

Good Friday is a special remembrance of the death of Jesus Christ. Though sin separates man from God, Jesus is the satisfactory sacrifice for our sin. His death makes forgiveness and reconciliation to God possible. But His death is a guarantee for so much more.

I. *God promises to graciously give His children “all things” along with Christ.*

1. The immediate context hints at the scope of this promise.
 - a. God is working in all things for the good of those who love him (v 28).
 - b. God is conforming us even now to the likeness of His Son (v 29) and will complete that one day in what is called glorification (v 30).
 - c. God has given us His righteousness in Christ so that there is now no condemnation nor can any charge be brought against us (v 30, 33-34).
 - d. God will allow nothing to separate us from His love which is in Christ Jesus our Lord (vv 35-39).
2. The greater context of Scripture (e.g., Matthew 7:7-11) expands our understanding of this promise.
 - a. God is a gracious heavenly Father who gives good gifts. He is better and more capable than earthly fathers who still know how to give gifts.
 - b. God does have restrictions on His giving: This is a promise to His children. He wants us to ask. He does not give harmful things.

II. *God guarantees the promise of that gracious giving by the magnitude of the gift already given.*

1. The magnitude of the gift is seen in the Person of Christ.
 - a. Jesus is the second person of the triune God. A proper understanding of God as three persons in one God helps us see the strength of the guarantee which God makes.
 - b. Jesus is God who became flesh. A proper understanding of the incarnation also helps us see the strength of the guarantee which God makes.
2. The magnitude of the gift is seen in the nature of what was done.
 - a. The perfect sinlessness of Jesus made it that much more painful to take our sin upon Himself. Cf. 2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 Peter 2:24.
 - b. The perfect fellowship within the Godhead made the separation that occurred on the cross that much more painful. We cannot understand how God could forsake God (Mark 15:34), but it is only possible because we worship a triune God.

Some may need to change their thinking about God’s generosity. He is neither a mindless automat that dispenses whatever gifts we want nor a miserly old man who only doles out the bare minimum to live on.

If we “insert” a prayer and wonder why we don’t get our “product” right away, we are tending toward the automat view. This will lead us to doubt our prayer or to doubt our God.

If we have stopped asking God, we may have forgotten that He is a generous Father – or stopped believing it. Don’t forget His ultimate guarantee: He gave His Son.

We need to spend time getting to know God and enjoying Him so that we will desire (and ask for) those things which He desires (see Psalm 37:4). As we remember the death of our Lord Jesus, let’s remember both the forgiveness of sin which it brings but also that it is an ultimate guarantee. “He who did not spare His own Son, but gave him up for us all – how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?”

Thoughts for prayer:

- Thank Him for His gracious gift of eternal life in Jesus Christ.
- Confess any failure to see the magnitude of that Gift.
- Thank Him that nothing can separate us from His love.
- Confess any failure to believe that.
- Ask God to strengthen our faith.
- Perhaps we have failed to perceive God correctly. Ask for a fresh desire to know Him and perseverance in doing so.