

SURELY THE DAY IS COMING!

November 15, 2009

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Epistle Lesson; Hebrews 9:24-28

Gospel Lesson; John 5:19-24

Sermon Text; Malachi 4:1-2

I want you to consider what happened on Good Friday.

**On Good Friday,
sin
was judged.**

On Good Friday, the sin of any teenager talking back to his or her parents was laid on Christ, on the cross. On Good Friday, every disrespectful thought that you have ever had about anybody was laid on Christ, on the cross. On Good Friday, every mass murder that was ever committed was laid on Christ's shoulders on the cross. On Good Friday, every abortion that was ever committed was laid on Christ's shoulders, on the cross. On Good Friday, every hateful thought that anyone has ever had was laid on Christ, on the cross. On Good Friday, every adulterous relationship that someone has had with some else was laid on Christ, on the cross, as if it were His very own. On Good Friday, every time someone has looked at a 'dirty' magazine was laid on Christ on the cross, as His very own. On Good Friday, every robbery that was ever committed was laid on Christ. On Good Friday, the sin of every cheater, who cheated on his or her tax statement, was laid on Christ.

**On Good Friday,
every single sin**

**of the whole world
was laid on Christ.**

There is not one sin that has ever been committed, or ever will be committed, that was not laid on Christ. The Bible says,

**“The Lord has laid on Him
the iniquity of us all.”**

The Bible says,

“Our sins were nailed with Him to the tree.”

And, on Good Friday, sin was judged. On Good Friday, God the Father, judged all of those sins that were laid on His Son. And on Good Friday, God the Father, damned His own Son.

**On Good Friday,
God, the Father,
damned His own Son.**

He poured out His anger against all of the sin of all of the world on His own Son.

Jesus suffered.

He was mocked. He was whipped. He had nails driven through His hands. He was crucified. He was forsaken by His Father and suffered the torments of the damned, on the cross.

And, He died.

And by that, our sins were judged, paid for, and they are forgiven. They are washed away. They are removed.

**“God was reconciling the world to Himself,
not counting men's sins against them.”**

God did that for the sin of the whole world. On Good Friday, sin was judged.

There is another day coming. There is another day coming called “The Day” in scripture. Our scripture verse refers to that day when it says, “Surely the day is coming.” On that day, which we call Judgment Day, you will be judged.

On Good Friday,

your sin was judged.
**On Judgment Day,
you will be judged.**

You know who is going to judge you? It is the One who was hanging on the cross, the One on whom your sins were laid. The One who was damned for you, is going to judge you.

On what basis is He going to judge you? He is going to judge you on the basis of where you stand with regards to what happened on Good Friday. Listen to what our scripture reading says. “Surely the day is coming; it will burn like a furnace. All of the arrogant and every evildoer will be stubble, and that day that is coming will set them on fire.”

Surely the day is coming.

We don't know when, and we don't need to know when. If we needed to know when, God would have revealed that to us. But, we know the day is coming. It is a day that will bring fire and judgment on, what scripture calls, “the arrogant and every evildoer”.

Now, I want to ask you, “What is the greatest height of arrogance in the world?” Do you know what the greatest height of arrogance in the whole world is? It is to look at the One who hung on the cross, who was damned for you and for your sins, and say to Him, “*I don't need you. I don't need you. I can earn my own way to Heaven. I can be good enough to get myself to Heaven. I don't need the forgiveness of sins,*” to look at Him and treat Him as if He is not important in your life, to disregard the Son of God who died to pay for your sins. That is nothing but the absolute height of arrogance to not believe in the forgiveness of sins that was won on the cross. On that day, the Lord will judge all of the arrogant, those who do not believe in Christ, and do not cling to what Christ has done.

And, all of the evildoers, all those who look at the cross and they see the massive, massive price that God was willing to pay for sin, and yet, say in their hearts, “*I don't care. I don't care about sin. I*

treasure sin. I want to live in the very sins that Jesus paid for. I want to throw my arms around those sins. I love those sins.”

“I want to walk in adultery. I want to live in adultery. I want to commit adultery. And, I am not sorry about it.” Evildoers

“I want to commit abortions. I want to make my living committing abortions.” Evildoers.

“I want to be a pornographer. I want to make my living selling pornography.” Evildoers, who live in sin, for which Christ paid the ultimate price.

All evildoers, those who love sin, on the Day of Judgment, will face the One who paid for their sins. Scripture says “All the arrogant and every evildoer will be stubble, and that day that is coming will set them on fire.” Jesus will say to those who did not believe in Him, or chose to live in sin, unrepentant sin, He will say, “Depart from me, you cursed into everlasting fire, everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and all of his angels.”

That is a sobering thing for anyone to think about. But, to those who revere the name of the Lord, the Day of Judgment will be a very different day. This is meant to comfort you. This is meant to comfort all who trust in Christ, all who revere the name of the Lord. There was a famous Lutheran pastor who conveyed that one evening, one night, he had a dream. He dreamed that it was Judgment Day. He was standing before the Throne of God. There beside him stood the devil. The devil had a list of all the sins this pastor had ever committed. He was reading through this list, and there were some sins that just shamed that pastor. The devil read all the way through the list, and accused this pastor, before God, of all of these sins. The pastor, having heard the list completed by Satan, said to the devil, “Wait a second, there is one little thing you forgot. It is this sentence. **“The blood of Jesus Christ, His Son, cleanses us from all sin. The blood of Jesus Christ, His Son, cleanses us from all sin.”**”

-To those who cling to what happened on Good Friday,
-to those who cling to the fact that Jesus was damned for you,
-to those who cling to the fact that the blood of Christ has
cleansed you from all sin, the **Day of Judgment will be a day of
ultimate redemption.** You know, in this life, in this life, we are still
sinners. In this life, we still need desperately what happened on
Good Friday. We need it every day. We daily sin much. Daily we
deserve nothing but punishment. But, God, in His mercy, for
Christ's sake, daily declares to us, through His Word, ***“Your sins are
all forgiven!”***

We come up here, to the Lord's Supper as sinners. Here we receive
the very body and blood that died on the cross, the very body and
blood that was damned for us on the cross, and paid for our sin.
And, we have the forgiveness that was won for us on the cross. In
faith, we cling to that daily. We need it daily. There we find our
strength, our comfort, our joy, our hope, our eternity, and our life,
our eternal life in Christ, and the forgiveness of sins. And finally,
the day is coming when Jesus will come back. The Bible says,

“But for you who revere my name,
the sun of righteousness
will rise with healing in its wings.”

I love that picture! You know, the sun, when it rises on a beautiful,
bright, blue, sunny day, it doesn't keep its rays to itself. It does not
keep its warmth and light to itself, but it shares that warmth and that
light with all who stand in its presence. It is a beautiful, warming
light. Scripture refers to Christ as the sun of righteousness, who here
in this world, already shares with you His righteousness. He has
forgiven you all of your sins. He shares that with you. On the day
of Judgment, He will totally remove all sin from you. All sin will be
removed and you will be made holy and perfect. What an awesome
day of deliverance.

Here in this world, God's people struggle. We struggle with our

sinful nature. We struggle with the sinful world. The world tries to lay traps for us. It causes us to stumble. It causes us to fall. It hurts us in many ways. And, it hurts our families. Sin is a terrible thing, from which we long to be delivered someday. And finally, on the Day of Judgment, on the Day of Judgment, all of those evildoers, all those who have caused us to sin, will be put away for eternity. And we will be made free. Scripture says,

“You will go out
and leap like calves released from the stall.”

Hallelujah!

Amen