NEW HEART BEAT DEVOTIONS

"It is not too late for you to make a decision to accept Christ and make this a Good Friday."

Five Died on Good Friday

One of the five who died, I knew personally. His name was Rev. C. Jack Orr, Sr. "For 33 years, he was the Pastor at Harmony Grove Community Church in Dover, PA. The Church grew from a membership of 12 to over 1200 during his ministry. Upon retirement in 1981, Rev. Orr became the first chaplain of Willow Valley Manor in Lancaster, PA. Following his death, the memorial chapel was named in honor of his work following his death."[1] I knew Rev. Orr for several years. My wife also knew him. We joked with him once for not previously introducing her to me. He was the most caring, God loving, soul winner person I ever met. On Good Friday 1993, he was asked to give a short message on one of Christ's phrases while on the cross. As Rev. Orr finished his words that day, he fell over and died from a heart attack.

On Good Friday morning1865, President Abraham Lincoln read his Bible and prayed as he normally did. He believed that God had revealed that he would soon die in a dream just a week before. After four hard years of the Civil War, General Lee had surrendered just a few days before so it was time to relax a little. Mary Lincoln wanted to see "Our American Cousin" at Ford's theater. After getting four tickets, Lincoln asked several to attend with him but many turned him down. During the performance Lincoln's bodyguard had left his post and was in the Traven next door sitting near John Wilkes Booth. At 10:15 PM, Booth easily entered the Presidential Box and fired the fatal shot that killed the President. (An upcoming devotional will reveal unusual details and may leave you to think how was God involved.)

On the first Good Friday, three men were crucified by being nailed to a cross. Two were tried and found guilty. About the other, the authorities said, "I found no fault in him." Looking at His life, He healed the sick and blind. He raised the dead. He fed the five thousand. He called people to repent. He offered eternal life. He preached to love God, others and even enemies. He never harmed anyone nor did He nor break any civil laws. His record was perfectly clean. Then why do we celebrate the death of this innocent man and even call it good?

It is because this man was Jesus, the Son of God. He could have called ten thousand angels but He allowed Himself to be crucified in order to pay the penalty of our sins. "Without shedding of blood there is no remission." Heb 9:22 "He is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world." I John 1:2 "Who His own self bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed." 1 Peter 2:24

Those above who died on Good Friday and trusted Jesus as Lord and Savior are with Him in Heaven. This includes the one who acknowledged Christ while on the cross next to Him. The other thief did not and is in Hell wishing he did.

But death and the grave could not hold Jesus for on the morning of the third day He arose. "For God so loved the world, that He gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16

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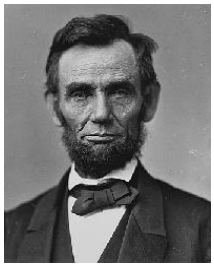

***What** took place on Good Friday was **when** our sins were paid, **where** death was conquered, **why** we were sinners unable to save ourselves, **how** that Christ died for us, with **results** that we are saved through faith alone by God's grace.*

[1] www.legacy.com/obituaries/york/obituary.aspx?n=mildred-e-orr&pid=162241353

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