stole the body—but Peter and the others were too despondent to fake a resurrection, having even denied Christ. No…

Peter (no text)

## (20:11-29) Three appearances of Christ proved His own power as God to conquer death.

Empty tomb (no text)

### (20:11-18) That morning *Mary* saw Jesus alive again.

### (20:19-23) That evening *ten disciples* saw Jesus alive again.

### (20:24-29) The next Sunday *Thomas* saw Jesus alive again.

## (20:30-31) What was John’s conclusion? He wrote about Jesus’ miracles so readers could have eternal life through believing in Him.

Why write miracles?

# Conclusion

### So tonight, we have seen four reasons that Good Friday is in reality good.

Good Friday

### But the main reason is: Good Friday is good because on this day Jesus Christ paid for your sin (M.I.).

Good due to sin paid

#### Who crucified Christ? Was it the Romans or the Jews?

#### Ultimately *each of us* put Jesus on that cross. It’s as if we ourselves hammered those nails into His hands—even though we should have the nails in *our* hands!

Jesus rose (flower)

### But Jesus rose back to life to give you new life.

#### If Jesus is not alive today then it was ridiculous for Him to promise that after we die that we also can be alive with Him.

#### If Jesus was not alive then none of us could have a relationship with Him now (we can’t have a relationship with a dead man like Confucius).

### But how can we have a personal relationship with Christ? Note these simple ABC’s.

How to know Him (auto)

#### **A**dmit God loves you even though you are a sinner.

#### **B**elieve that Jesus died for you.

#### **C**onfess right now in silent prayer that you want to turn from sin.

### Prayer to accept Christ

Black

NUS Evangelistic Meeting with Dr. Brian Hwarng Dr. Rick Griffith

10 April 1998 (Good Friday) Single Message

NIV 60 Minutes (w/ test & res. talk)

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***John 18–20***

**Topic:** Crucifixion

**Subject:** The reason Good Friday is called “Good”

**Complement:** is because on this day Jesus Christ paid for your sins.

**Purpose:** The listeners will respond to Christ’s death by trusting in Him as Saviour.

# Introduction

### Sometimes the terms we use in English can be very confusing.

#### Americans have a strange habit of giving children names that they never intend to call them. My name is Richard James Griffith but my parents never call me any of these three!

#### Another confusing term is “rush hour”—when traffic moves the slowest!

#### Also, we say when a watch is working properly that it is “running.” In reality it isn’t running at all! It’s staying right where it is! Spanish speakers refer to their watch as “walking” which may say something about our different orientations in time. Actually, a watch neither runs nor walks—so both are confusing terms.

#### Last week one of my sons asked if “hamburgers” have any ham—and, of course, the answer is “no.” It’s all beef! This too is a confusing word.

#### Speaking of food, another confusing term is “hot dog.” To the unfamiliar this is a repulsive thought—eating a dog—but soon they discover that hot dogs really have nothing to do with our household pets at all.

### The term for today’s holiday is also a confusing one at first—Good Friday. Maybe you haven’t thought about it, but this is a strange term at first. In Singapore two public holidays are reserved for Christians—Christmas and Good Friday. Christmas commemorates the birth of Jesus Christ and Good Friday recalls His death. That much is understandable but…

### Subject: What is so good about “Good Friday”? Why is the unjust death of a good man called “good” by Christians?

### To get the context of this day we have to start before this Friday.

#### The Bible tells us something about God in the first verse [quote Gen. 1:1]:

##### God exists (What would you say if I told you that this watch made itself? Explain…)

##### God is not like us since God is good—in fact, He’s as good as good can be!

#### The Bible tells us something about us: we are bad.

##### How many of you have to teach your children to do wrong? We don’t have to be taught to do wrong but to do right. Doing wrong is instinctive to us!

##### How bad are we in comparison to God’s standard of perfection? Let’s suppose you were really a good person who sinned only three times a day. This includes every bad thought, word, and action. This would amount to over 1000 sins a year. Multiply this by your age and you’ll see that you have fallen much short of God’s perfect standard!

