

## Marbleton Community Free Will Baptist Church

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# WELCOME

### Week of March 26, 2023 Schedule of Services:

Sunday School	10:00 A.M.
Sunday Morning Worship Service	10:45 A.M.
Sunday Evening Worship Service	6:00 P.M.
Tuesday, Prayer Meeting	6:00 P.M.
Wednesday, Mid-Week Worship Service	7:00 P.M.
Friday & Saturday - God's Man Conference at Evergreen	

**Saturday (April 1<sup>st</sup>)** we will be having an **Easter Egg Hunt** at the Fellowship Hall beginning at 1:00 P.M. There will be hotdogs served, devotions, and an Easter Egg Hunt for treasure seekers of all ages. We are requesting volunteers to bring a side dish that will go with the menu and a dessert and a drink. There will also be a **cake walk** and we are asking for **donated cakes** for prizes. There is a **sign-up sheet** in the vestibule for your convenience for both food items and the cake walk. Invite your friends, family & neighbors to the event – all visitors are welcome!

Happy Birthday - Lilah & Landry Simmons - March 26<sup>th</sup> (today)

I still believe in Amazing Grace  
That there's Power In The Blood  
That He Walks With Me and He Talks With Me  
Because He Lives, I can face tomorrow  
All because of The Old Rugged Cross.

## WHAT IS SO GOOD ABOUT GOOD FRIDAY?

What is Good Friday and why do we call Good Friday "good," when it is such a dark and bleak event commemorating a day of suffering and death for Jesus?

For Christians, Good Friday is a crucial day of the year because it celebrates what we believe to be the most momentous weekend in the history of the world. Ever since Jesus died and was raised, Christians have proclaimed the cross and resurrection of Jesus to be the decisive turning point for all creation. Paul considered it to be "of first importance" that Jesus died for our sins, was buried, and was raised to life on the third day, all in accordance with what God had promised all along in the Scriptures (1 Corinthians 15:3)

On Good Friday we remember the day Jesus willingly suffered and died by crucifixion as the ultimate sacrifice for our sins (1 John 1:10). It is followed by Easter, the glorious celebration of the day Jesus was raised from the dead, heralding his victory over sin and death and pointing ahead to a future resurrection for all who are united to him by faith (Romans 6:5).

Still, why call the day of Jesus' death "Good Friday" instead of "Bad Friday" or something similar? Some Christian traditions do take this approach: in German, for example, the day is called Karfreitag, or "Sorrowful Friday." In English, in fact, the origin of the term "Good" is debated: some believe it developed from an older name, God's Friday." Regardless of the origin, the name Good Friday is entirely appropriate because the suffering and death of Jesus, as terrible as it was, marked the dramatic culmination of God's plan to save His people from their sins.

In order for the good news of the gospel to have meaning for us, we first have to understand the bad news of our condition as sinful people under condemnation. The good news of deliverance only makes sense once we see how we are enslaved. Another way of saying this is that it is important to understand and distinguish between law and gospel in Scripture. We need the law first to show us how hopeless our condition is; then the gospel of Jesus' grace comes and brings us relief and salvation.

In the same way, Good Friday is "good" because as terrible as that day was, it had to happen for us to receive the joy of Easter. The wrath of God against sin had to be poured out on Jesus, the perfect sacrificial substitute, in order for forgiveness and salvation to be poured out to the nations. Without that awful day of suffering, sorrow, and shed blood at the cross, God could not be both "just and the justifier" of those who trust in Jesus (Romans 3:26). Paradoxically, the day that seemed to be the greatest triumph of evil was actually the deathblow in God's gloriously good plan to redeem the world from bondage.

The cross is where we see the convergence of great suffering and God's forgiveness. Psalms 85:10 sings of a day when "righteousness and peace" will "kiss each other." The cross of Jesus is where that occurred, where God's demands, his righteousness, coincided with his mercy. We receive divine forgiveness, mercy, and peace because Jesus willingly took our divine punishment, the result of God's righteousness against sin. "For the joy set before him" (Hebrews 12:2) Jesus endured the cross on Good Friday, knowing it led to his resurrection, our salvation, and the beginning of God's reign of righteousness and peace.

Good Friday marks the day when wrath and mercy met at the cross. That's why Good Friday is so dark and so Good.

*Justin Holcomb*