

## Good Friday Service 2008

**Pastor Bill:** The Bible tells us in Philippians 2, “*Christ was truly God. But He gave up everything and became a slave when He became like one of us. He even died on a cross. Then God gave Him the highest place and honored His name above all others so that at the name of Jesus everyone will bow down – those in heaven, on earth and under the earth.*” What does that mean – in heaven, on the earth, and under the earth? That means everywhere people are eventually going to acknowledge Jesus for who He is. In hell, in heaven and on earth.

The Bible says God gave Him a name above all. Why? Because Jesus thought of you.../ above all else. He put your needs.../ above His own. He put what *you*

*needed* above what He *needed*. And now He wants you to put Him above all in your life.

The trial of Jesus Christ, when you look at it, it shows us God’s purpose. It was Jesus’ purpose to come to earth intentionally to die. I find it interesting that every Easter season we always see and hear the debates and the controversy about who killed Jesus. Did the Roman guards kill Jesus? Did the Jewish leaders kill Jesus? There are those who don’t want to see the truth for what it really is.../ Let me tell you something: *I* killed Jesus because it was my sin that put Him on the cross. It was my sin that HE had to go to the Cross and die.

But Jesus died voluntarily. He died intentionally. He died of His own act of His will. In fact that’s what He

said in John 10:18 *“No one can kill Me without My consent. I lay down My life voluntarily / for I have the right and the power to lay it down / when I want to / and also the right and the power to take it again. / For the Father has given Me this right.”*

**Pastor Bill** Now before Jesus Christ went to the trial and crucifixion and all the suffering He went through. In the Garden of Gethsemane, the night before all these events occurred. He is agonizing emotionally over the struggle, knowing what He’s going to go through.

In the Garden of Gethsemane Jesus is going through emotional and mental agony – the passion – as He’s considering what’s going to happen. And this is what He

says in John 12 *“Now My soul is troubled and distressed. And what shall I say? Father save Me from this hour of trial and agony? But it was for this very purpose that I have come to this hour.”* Jesus says, I know what I’m going to go through. I know all the pain that’s going to happen to Me. What am I going to say? God, get Me out of this? No. No.

Jesus said, this is the very reason I came to earth. It’s the purpose. I came to die.

Jesus is arrested: The soldiers come to the Garden of Gethsemane and arrest Jesus. But Peter says, “We’re not doing this without a fight, Lord!” and he pulls out his sword and he lops off one of the soldier’s ears. Jesus says, *“Hang on Peter! Put your sword away. Those who live by the sword will die by the sword. Don’t you*

*realize, Peter, that I could call tens of thousands of angels instantly come, if I didn't want this to happen?"*

Jesus said "This is all for a purpose – what's about to happen.

So you don't have to defend Me, Peter. I'm going to do this voluntarily, I'm going to do this willingly."

So they arrest Jesus and in a time period of eight hours Jesus goes through six different trials. Probably one of the biggest shames, circus of trials ever known. What did they come up with to accuse Him?

Nothing. Nothing! Zero! Nada Nothing.

He hadn't done anything wrong. He had committed no crimes.

Finally they made one accusation that stuck. Just one.

Because this one was true. This is what they killed Jesus

for – this one accusation. Finally after they couldn't get anybody to witness against Him they finally said, "Tell us this. ((PAUSE)) Do You claim to be the Son of God?" (PAUSE) And Jesus said, "Yes, I am the Son of God!" And they said, That's it. Okay We're killing the guy." So Pilate ordered Jesus to be flogged with a lead tip whip and to be crucified.

Read Matthew 27: 27-37; Luke 23:32- 43

**Pastor Bill** First the Bible says, "none of us are perfect, we all blown it, we all made mistakes, we have all sinned. The Bible says no body is perfect. I don't measure up to my own standards let alone God's perfect standard. Now, sin deserves punishment. If you do the crime you got to do the time. Justice demands punishment and the Bible

says the wages of sin is death. Somebody has to pay for all the things you've ever done wrong. Either you or somebody else. Either you go to Hell or somebody has to pay for the things you've done wrong. That what justice demands. So God steps up to the plate and says, "I'll do it." I know you've blown it, I know you've made mistakes, I know you've missed the mark, I know you all have sinned against me but you now what, I love you so much I will pay for all the things you have ever done wrong so you can get to Heaven on my ticket. Jesus Christ comes to earth lives a perfect life and dies on the cross for my sins and yours and it's all been paid for every sin you will ever commit. You know what even the sins you haven't even done yet. The ones you haven't even thought about, next week , next year, ten years from

now they already been paid for,,/ When Jesus Christ died on the cross he stretched out his hands and one of the last things Jesus said was "It is finished." He did not say, "I am finished" because He wasn't. It wasn't about that. He came to life three days later. He didn't say, "I am finished." It said "It is finished." The payment for all your wrong doings for all your sins, the plan of salvation has been paid for.

When Jesus said, "It is finished," that word in the Bible in the Greek is actually one word *tetelestai*. *Tetelestai* literally meant "paid in full." When a person had paid off a bill they would stamp *tetelestai* on it. That means it's paid in full. When a person would serve their time in prison and their sentence was commuted they'd stamp on

their prison papers *tetelestai* – paid in full. You’re a free man. You can go. You’re not in prison any more.

When Jesus, on the cross said, “It is finished.” He was saying “*Tetelestai!* Paid in full. I have paid for all the things you’ve ever done wrong so you can go to heaven.”

Ephesians 1:7 “*Christ sacrificed His life’s blood to set us free which means that our sins are now forgiven. Christ did this because of God’s amazing grace.*”

**Pastor Bill:** Now I want to close the service like this tonight.../ Just think about this. I want you to think about this. If there had been any other way for your sins to be forgiven. If there had been any other way for you to get to heaven besides Jesus Christ coming to earth and dying on the cross.../ Just think about this... don’t you think that God would have used it?.../

Of course! If there had been any other way for you to be saved from your sin so you could go to a perfect place for the rest of your life, don’t you think God would have chosen the less painful way? If there had been another way to get to Heaven.../ if there were two ways to get to heaven, don’t you think He would have used the other way rather than let His Son go through all that suffering?

The fact is, folks, there is no other way. There is no other way! There is no other way!.../ And if there was any other way, then Jesus Christ's suffering and death is a waste.../ The only way you have any chance of getting to heaven is accepting the free forgiveness of Jesus Christ who paid for it on the cross. That is the only, only, *only* way you'll ever get into heaven.

If you have not accepted that free gift you ought to do it right now. Don't waste another second of your life. In fact, let's bow our heads and pray together. I'm going to pray a simple prayer and you can follow me in it. Just say it in your mind.

- Dear Jesus Christ, thank You for dying for me on the cross. Thank You for paying for my sin. Thank You

for making a way to heaven for me. Thank You for loving me. Thank You for accepting me. Today I accept You and Your free gift of forgiveness. I want to follow You and I want to love You and I want to get to know You. In Your name Jesus, I pray. Amen.