#### But God made us and God loves us like any loving Father.

##### How many of you have a son or daughter? Do you love him/her? Why? (because your child part of your family, made in your own image) Would you still love that child even if he/she did something wrong against your wishes?

##### We, too, are originally part of God’s creation, made in his image. But even though we’ve turned away from Him, He continues to reach out in love to us.

#### So to show us His love God became human in the person of Jesus Christ.

#### Jesus lived over 30 years and taught about God’s love—and He showed it by healing people of diseases, even blindness and deafness, and even brought some dead people back to life itself. This made Him very popular!

#### But there were many Jewish leaders jealous of His popularity.

#### They were so jealous that they were plotting His death, which Jesus knew about right up until that final Friday.

#### In fact, on Thursday night—the night before he died—Jesus prepared his followers for His death and their ministry afterwards. In John 13-17 He set the example of service for others (13), taught them to depend on the Holy Spirit (14-16), and prayed that they would fulfill God’s purposes for them (17).

### Which brings us back to our question: What makes that Friday good? Let’s see four reasons Christians call Good Friday “good.”

# I. It is good in that Jesus’ arrest was *controlled* by Himself (18:1-11).

[This wasn’t surprise murder—that’s bad—but He gave Himself to accusers.]

We find this truth taught in the book of John in the Bible. Chapter 18.

## (18:1-3) Jesus put His life in danger by going to His normal meeting place for Judas to easily find Him.

### If people are searching for you to kill you, would you go to your normal place?

### Gethsemane was likely a cave inside an olive grove [T: Passion Week].

#### The Bible never refers to the “Garden of Gethsemane” (a 12th century term).

#### Jesus had to “go out” to meet the crowd in verse 4.

#### Fourth century Christians visiting Gethsemane had to “go in” and were given candles “so they all can see.”

#### It makes better sense that this place where Jesus often met with the disciples (v. 2) was not in the open air in the cool spring nights.

#### Gethsemane means “olive press,” and this cave contains the largest olive press on the Mount of Olives as well as two cisterns which could provide water for people staying there.

#### A cave better explains how an approaching mob with torches at night across a ravine could surprise the disciples.

## (18:4-7) Jesus showed that He knew this began the events that would kill Him by causing the crowd to fall back when He said, “I am He.”

### Elsewhere in John’s writing this phrase “I am” refers to Christ being God.

### Here’s the last time in the book when saying it causes people to fall!

### Certainly if His word could keep them back, He was offering Himself for arrest willingly.

## (18:8-9) Jesus protected His disciples so that none of them would be killed.

### This shows His single-minded purpose—for Himself to die and not his followers.

### Typically soldiers of a king jump in front of their master and fight. What King encourages them to leave and put away their swords? Only one who is in control of the situation and knows it will ultimately work for good.

## (18:10-11) Jesus rebuked Peter and healed Malchus to show His willingness to die according to God’s will.

### Jesus states very clearly here that His arrest was according to God’s will—not a surprise but something which He controlled.

### Since Jesus was in control there was no need for Peter to defend Him.

(So Good Friday is called “good” because the arrest preceding Christ’s death on that day was controlled by Christ—He offered His life rather than being murdered by surprise. A second reason Good Friday is called “good” is because…)

# II. It is good in that Jesus’ illegal trials proved Him *innocent* (18:12–19:16a).

[Christ had six unlawful trials, but John recorded only four—and each shows Him not guilty.]

## (18:12-27) Jesus’ first set of trials before **Jewish** leaders falsely accused him of *blasphemy* while Peter denied Him.

### (18:12-23) The former Jewish high priest Annas illegally tried Jesus at night without any witnesses while Peter denied Him once. [Read vv. 12-14, 19-23]

#### He hadn’t been high priest for 18 years so he had no legal basis to conduct a trial.

#### The trial was held at night (about 1 AM).

#### The trial was held in a home.

#### There were no witnesses.

#### There wasn’t even a charge—Jesus was asked to incriminate Himself.

#### Violence was committed against Him when Jesus challenged others to testify against Him according to legal procedure.

### (18:24-27) Caiaphas tried Jesus before the Jewish ruling council [for *blasphemy*] while Peter denied Him two more times.

