

Good Friday 2018

Reflection # 3

Bible reading: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

“God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ”

God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ,

...**not** counting people’s sins against **them**. ///

...not counting people’s sins **against** them? /// How could he do that?

Because he **ignored** them?

Because he swept them under the **carpet**?

Because our sin is not all that **serious** after all?

No. //

The only way he could not count our sins against us is because of **Jesus**.

Did you take note of that last verse in that passage? *God made him who had no sins, to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.* //

Last week that was a terrorist siege in France.

A policeman by the name of Lt-Col Arnaud Beltrame had offered to take the place of one of the hostages.

So an exchange took place

A hostage was **released** and then the **policeman** took their **place**.

The policeman was **shot** and **stabbed** after he traded places with one of the captives and subsequently lost his life. //

The hostage went **free** and **lived** //

The policemen took on the **mantle** of the **hostage** and **died**.

An **amazing** and **humbling** exchange

How would you feel if that had been **you** set free by such a generous and sacrificial action? //

Well, I’m sure you can see where I’m going with this. //

That **hostage’s** story is **your** story. //

And it’s true – no human story can ever quite do justice to what we commemorate today...

...but **you** have been set free, because Jesus **went in for you**. //

Jesus **had** no **sin**. / He was the only man who has lived who has been **sinless**!

He lived the **perfect life**. **Sin** free. **Guilt** free. Never crossed the lines we cross nearly every day. Never pushed his Father’s will **aside** to do his **own thing** and go his **own way**.

Yet God made him who had **no** sin to **be** sin for us.

Our sin, put on him.

He who was **sinless**, became **sin**.

Only it wasn't just that we might go free.

...but **SO THAT** – in **him** (through Jesus' action) we might become the **righteousness** of **God**... that is – so that we might be put **right** with God and live in **right-relationship** with him!

Why is today '**Good**'?

Because God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ!

...not counting our sins against us

...because Jesus **became sin** for us!! //

But I have a **question** for you this morning.

The passage goes on to explain, that the state of being reconciled is now **possible** for all, but not **automatic**...

Because we see clearly that the first disciples were given a **task** – their task was to be **ambassadors** for Jesus... to be his **representatives**... and in that role, they were to implore people, on behalf of Jesus, to be **reconciled to God**. //

Obviously that would not be necessary if everyone was reconciled **automatically**...

So here's my question: are **you** reconciled to **God**? //

Because while it's probable that most here **are**, it's **also** possible, some **aren't**!!

...aren't reconciled because you're still holding **out** on God...

Aren't reconciled because you've never actually said "**sorry**" to God for doing you own thing and you have never decisively turned **back** to him.

So I want to urge you this **Good Friday 2018** to make the **best** Friday 2018 - the best **Friday ever**... I want to urge **you**, to **be reconciled to God**... //

Revel in this brilliant opportunity and wonderful invitation to be reconciled – to have your sin **dealt with**...

To have Jesus go **hostage** in your **place** so **you** can go **free**.

How? **Two** words.... "**I'm sorry**".

... sorry for cutting you **out**... for living as if you don't **exist** or don't **matter**.... For doing my **own thing**... for keeping you on the **sidelines**...

And **then**..? and then you'll have a **fresh start** and a **new beginning**... reconciled to and in **brilliant relationship** with the God who loves you **so so much** that he sent **Jesus** to **become sin** for you!! //

Today's the day... I implore you on Christ's behalf, to be **reconciled** to God!!

For: **God was reconciling the world to himself...not counting people's sins against them.**