



BIBLEWAY MINISTRIES

MAKING A DIFFERENCE—THE BIBLE WAY



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Friday!

We live in a time full of despair. For many, it can even seem hopeless. It is much like the cold solemnness that overtook the world on the Friday afternoon when God died! We call it Good Friday; but from the surface, there wasn't anything good to talk about.

Jesus, the Son of God, who was both God and man, was crucified. (Mark 15:15) Jesus, who had taught like no other teacher, was dead! Jesus, who cleared the fog of controversy concerning the question of the ages, "What must I do to inherit eternal life?" (Matthew 19:29) Jesus, who demonstrated what it meant to keep the most important commandments — to love God, then our neighbor — while destroying the facades of the Sanhedrin's fake religion. Jesus, who had healed the sick woman with the issue of blood when she touched the hem of His robe. (Matthew 9:20) Jesus, who gave full vision to Bartimaeus, the man who had been blind his entire life. (Mark 10:46) This Jesus was dead on this awful Friday.

In the Old Testament, a spotless sacrificial lamb had to be offered to cover Israel's sins. (Leviticus 22:21; Hebrews 9:22) Without a sacrifice, sin disrupted their fellowship with God. It does the same to us. Nothing is more important to the human soul than the peace of forgiveness. To make this possible, God demanded a permanent sacrifice whose blood would be for the entire world.

This background places Good Friday in a better light; but we are still left with the fact that Jesus, the Son of God, died on this day.

Thank God the story doesn't end on Friday! A few days later on Sunday — Easter Sunday or Resurrection Sunday — Jesus rose from the dead! When we put our trust in Jesus and His work on the cross, we are justified through faith and can have peace with God.

Rethinking the grim events of Friday in light of Sunday helps us realize the reason it was a good Friday! If you are without hope in the midst of a Friday season in your life, remember what happened when Resurrection Sunday came! ! Today you can have hope in the risen Savior who will lead you safely through it all.

If you are not sure that you know this Savior, please click this [link](#) to learn how.

- Dr. L.W. Edwards

This Changes Everything

And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins. Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished. If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.

1 Corinthians 15:17–19

Our lives have drastically changed over the past few months. No, Godzilla isn't stomping through city streets, breathing fire and causing mayhem. We aren't facing an apocalyptic threat. A tiny, microscopic virus 500 times smaller than the diameter of a human hair has exposed our deepest fear: death. The reality is, most of us aren't nearly as prepared for it as we think.

News of the Coronavirus outbreak in Wuhan, China, quickly spread around the world. Provinces accounting for 69% of China's Gross Domestic Product were forced closed.* Travel bans restricted 48 million people in the country. Outside of China, millions more faced mass quarantines. Stock markets plummeted as factory closures interrupted supply chains. The Dow Jones dropped 2,997 points in a single day, its deepest freefall in US history.** Professional sports leagues suspended their seasons. Major corporate and civic events throughout the world were cancelled. Many schools and churches closed. Large corporations requested their employees to work from home.

We will do almost anything to avoid the threat of death. We'll stockpile toilet paper, face masks, and medical supplies. We'll fight people in grocery stores. We'll even practice social distancing and barricade ourselves in our homes. Death is an enemy which lurks but a step — or a sneeze — away. And our fears are well-grounded. Death brings an irreversible sense of finality to a life, a relationship, a career, a set of plans, time and opportunity, and our future expectations.

When Jesus died, the hope of His followers was sealed up in His tomb. Paul recognized the meaning of His death when he said, "If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable." (1 Corinthians 15:19) He was right. A dead Savior can't save anyone, much less inspire courage for the fearful or strength for the weak. It would be foolish to trust in Him for eternal life.

But everything changed when Jesus rose from the dead. The Resurrection validated His claims to deity and struck a mortal blow to Death. There is no pathogen too small or obstacle too great — He has full control. We can trust Him with our concerns

about the Coronavirus, and a million other things we worry about.

The Resurrection changes everything. But has it changed you? It can, when you place your hope for eternity in Jesus alone. Don't wait until it's too late.

*Dormido, Hannah; Leung, Adrian; <https://www.bloomberg.com/graphics/2020-global-economic-impact-of-wuhan-novel-coronavirus/>, February 5, 2020.

**<https://finance.yahoo.com/news/stock-market-news-live-updates-march-16-2020-220735000.html>, Yahoo! Finance, March 16, 2020.



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