#### The trial was held at night (about 3:30 AM).

#### The trial was held in a home.

#### Mark says there were false witnesses whose testimonies didn’t agree (14:55-59).

#### Violence was committed against Him.

#### Matthew and Mark’s accounts of Jesus’ trial note that the charge was blasphemy—a man claiming to be God.

### (Synoptics alone) The Sanhedrin illegally convicted Jesus of blasphemy.

#### Here in the second session finally was the first trial at daytime—but it was illegal in that the sentence had already been determined.

#### It was also illegal to pay a bribe to arrest someone, which they had done to Judas so that this trial could take place.

#### They illegally sent Him to Pilate without waiting the required two days which their own law stated.

(The trials to this point had been illegal but also unsuccessful in killing Jesus since the Sanhedrin had no authority for capital punishment. For this it had to send Jesus to the Romans and also to change the charge since Romans would not execute for religious reasons. So…)

## (18:28–19:16a) Jesus’ second set of trials before **Roman** leaders falsely accused him of *treason.*

### (18:28-38) Pilate illegally questioned Jesus but found him innocent.

#### Jesus was given no required defense attorney.

#### Pilate found Him innocent (18:38).

### (Luke 23:6-12 alone) Antipas sought to have Jesus entertain him but made no charge against Him.

### (18:39–19:16a) Pilate unlawfully tortured and killed Jesus even though he felt He was innocent (19:4, 6b, 12).

#### He had Jesus flogged and mocked without a trial or evidence of the charge of treason (19:1-3).

##### What did a flogging entail? [read Stevens study on method and purpose of scourging]

##### Pilate thought that this would satisfy the crowd, but it didn’t, so…

#### Pilate finally delivered Him to be crucified without any evidence—but only to boost his image with the Jews, who hated him. (Ironically, three years later Pilate was banished to France where he committed suicide.)

#### Read vv. 4-16.

(So far we’ve seen two reasons why Good Friday is called “good”—Jesus was in control of His arrest and He was vindicated as innocent even in illegal trials by the Roman governor Pilate. Now for the third reason we call this day “good”…)

# III. It is good in that Jesus’ death was *payment* for our sin (19:16b-42).

[A good result occurred from His death—it wasn’t in vain, it was for us!]

## (19:16b-37) On a cross Christ *paid for others’ sin* rather than showing concern for Himself.

### (19:16b-22) Jesus was acknowledged king of the Jews by Pilate even though He bore His own cross and was crucified.

#### What was crucifixion? There were several types of crosses (explain crosses and show spike).

#### “Cross Medley” sung by Susan

### (19:23-24) Jesus fulfilled Scripture by letting His clothes be divided and bargained for.

### (19:25-27) Jesus delegated care for His mother to His disciple John.

### (19:28-30) Jesus claimed that man’s sin had been paid in full.

#### The word for “finished” in verse 30 literally means “paid in full.” It’s an accounting term, meaning that the payment or debt has been paid.

#### We have had a debt owed to God—our life! But God placed this penalty on One who wasn’t under the same penalty.

#### A judge once had a boy come before him for sentencing only to discover that the lad was his own son. In order to be fair to the law, he set the fine at the appropriate amount, but then did something quite unusual. Laying down his legal robes, he came down from the bench and paid the fine himself to the officer, thus satisfying the legal requirement while at the same time being gracious to the one he loved.

#### In like manner, Christ also saw our awful predicament in our disobedience, except in our case the penalty was much more severe—death itself. But Jesus laid aside his royal robes as God and came and paid that death penalty himself, thus satisfying the penalty and showing us his grace.

### (19:31-37) Jesus died of a broken heart rather than by suffocation.

### Now we know that thousands of men have died by crucifixion. But do you see how Christ’s crucifixion was unique?

#### Other men had fair trials before crucifixion—Jesus was killed even though the charge of treason was never proved.

#### Others died from their own sin—but Jesus died for our sin.

#### Others died from suffocation—but Jesus died of a broken heart.

#### The other gospel writers note other unique events:

##### Jesus asked forgiveness for those who nailed Him.

##### Darkness came upon the land from noon to 3 PM.

##### The temple veil tore in half at His death (18 meters high, thicker than a hand).

##### An earthquake came at His death.

##### The unbelieving centurion testified that Jesus was the Son of God.

##### People were raised to life and entered the city.

##### The tomb burial had a Roman seal on it [explain].

## (19:38-42) Christ’s substitutionary death was validated by his *tomb burial* rather than a field consumption by animals.

