

JESUS' BLOOD - HIS HALLMARK

Today we begin to celebrate what has become known as Easter.

It became known by this title after the Council of Nicea, in the year 325 A.D., obeyed a directive from Emperor Constantine that the Resurrection of Jesus was to be celebrated on the Sunday following the Vernal Equinox Spring Festival.

If you study the Jewish calendar, you will see that it was actually the time of the Passover.

MATTHEW 19:14

It was now about noon of the Day of Preparation for the Passover

This is a very important fact to understand as we remember today the actual death of Jesus on the Cross.

There are many things that Jesus did while he lived and walked on Earth; all of them notable and wonderful. But there is one thing that Jesus did that surpasses every other miracle performed, every other blessing pronounced and every bit of teaching delivered ...

JESUS' DEATH ON THE CROSS WAS HIS DEFINING MOMENT. This was His **HALLMARK.**

What is a 'HALLMARK'? The word hallmark means:

- ∞ An official mark indicating standard of purity
- ∞ Mark or sign of genuineness or quality
- ∞ A 'Seal'
- ∞ A trademark
- ∞ A characteristic

Jesus was all of these. His whole life was designed and destined for this point in time.

"I am redeemed by the 'Blood of the Lamb' out of the hand of the enemy!" Derek Prince

Derek Prince once said that this was the most powerful declaration of faith for deliverance a Believer could confess.

Many don't like to hear it – but if Jesus had not died and literally shed His Blood we would not have complete forgiveness of Sin and an unbroken way to God the Father.

John 14:6

“Jesus said, ‘I am the way the truth and the life, no man can come to the Father except through me.’”

In our contemporary, relevant lifestyles we like to think that we have a pretty good understanding of what things cost. We think we have a pretty well defined knowledge of ‘value’. But I wonder when it was that we last stopped and thought about the value and cost of Jesus’ Death and His Shed Blood.

It was by Jesus dying and through His sacrifice that we can have access to, and a relationship with, as the Prayer says – “Our Father in Heaven”, with God.

All who are Christians know this. It is the foundation of our faith and belief. That Jesus died as a final sacrifice for the sins of humanity, for my sins.

ROMANS 6:10

(NKJV) - For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all;

(NCV) - Yes, when Christ died, he died to defeat the power of sin one time—enough for all time.

The significance of Jesus’ death is lost on many because we don’t understand history, or simply ignore it.

The timing of Jesus’ arrest and death was perfect to the Jewish calendar. Throughout Jewish History, every year since the Hebrew people were delivered from Egypt, they were instructed by God to take a ‘PERFECT LAMB’ and sacrifice it for the ‘covering’ of their sins and to remember that it was God who ‘DELIVERED’ them from their bondage and slavery ... BUT Jesus was different ...

JOHN 1:29

The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!”

Up until Jesus' death ... the sacrifices had only ever 'covered' the sin of the people. But now we have a 'Perfect Sacrifice' who was killed at the Passover who didn't just cover sin but 'TOOK AWAY' sin.

God could have arranged for Jesus to die on any day He wanted – but I believe it was God's plan and design that Jesus was betrayed, tried and executed at Passover so the Jewish People and everyone else down through the corridors of time would recognise that Jesus was the Passover Lamb.

You see - Sin has a cost. There is a price to pay –

ROMANS 6:23

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

... and God knew that we could not pay that debt, we could not meet the price of our sin. There needed to be that perfect sacrifice made and Jesus was that Sacrificial Lamb ... The Lamb who takes away the Sin of the World ...

ROMANS 5:19

For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man's obedience many will be made righteous.

Perhaps the second most famous words of Jesus as He hung on the Cross were His last.

The moment Jesus died He cried out one last time and His words were ...

IT IS FINISHED!

If we were to take His statement and look at it in the original Greek the statement is "TETELISTAI" which literally means ... **The debt has been paid in full!!**

We need to know the purpose and the power behind Jesus' actions. Why would anyone want to ask Jesus into their hearts if they had no understanding of his actions and motives?

The relationship between God and Mankind had been severed and if anyone has had a special relationship broken, severed or even damaged then you will know the pain involved, the pain it causes. God had this pain. He wants us to know Him and He wants to know us.

God wanted to restore that relationship, that intimacy, that friendship, the relationship whereby He could guide and build and inspire our lives to be all He originally intended them to be. Only,

this was not going to happen unless a perfect sacrifice to pay the debt of sin was made ... and His Son Jesus did that when He died on the Cross.

I want to encourage you all today to take some time to think not about the fact that Jesus died an incredibly horrible death but what His sacrifice actually means for us as individuals, families and for the whole of humanity.
