

Wounded for our transgressions

Introduction

- We sang the song *God really loves us*
- How do we know God loves us
- **Rom 5:8 (ESV)** *(8) but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*
- Today I want to talk about the love of God as manifest in the sending of Jesus before we come to the Lord's table to celebrate communion!

God's intervention

- We rebelled against God in the garden (and have continued in a state of rebellion to this day)
- We are unable to overcome God, and are under His Wrath
- But God chose to intervene on our behalf

Motive to act

- Consider **Isa 63:5 (ESV)** *(5) I looked, but there was no one to help; I was appalled, but there was no one to uphold; so my own arm brought me salvation, and my wrath upheld me.*
- The Lord sees the wickedness of the people and pronounces judgment on their sins (see the first four verses of Isaiah 63). Yet in v5, he sees there is no one to save, rescue or deliver - so he himself worked out salvation for us! His love for them caused him to intervene!
- We are liable for God's righteous judgment - but he loves us enough to intervene!

Plan of action

- God decided to work out salvation for us. His plan was to send His Son, Jesus to take the punishment we deserve
- See the depiction in Isaiah 53 (the suffering servant)
- **Isa 53:2-3 (ESV)** *(2) For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root*

out of dry ground; he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, and no beauty that we should desire him. (3) He was despised and rejected by men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

- Jesus was ignored by men. He was born in a lowly manger, and men rejected him. He felt rejected, sorrow and grief. We didn't esteem or value him.
- **Isa 53:4 (ESV)** *(4) Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted.*
- As God put our griefs and sorrows upon His Son (his own arm working out salvation for us - because He loves us), we didn't acknowledge him. We assumed he was rejected and smitten by God!
- But Isaiah 53:5-6 explains what was really going on *(5) But he was wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his stripes we are healed. (6) All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned--every one--to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.*
- God placed the punishment and wrath that we deserved (see again Isaiah 63:1-4) on Jesus His Son. We ran away from our shepherd and the Lord punished Jesus instead of us.
- One more verse from Isaiah 53:10 summarizes what happened to Jesus *(10a) Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him;...*
- God crushed Jesus to make us whole!

It's completion

- It is finished (John 19:30)
- **John 19:30 (ESV)** *(30) When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, "It is finished," and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.*
- He created the Law, we broke it
- He himself fulfilled the law on our behalf that we might be saved

Our response

- God himself worked out salvation for us!
- What do we do with it?

Receive

- God has provided it - we must receive it
- He saw it was impossible - so he intervened on our behalf, yet he will not force us to choose him!
- We must realize the impossibility of our circumstance, and turn to Jesus - the only one who can provide this salvation.
- **John 14:6 (ESV)** (6) *Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.*
- We cannot come to him on our own - we must come through the blood of Jesus
- We must put our faith in His blood and his provision
- See **1 John 1:9 (ESV)** (9) *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*
 - God is faithful - he keeps his promises - his promise to forgive and cleans
 - God is just - he can forgive because of Jesus!
 - We must confess and receive!
- See this passage: **Matt 11:28-30 (ESV)** (28) *Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. (29) Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. (30) For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."*

Worship

- We were created to worship him
- We have every reason to worship him
- We are privileged to worship
- See the opening of the prison cellsi
- We are here to worship! Together! Because of Christ
- **1 Peter 1:3-5 (ESV)** (3) *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, (4) to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, (5) who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.*
- He saved us, we now have the hope of resurrection and a future inheritance
- We are guarded even now for that salvation!

Proclaim

- We are called to declare this
- Jesus Christ and him crucified
- **Mark 16:15 (ESV)** (15) *And he said to them, "Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation.*
- Four lepers finding food **2 Kings 7:9 (ESV)** (9) *Then they said to one another, "We are not doing right. This day is a day of good news. If we are silent and wait until the morning light, punishment will overtake us. Now therefore come; let us go and tell the king's household."*

Cling

- **Col 1:21-23a (ESV)** (21) *And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, (22) he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him, (23) if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard,...*
- This is what's under attack
- Enemy is trying to steal our faith: and the hope and joy that flow from it!
- This is what we must cling to - and continue it

Hope in it's future

- One final verse today
- Jesus did suffer, and die - but he rose from the dead. Sin and death were defeated!
- We are waiting the day when our faith shall be sight
- There is still sin and death - but when
- He will return to bring judgment on all those who rejected God's salvation.
- He will gather us his saints to be with him forever.
- Then we will know the full realization of that promise
- See **Revelation 21:4 (ESV)** (4) *He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."*

Communion

- Thank him for salvation

- Encourage the struggling
- Pray
- **1 Cor 11:23-26 (NIV)** (23) *For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, (24) and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me." (25) In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." (26) For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.*

Announce

- It has been a privilege and an honor to be your pastor for the last 15 years
- I came as an interim pastor in April 2006, and accepted the pastorate in October of that year
- Next week will be my final service
- Starting in October the district will fill the pulpit
- The decision to leave is a difficult one, but I feel it is the right one
- I have to step back and allow the Lord to refill me.