(Are you seeing why this is called “Good Friday”? Jesus was in control all along even before His arrest, illegal trials highlight His innocence as a good man, and most importantly, He died for all of us. This concludes the account of what happened on Friday. But what occurred on Sunday validates the events of Friday as good…)

# IV. It is good in that Jesus’ resurrection proved He is God who can give us *eternal life* by faith (ch. 20).

[Since He’s alive, He can offer us life forever too if we trust Him to do it.]

## (20:1-10) On Sunday morning the empty tomb was witnessed by Mary Magdalene, Peter, and John.

## “Who Will Call Him King of Kings?” sung by Susan

## There have been many attempts to explain how the tomb became empty (cf. resurrection talk on next three pages).

## (20:11-29) Three appearances of Christ prove His power as God to conquer death.

### (20:11-18) That morning *Mary* saw Jesus alive again.

### (20:19-23) That evening *ten disciples* saw Jesus alive again.

### (20:24-29) The next Sunday *Thomas* saw Jesus alive again.

## (20:30-31) John concludes that the reason he wrote about Jesus’ miracles was so that readers could have eternal life through believing in Him.

# Conclusion

### The reason Good Friday is called “Good” is because on this day Jesus Christ paid for your sin (M.I.).

#### “Who Crucified the Christ?” tract

#### Ultimately each of us put Jesus on that cross. It’s as if we ourselves hammered those nails into His hands—even though we are the ones that should have the nails in our hands!

### Take another look at John 20:30-31 and you will see that John recorded these things so that you can have eternal life! John says in 19:35 that one reason God had him there witnessing the death of Christ is so we can believe in Christ!

### Let me share how all this has affected me personally.

#### How many here have ever just missed a higher grade in school? [share testimony]

#### If Jesus was not alive then it’s ridiculous for Him to promise that after we die that we also can be alive with Him.

#### If Jesus was not alive then none of us could have a relationship with Him now (we can’t have a relationship with a dead man like Confucius).

### But how can we come into that personal relationship with Christ? Allow me to share some simple ABC’s.

#### **A**dmit God loves you even though you are a sinner.

#### **B**elieve that Jesus died for you.

#### **C**onfess right now in silent prayer that you want to turn from sin.

### Once my wife got very sick and I took her to the hospital.

#### When the doctor gave her some pills to take, she simply took them without asking any questions at all! Can you imagine that? She had never *seen* the man before, we had never *been* to this hospital before, and we didn’t know *who* made the pills or even their *chemical composition!* Why would she do such an outrageous thing as take a pill which, for all she knew, could have been poison? (pause for answer)

#### This was a simple act of faith in the credentials of one whom the hospital had deemed competent. As my wife found the doctor competent to meet her *physical* needs, I have found Jesus Christ competent to meet all of my *spiritual* needs.

### Christ is asking you to place your trust in His competence.

### Prayer to accept Christ

**Preliminary Questions**

**Verses Questions**

Context What did the author record just prior to this passage?

Purpose Why is this passage in the Bible?

Background What historical context helps us understand this passage?

1

**Tentative Subject/Complement Statements**

Text

**Possible Illustrations**

Substitution ILLS (Homiletics notes)

Who Crucified the Christ? tract

Models of different types of crosses

“The Crucifixion of Jesus” article

### “Satan at the Cross” Monologue (time = 4:30)

### Everyone certainly believed that Satan had the upper hand that Friday Jesus Christ was crucified—Satan did, the disciples did, the women who followed Jesus did.

#### I guess I can see why Satan and the Jewish leaders who killed Jesus would call that day “Good Friday,” but why do *Christians* use the term? In other words, what’s so good about Good Friday?

