**Walk in the Ways of Jesus**

**by Pastor Fee Soliven**

**John 12:20-26**

**Sunday Morning**

**November 14, 2021**

**John 12:20-26**

20 Now there were certain Greeks among those who came up to worship at the feast. 21 Then they came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida of Galilee, and asked him, saying, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." 22 Philip came and told Andrew, and in turn Andrew and Philip told Jesus.

23 But Jesus answered them, saying, "The hour has come that the Son of Man should be glorified. 24 Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain.

25 He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. 26 If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also. If anyone serves Me, him My Father will honor.

**The cross has become a symbol of Christianity, but it’s so much more than a mere piece of jewelry hanging around someone’s neck.**

**1 Corinthians 2:1-5**

1 And I, brethren, when I came to you, did not come with excellence of speech or of wisdom declaring to you the testimony of God. 2 For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified.

3 I was with you in weakness, in fear, and in much trembling. 4 And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, 5 that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.

**Corinth was one of the most corrupt cities of its time, and its belief system was a mixture of various philosophies.**

However, when the apostle Paul arrived, he didn’t come to discuss philosophy but had only one message for the people of Corinth,

**1 Corinthians 2:2**

“For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified”

Saints, although the cross is a stumbling block to the Jews and foolishness to the Gentiles, to those who are called, Christ crucified is the power and wisdom of God

**1 Corinthians 1:23-24**

23 but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness, 24 but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

Saints, Paul had a conviction that the crucifixion was the most vital subject he could address. A conviction is being so thoroughly convinced that something is absolutely true that we’ll take a stand for it regardless of the consequences.

As believers, we must understand what happened as Jesus died on the cross so we too can be thoroughly convinced of its supreme significance.

**The crucifixion was God’s Plan**

Saints, although the Jews and the Romans both played a role in putting Jesus on the cross, God was the one who had already planned the death of His Son as an atonement for mankind’s sin.

**1 Peter 1:19-21**

19 but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot. 20 He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you 21 who through Him believe in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

**Ephesians 1:4-5**

4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, 5 having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will,

Before creation and before sin entered the world, God already had a plan in place for our redemption and knew who would be saved. The cross was His method to fulfill His predestined plan of salvation!

**God’s plan for the crucifixion of His Son was motivated by three things**

**1. The sinfulness of mankind**

**Romans 3:23**

“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God”

**2. God’s Love**

**Romans 5:8**

“While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us”

**3. God’s Justice**

**Ezekiel 18:4**

“The soul who sins will die.”

Saints, Jesus loves us and wants to save us, but He is also just.

**Romans 6:23**

“The wages of sin is death,”

and it must be paid. God could not ignore our sin or simply forgive us because this wouldn’t be just, and He cannot deny Himself or act contrary to His nature.

**The crucifixion was where our sin and God’s love and justice met**

Saints, Jesus died on the cross as an atonement, which means a payment for sin. In the Old Testament, the animal sacrifices were a shadow of the ultimate sacrifice that would one day atone for sins once and for all.

**Hebrews 10:8-10**

8 Previously saying, "Sacrifice and offering, burnt offerings, and offerings for sin You did not desire, nor had pleasure in them" (which are offered according to the law),

9 then He said, "Behold, I have come to do Your will, O God." He takes away the first that He may establish the second. 10 By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Saints, because of His great love for us, God sent His Son to earth to pay the penalty for our sin with His death on the cross. He alone was qualified because as God in human flesh, He was the only one who ever lived a sinless life. Our sin was laid on Him, and He died in our place, thereby satisfying the Lord’s justice.

**The cross is the heart of the Christian Life**

Saints, the crucifixion is the divine transaction that saves us. Only the blood of Christ can cleanse us from sin and reconcile us to the Father.

And although the Jews and the Romans viewed the crucifixion as the execution of a criminal, God saw it as the perfect atoning sacrifice that allowed Him to justify sinful mankind. Christ’s immeasurable sacrifice surpassed all the previous ones.

**Hebrews 9:24-26**

24 For Christ has not entered the holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us; 25 not that He should offer Himself often, as the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood of another—

26 He then would have had to suffer often since the foundation of the world; but now, once at the end of the ages, He has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself.

Saints, the Old Testament priests entered the temple offering the blood of animals year after year. But Jesus entered one time into the holy place in heaven to appear before God and

**“put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself”**

Saints, sin is so evil that we cannot ignore, excuse, or rationalize it. Those who die in their sins without the Savior will pay the penalty of eternal separation from God.

Our sin cost the heavenly Father the death of His beloved Son whom He willingly sent to die for us so we could be justified and not have to pay for our own sin.

**The crucifixion was the only moment in eternity when the Godhead was separated**

As Jesus hung on the cross, He cried out,

**Matthew 27:46**

“My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?”

Saints, in those horrible moments when the sins of the world were laid on Him, He bore the weight of all our guilt, and for the first time since eternity past, He felt the separation from His Father.

**Romans 8:1-5**

1 There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.

2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death. 3 For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh,

4 that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

Saints the crucifixion was an event that can never be duplicated and will never need to be repeated. Christ’s atoning death happened on one day and in one moment in history.

It was sufficient to pay for all the sins of everyone who’s lived or will live from Adam until Jesus returns. Christ never has to suffer and die again. The death of Christ covered everything. Nothing can compare with what Jesus accomplished on the cross, and nothing else is required to pay for our salvation.

Christ’s crucifixion makes forgiveness possible for everyone who believes in Him. And for those who do, their future is secure because their names are written in the Lamb’s Book of Life.

There were three crosses on the hill that day. On one was a blaspheming criminal; in the middle was the Son of God paying the penalty for sin; and on the third cross hung a repentant sinner saying,

**Luke 23:42**

“Jesus, remember me when You come in Your kingdom!”

There was nothing he could do except believe that Jesus was the Messiah, and Christ answered him, “Today you shall be with Me in Paradise” The only way to be saved is through faith in Jesus Christ.

**In Closing:**

**1. How does a deeper understanding of what transpired on the cross affect your appreciation of salvation?**

**2. How could it change your lifestyle and priorities?**

Consider God’s view of sin and the cost that He and Jesus paid for your atonement.

**3. How does this affect your perception and tolerance of sin in your life?**

Saints, Soon and Very soon, Jesus is about to appear, we are almost out of here!

**1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

13 But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.

15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. 16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.

**1 Corinthians 15:50-54**

50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. 51 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed-- 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. 54 So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory."

**Short Movie Slide>**

**Acts 2:38-39**

38 Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."

**Let’s Pray! Benediction**

**"May The LORD bless you and keep you, May The LORD make His face shine upon you, May The LORD be gracious to you, May The LORD lift up His countenance upon you, and give you His (Shalom) peace.” In Jesus Name!**