

The Lord Jesus' Jealous Love (April 10, 2020 by Rev. Anthony Menzel)

Blessed Good Friday to All!

While Good Friday is not a happy day, it is a blessed day. In fact, it is one of the most blessed days of the year.

One of the reasons it is so blessed is that on Good Friday, the Holy Trinity showed His love for us...

Through that love, the Holy Trinity wants to give hope to His followers, especially during difficult times like these...

Scripture 1: John 15:13

¹³ Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends.

Scripture 2: John 3:16

¹⁶ For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

Scripture 3: Romans 5:6-8

⁶ For when we were still without strength, ^[d]in due time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷ For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. ⁸ But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Moreover, it was a horrible death...

Scripture 4: Mark 15:25-37

²⁵ Now it was the third hour, and they crucified Him. ²⁶ And the inscription of His ^[d]accusation was written above:

THE KING OF THE JEWS.

²⁷ With Him they also crucified two robbers, one on His right and the other on His left. ²⁸ ^[e]So the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "And He was numbered with the transgressors."

²⁹ And those who passed by blasphemed Him, wagging their heads and saying, "Aha! *You* who destroy the temple and build *it* in three days, ³⁰ save Yourself, and come down from the cross!"

³¹ Likewise the chief priests also, mocking among themselves with the scribes, said, “He saved others; Himself He cannot save. ³² Let the Christ, the King of Israel, descend now from the cross, that we may see and ^[f]believe.”

Even those who were crucified with Him reviled Him.

Jesus Dies on the Cross

³³ Now when the sixth hour had come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour. ³⁴ And at the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, “Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?” which is translated, “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?”

³⁵ Some of those who stood by, when they heard *that*, said, “Look, He is calling for Elijah!” ³⁶ Then someone ran and filled a sponge full of sour wine, put *it* on a reed, and offered *it* to Him to drink, saying, “Let Him alone; let us see if Elijah will come to take Him down.”

³⁷ And Jesus cried out with a loud voice, and breathed His last.

The love of the Lord Jesus is the most wonderful, intense love that we could ever experience...

In terms of human love, one of the strongest types of love is the love between a parent and a child...

What does the Word say?

Scripture 5: Psalm 27:10

When my father and my mother forsake me,
Then the LORD will take care of me.

One of the 10 commandments teaches us how much the Holy Trinity loves us...

Scripture 6: Deuteronomy 5:6-10

⁶ ‘I *am* the LORD your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of ^[a]bondage.

⁷ ‘You shall have no other gods ^[b]before Me.

⁸ ‘You shall not make for yourself a carved image—any likeness of *anything* that *is* in heaven above, or that *is* in the earth beneath, or that *is* in

the water under the earth; ⁹ you shall not bow^[c] down to them nor serve them. For I, the LORD your God, *am* a jealous God, ^[d]visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth *generations* of those who hate Me, ¹⁰ but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and ^[e]keep My commandments.

So what should be our response to Christ's love?

Scripture 7: Philippians 2:5-8

⁵ Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, being in the form of God, did not consider it ^[b]robbery to be equal with God, ⁷ but ^[c]made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, *and* coming in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to *the point of* death, even the death of the cross.

We see that the Passion of Jesus Christ, which is the series of events that include His suffering and death, did not start on Good Friday or the Garden of Gethsemane...

The Passion really started on Christmas...

Imagine being in heaven, in a perfect place, being worshipped continually, and leaving that wonderful place to come to this imperfect world...

Moreover, he came to be born into poverty...His whole life was full of suffering...

Scripture 8: Hebrews 2:14-18

¹⁴ Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, ¹⁵ and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. ¹⁶ For indeed He does not ^[h]give aid to angels, but He does ^[i]give aid to the seed of Abraham. ¹⁷ Therefore, in all things He had to be made like *His* brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things *pertaining* to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. ¹⁸ For in that He Himself has suffered, being ^[j]tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted.

Humility, obedience

It takes humility to repent, to admit that we are wrong...

Scripture 9: 1 John 1:9-10

⁹ If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰ If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.

It takes humility to admit that there are things that are wrong with the society...

Scripture 10: Ezekiel 22:30-31

³⁰ So I sought for a man among them who would make a wall, and stand in the gap before Me on behalf of the land, that I should not destroy it; but I found no one. ³¹ Therefore I have poured out My indignation on them; I have consumed them with the fire of My wrath; and I have recompensed their deeds on their own heads," says the Lord GOD.

It takes humility to put God's Will as more important than what we want...

Scripture 11: Luke 9:23-27

²³ Then He said to *them* all, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross ^[b]daily, and follow Me. ²⁴ For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it. ²⁵ For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and is himself destroyed or lost? ²⁶ For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words, of him the Son of Man will be ashamed when He comes in His *own* glory, and *in His* Father's, and of the holy angels. ²⁷ But I tell you truly, there are some standing here who shall not taste death till they see the kingdom of God."

When we are humble, God will exalt us...

Scripture 12: 1 Peter 5:5-11

⁵ Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to *your* elders. Yes, all of *you* be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for

"God resists the proud,
But gives grace to the humble."

⁶ Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, ⁷ casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you. ⁸ Be ^[c]sober, be ^[d]vigilant; ^[e]because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. ⁹ Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world. ¹⁰ But ^[f]may the God of all grace, who called ^[g]us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, ^[h]perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle *you*. ¹¹ To Him *be* the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

He will bless our lives here on the earth, and He also has a wonderful eternal life planned for us...

Scripture 13: Psalm 27:13-14

*I would have lost heart, unless I had believed
That I would see the goodness of the LORD
In the land of the living.*

¹⁴ Wait^[e] on the LORD;
Be of good courage,
And He shall strengthen your heart;
Wait, I say, on the LORD!

Scripture 14: 3 John 2

² Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers.

Scripture 15: John 14:1-6

“Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. ² In My Father’s house are many ^[a]mansions; if *it were* not so, ^[b]I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, *there* you may be also. ⁴ And where I go you know, and the way you know.”

⁵ Thomas said to Him, “Lord, we do not know where You are going, and how can we know the way?”

⁶ Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

Do your best to obey the Lord Jesus. Then do not worry. Whether it be in this life or the next, if you obey the Lord Jesus, you will be fine forever.

Even in these difficult times, as long as we have the Lord Jesus, we should always remember that we have hope... Sooner or later our best times will be ahead of us, not behind us...

Scripture 16: Romans 5:1-5

Therefore, having been justified by faith, ^[a]we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ² through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. ³ And not only *that*, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces ^[b]perseverance; ⁴ and perseverance, ^[c]character; and character, hope. ⁵ Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.