#### No other religion calls the day their leader died “good”! So why do we do it?

### We often use terms that can be very confusing.

**What’s So Good About Good Friday?**

***John 18–20***

**Exegetical Outline**

***Exegetical Idea:* The purpose Jesus was arrested, tried, killed and resurrected was so that all might believe in His sovereign yet innocent payment for man’s sin.**

# I. (18:1-11) The manner in which Jesus was arrested shows His *sovereign* control of this betrayal.

## (18:1-3) Jesus put His life in danger by going to His normal meeting place for Judas to easily find Him.

## (18:4-7) Jesus showed that He knew this began the events that would kill Him by causing the crowd to fall back when He said, “I am He.”

## (18:8-9) Jesus protected His disciples so that none of them would be killed.

## (18:10-11) Jesus rebuked Peter and healed Malchus to show His willingness to die according to God’s will.

# II. (18:12–19:16a) The manner in which Jesus had illegal trials shows His *innocence* of personal sin.

(Note: Jesus had six trials in all, four of which are recorded by John.)

## (18:12-27) Jesus’ first set of trials before **Jewish** leaders falsely accused him of *blasphemy* while Peter denied Him.

### (18:12-23) Annas tried Jesus at night without any witnesses while Peter denied Him once.

### (18:24-27) Caiaphas tried Jesus at night [for *blasphemy* based on conflicting witnesses] while Peter denied Him two more times.

### (Synoptics alone) The Sanhedrin convicted Jesus of blasphemy but illegally sent Him to Pilate without waiting the required two days.

(The trials to this point had been illegal but also unsuccessful in killing Jesus since the Sanhedrin had no authority for capital punishment. For this it had to send Jesus to the Romans and also to change the charge since Romans would not execute for religious reasons.)

## (18:28–19:16a) Jesus’ second set of trials before **Roman** leaders falsely accused him of *treason.*

### (18:28-38) Pilate questioned Jesus but found him innocent.

### (Luke 23:6-12 alone) Antipas sought to have Jesus entertain him but made no charge against Him.

### (18:39–19:16a) Pilate unlawfully had Jesus scourged and finally delivered Him to be crucified though he felt He was innocent (19:12).

# III. (19:16b-42) The manner in which Jesus died by crucifixion shows His death was *payment* for man’s sin.

## (19:16b-37) While on the cross Christ *paid for others’ sin* rather than showing concern for Himself.

### (19:16b-22) Jesus was acknowledged king of the Jews by Pilate even though He bore His own cross and was crucified.

### (19:23-24) Jesus fulfilled Scripture by allowing His clothes to be divided and bargained for.

### (19:25-27) Jesus delegated care for His mother to His disciple John.

### (19:28-30) Jesus claimed that man’s sin had been paid in full.

### (19:31-37) Jesus died of a broken heart rather than by suffocation.

## (19:38-42) Christ’s substitutionary death was validated by his *tomb burial* rather than Potter’s field consumption by animals.

# IV. (Ch. 20) The purpose Jesus proved His *deity* and ability to impart *eternal life* through His resurrection was so that all people may believe in Him for this life.

## (20:1-10) On Sunday morning the empty tomb was witnessed by Mary Magdalene, Peter, and John.

## (20:11-29) Three appearances of Christ prove His power as God to conquer death.

### (20:11-18) That morning *Mary* saw Jesus alive again.

### (20:19-23) That evening *ten disciples* saw Jesus alive again.

### (20:24-29) The next Sunday *Thomas* saw Jesus alive again.

## (20:30-31) John concludes that the reason he wrote about Jesus’ miracles was so that readers could have eternal life through believing in Him.

**Homiletical Outline** (Simple inductive form)

# Introduction

### Sometimes the terms we use in English can be very confusing (name, rush hour, watch running, hamburger, hot dog).

### The term for today’s holiday is also a confusing one at first—Good Friday.

### Subject: What is so good about “Good Friday”? Why is the unjust death of a good man called “good” by Christians?

### Bkrd: To get the context of this day we have to start before this Friday (God exists and good, man bad, Father’s love, Christ sent to do good & popular, Jewish leaders jealous & plotted death).

