

# Good Friday 2018

Reflection # 1

**Bible reading: Romans 5:1-8**

**“While we were still sinners!”**

While we were still sinners...

**That’s** when it happened.

While we were still in **rebellion** against God

While we still had our **backs turned**

When we were still **shutting him out**

When we were still doing our **own thing**

When we were still **playing God...**

...**fooling** ourselves we were in **charge...** //

**That’s** when Christ **died**.

What’s when God loved us **so** much that he sent his only **Son**

While we were still **sinners**, did he plan to meet us out our **deepest** point of **need**

**That’s** when Jesus left the **safety** of heaven – to step into the **muck** of our **world**

While we were **still sinners**, he came into this world to be born in a **manger** and worshipped by **shepherds**

While we were **still sinners**, he came into this world and was rejected by his own people... subjected from the beginning to harsh criticism - **questions** designed to **trap** and **plots** to do **away** with him.

While we were **still sinners**, did he plan a Passover and explain in the last supper that he would pour out his blood for the forgiveness of sins...

While we were still **sinner**s, did he wrestle with and petition his Father that if there be any other way to provide for our forgiveness other than die on the cross, could he please do **that** way.

While we were **still sinners** did he surrender to his Father’s will – *not **my will**, but **yours be done***. /

While we were **still sinners** did he give himself up to the **religious leaders** and the **Roman guards**

...and undergo the **ridicule** and **torture**...

...and the **humiliation** and **degradation** of the **cross**...

While we were **still sinners**, **Christ died for us...** ///

You might say ‘people give their lives for others all the time’ – in war, or perhaps in a **rescue** or **police** work...

That’s **true**...

But it is **rare** – and usually only for someone who is **loved** or revered... or a **benefactor**...

But for **sinner**s? For **enemies**? For those who have **rejected** you?

No – that's **love... deep** love; **costly** love; **generous** love...

That's the **definition** of love... that Jesus gave his life for us before there was any hint of us turning **back** to him – before we had any **awareness** of the **seriousness** of our **rebellion** or showed any **sign** of **sorrow** or **repentance**!

And **because** Jesus died for us, Romans 5 says we have been declared **right** with God (justified) and we are at **peace** with God, through our Lord Jesus Christ...

“peace” there = ‘**shalom**’ - not just the **absence** of conflict, it is the **opposite** of conflict.

So when Paul says “we have peace with God” he's not just referring to the **absence** of judgement; he's referring to the **opposite** of judgment—**full and complete blessing from our God...**

Our relationship with God is not one where he merely **tolerates** us....it is **deep and rich**. It is one of **shalom**.

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Why on earth is today called “**GOOD Friday**”? // – how can the day mankind did away with their creator, be **good**?

How is it a **good** day when an **innocent** person died the way he **did**... ? //

Because **while we were still sinners, Christ died for us** – died so that **sinners** could be declared **righteous**; so that **enemies** could become **friends**; so that **rebels** could stop being **rebels**... **died** so that we gain **access** to the **Father** through the **grace** of the **Son**

Yes, // ...while we were still **sinners, Christ died for us**.