### Subject repeated: What is so good about “Good Friday”? Why is it “good”?

# I. It is good in that Jesus’ arrest was *controlled* by Himself (18:1-11).

## (18:1-3) Jesus put His life in danger by going to His normal meeting place for Judas to easily find Him.

## (18:4-7) Jesus showed that He knew this began the events that would kill Him by causing the crowd to fall back when He said, “I am He.”

## (18:8-9) Jesus protected His disciples so that none of them would be killed (followers protect kings—not vice versa).

## (18:10-11) Jesus rebuked Peter and healed Malchus to show His willingness to die according to God’s will.

# II. It is good in that Jesus’ illegal trials proved Him *innocent* (18:12–19:16a).

(Note: Jesus had six trials in all, four of which are recorded by John.)

## (18:12-27) Jesus’ first set of trials before **Jewish** leaders falsely accused him of *blasphemy* while Peter denied Him.

### (18:12-23) The former Jewish high priest Annas illegally tried Jesus at night without any witnesses while Peter denied Him once. [Read vv. 12-14, 19-23. Not high priest, night, home, no witnesses, no charge, violence]

### (18:24-27) Caiaphas tried Jesus at night [for *blasphemy* based on conflicting witnesses] while Peter denied Him two more times.

### (Synoptics alone) The Sanhedrin convicted Jesus of blasphemy but illegally sent Him to Pilate without waiting the required two days (also bribe, sentence determined already).

(The trials to this point had been illegal but also unsuccessful in killing Jesus since the Sanhedrin had no authority for capital punishment. For this it had to send Jesus to the Romans and also to change the charge since Romans would not execute for religious reasons.)

## (18:28–19:16a) Jesus’ second set of trials before **Roman** leaders falsely accused him of *treason.*

### (18:28-38) Pilate questioned Jesus but found him innocent (no defense attorney).

### (Luke 23:6-12 alone) Antipas sought to have Jesus entertain him but made no charge against Him.

### (18:39–19:16a) Pilate unlawfully had Jesus flogged and finally delivered Him to be crucified though he felt He was innocent (19:12).

# III. It is good in that Jesus’ death was *payment* for our sin (19:16b-42).

## (19:16b-37) While on the cross Christ *paid for others’ sin* rather than showing concern for Himself.

### (19:16b-22) Jesus was acknowledged king of the Jews by Pilate even though He bore His own cross and was crucified (types of crosses, “Cross Medley”)

### (19:23-24) Jesus fulfilled Scripture by letting His clothes be divided and bargained for.

### (19:25-27) Jesus delegated care for His mother to His disciple John.

### (19:28-30) Jesus claimed that man’s sin had been paid in full (paid in full, judge).

### (19:31-37) Jesus died of a broken heart rather than by suffocation.

### Now we know that thousands of men have died by crucifixion. But do you see how Christ’s crucifixion was unique? (fair trials, own sin, suffocation, forgiveness, Darkness, veil, earthquake, centurion, raised to life, Roman seal)

## (19:38-42) Christ’s substitutionary death was validated by his *tomb burial* rather than Potter’s field consumption by animals.

# IV. It is good in that Jesus’ resurrection proved He is God who can give us *eternal life* by faith (ch. 20).

## (20:1-10) On Sunday the empty tomb was witnessed by Mary Magdalene, Peter, and John.

## “Who Will Call Him King of Kings?” by Susan

## There have been many attempts to explain how the tomb was empty (cf. resurrection talk).

## (20:11-29) Three appearances of Christ prove His power as God to conquer death (Mary, ten disciples, Thomas).

## (20:30-31) John concludes that the reason he wrote about Jesus’ miracles was so that readers could have eternal life through believing in Him.

# Conclusion

### The reason Good Friday is called “Good” is because on this day Jesus Christ paid for your sin (M.I.).

### More than that, take another look at John 20:30-31 and you will see that John recorded these things so that you can have eternal life! John says in 19:35 that one reason God had him there witnessing the death of Christ is so we can believe in Christ!

### Wife at the doctor illustration

### Gospel presentation (ABC’s: **A**cknowledge, **B**elieve, **C**onfess)

### Prayer

CHRIST died for those who reject Him

*Don't Leave It On the Desk....*

There was a certain Professor of Religion named Dr. Christianson, a studious man who taught at a small college in the western United States.

Dr. Christianson taught the required survey course in Christianity at this particular institution.  Every student was required to take this course his or her freshman year, regardless of his or her major.

Although Dr. Christianson tried hard to communicate the essence of the gospel in his class, he found that most of his students looked upon the course as nothing but required drudgery.  Despite his best efforts, most students refused to take Christianity seriously.

This year, Dr. Christianson had a special student named Steve. Steve was only a freshman, but was studying with the intent of going onto seminary for the ministry.  Steve was popular, he was well liked, and he was an imposing physical specimen.  He was now the starting center on the school football team, and was the best student in the professor's class.

One day, Dr. Christianson asked Steve to stay after class so he could talk with him.

"How many push-ups can you do?"

Steve said, "I do about 200 every night."

"200? That's pretty good, Steve," Dr. Christianson said. "Do you think you could do 300?"

Steve replied, "I don't know.... I've never done 300 at a time"

"Do you think you could?" again asked Dr. Christianson.

"Well, I can try," said Steve.

"Can you do 300 in sets of 10? I have a class project in mind and I need you to do about 300 push-ups in sets of ten for this to work. Can you do it? I need you to tell me you can do it," said the professor.

Steve said, "Well... I think I can...yeah, I can do it."

Dr. Christianson said, "Good! I need you to do this on Friday. Let me explain what I have in mind."

Friday came and Steve got to class early and sat in the front of the room.  When class started, the professor pulled out a big box of donuts.  No, these weren't the normal kinds of donuts, they were the extra fancy BIG kind, with cream centers and frosting swirls.  Everyone was pretty excited it was Friday, the last class of the day, and they were going to get an early start on the weekend with a party in Dr. Christianson's class.

Dr. Christianson went to the first girl in the first row and asked, "Cynthia, do you want to have one of these donuts?"

Cynthia said, "Yes."

Dr. Christianson then turned to Steve and asked, "Steve, would you do ten push-ups so that Cynthia can have a donut?"

"Sure!" Steve jumped down from his desk to do a quick ten.  Then Steve again sat in his desk. Dr. Christianson put a donut on Cynthia's desk.

Dr. Christianson then went to Joe, the next person, and asked, "Joe, do you want a donut?"

Joe said, "Yes."  Dr. Christianson asked, "Steve would you do ten push-ups so Joe can have a donut?"

Steve did ten push-ups, and Joe got a donut.  And so it went, down the first aisle, Steve did ten push-ups for every person before they got their donut.

Walking down the second aisle, Dr. Christianson came to Scott.

Scott was on the basketball team, and in as good condition as Steve.  He was very popular and never lacking for female companionship..

When the professor asked, "Scott do you want a donut?"

Scott's reply was, "Well, can I do my own push-ups?"

Dr. Christianson said, "No, Steve has to do them."

Then Scott said, "Well, I don't want one then."

Dr.... Christianson shrugged and then turned to Steve and asked, "Steve, would you do ten push-ups so Scott can have a donut he doesn't want?"

With perfect obedience Steve started to do ten push-ups.

Scott said, "HEY! I said I didn't want one!"

Dr. Christianson said, "Look! This is my classroom, my class, my desks, and these are my donuts.  Just leave it on the desk if you don't want it."  And he put a donut on Scott's desk.

Now by this time, Steve had begun to slow down a little.  He just stayed on the floor between sets because it took too much effort to be getting up and down.  You could start to see a little perspiration coming out around his brow.

Dr. Christianson started down the third row. Now the students were beginning to get a little angry.  Dr. Christianson asked Jenny, "Jenny, do you want a donut?"

Sternly, Jenny said, "No."

Then Dr. Christianson asked Steve, "Steve, would you do ten more push-ups so Jenny can have a donut that she doesn't want?"

Steve did ten... Jenny got a donut. By now, a growing sense of uneasiness filled the room.  The students were beginning to say, "No!" and there were all these uneaten donuts on the desks.

Steve also had to really put forth a lot of extra effort to get these push-ups done for each donut.  There began to be a small pool of sweat on the floor beneath his face, his arms and brow were beginning to get red because of the physical effort involved.

Dr. Christianson asked Robert, who was the most vocal unbeliever in the class, to watch Steve do each push up to make sure he did the full ten push-ups in a set because he couldn't bear to watch all of Steve's work for all of those uneaten donuts.  He sent Robert over to where Steve was so Robert count the set and watch Steve closely.

Dr. Christianson started down the fourth row. During his class, however, some students from other classes had wandered in and sat down on the steps along the radiators that ran down the sides of the room.  When the professor realized this, he did a quick count and saw that now there were 34 students in the room.  He started to worry if Steve would be able to make it.

Dr. Christianson went on to the next person and the next and the next. Near the end of that row, Steve was really having a rough time. He was taking a lot more time to complete each set.

Steve asked Dr. Christianson, "Do I have to make my nose touch on each one?"

Dr. Christianson thought for a moment, "Well, they're your push-ups.  You are in charge now.  You can do them any way that you want."  And Dr. Christianson went on.

A few moments later, Jason, a recent transfer student, came to the room and was about to come in when all the students yelled in one voice, "NO! Don't come in! Stay out!"

Jason didn't know what was going on.  Steve picked up his head and said, "No, let him come."

Professor Christianson said, "You realize that if Jason comes in you will have to do ten push-ups for him?"

Steve said, "Yes, let him come in.  Give him a donut."

Dr. Christianson said, "Okay, Steve, I'll let you get Jason's out of the way right now. Jason, do you want a donut?"

Jason, new to the room, hardly knew what was going on.  "Yes," he said, "give me a donut."

"Steve, will you do ten push-ups so that Jason can have a donut?"

Steve did ten push-ups very slowly and with great effort. Jason, bewildered, was handed a donut and sat down.

Dr Christianson finished the fourth row, and then started on those visitors seated by the heaters.  Steve's arms were now shaking with each push-up in a struggle to lift himself against the force of gravity.  By this time sweat was profusely dropping off of his face, there was no sound except his heavy breathing; there was not a dry eye in the room.

The very last two students in the room were two young women, both cheerleaders, and very popular.  Dr. Christianson went to Linda, the second to last, and asked, "Linda, do you want a doughnut?"

Linda said, very sadly, "No, thank you."

Professor Christianson quietly asked, "Steve, would you do ten push-ups so that Linda can have a donut she doesn't want?"

Grunting from the effort, Steve did ten very slow push-ups for Linda.

Then Dr. Christianson turned to the last girl, Susan.  "Susan, do you want a donut?"

Susan, with tears flowing down her face, began to cry.  "Dr. Christianson, why can't I help him?"

Dr Christianson, with tears of his own, said, "No, Steve has to do it alone; I have given him this task and he is in charge of seeing that everyone has an opportunity for a donut whether they want it or not. When I decided to have a party this last day of class, I looked at my grade book.  Steve here is the only student with a perfect grade. Everyone else has failed a test, skipped class, or offered me inferior work.  Steve told me that in football practice, when a player messes up he must do push-ups. I told Steve that none of you could come to my party unless he paid the price by doing your push-ups.  He and I made a deal for your sakes."

"Steve, would you do ten push-ups so Susan can have a donut?"

As Steve very slowly finished his last push-up, with the understanding that he had accomplished all that was required of him, having done 350 push-ups, his arms buckled beneath him and he fell to the floor.

Dr. Christianson turned to the room and said, "And so it was, that our Savior, Jesus Christ, on the cross, pled to the Father, 'Into thy hands I commend my spirit.' With the understanding that He had done everything that was required of Him, He yielded up His life.  And like some of those in this room, many of us leave the gift on the desk, uneaten. "

Two students helped Steve up off the floor and to a seat, physically exhausted, but wearing a thin smile.

"Well done, good and faithful servant," said the professor, adding, "Not all sermons are preached in words."

Turning to his class, the professor said, "My wish is that you might understand and fully comprehend all the riches of grace and mercy that have been given to you through the sacrifice of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.  He spared not His Only Begotten Son, but gave Him up for us all, for the whole Church, now and forever.  Whether or not we choose to accept His gift to us, the price has been paid."

"Wouldn't you be foolish and ungrateful to leave it lying on the desk?"