

Easter 2011

Chorus:

Living He loved me, Dying he saved me
Buried He carried my sins far away
Rising He justified freely forever
One day He's coming, oh glorious day, oh glorious day

1. Living He loved me

- Jesus could have showed up – in his glory – but he chose to take a path of being born in a manger. He didn't have too but he chose to come as the 'son of man' and the 'Son of God proving his love that he would go through all that to show me how to live and to love.

John 1:14 (NIV)

⁽¹⁴⁾ The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

John 3:16 (NIV)

⁽¹⁶⁾ "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

2. Dying he saved me

- Here is the truth. You and I have a sin problem. So of you are better at sinning than others, no finger or elbows please, but it doesn't matter whether your good at it or not we all do it. And the other truth is that we can't do anything about it. We can't fix it and we can't stop it. We were all born to do it.
- The other sad truth is that we will have to give account for it. Every one of us will stand before God and be judged for the things we have done. And we are guilty and God has kept track so no excuses are going to work.
- So since we can't do anything about it God said I can. And that is where Jesus comes into it. Jesus came for the purpose of paying the price, taking the judgment for our sins. Look at what the bible says,

1 Peter 2:24 (NIV)

⁽²⁴⁾ He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed.

1 Peter 3:18 (NIV)

⁽¹⁸⁾ For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit,

Hebrews 9:15 (NIV)

⁽¹⁵⁾ For this reason Christ is the mediator of a new covenant, that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance--now that he has died as a ransom to set them free from the sins committed . . .

3. Buried He carried my sins far away

- Not only did Jesus die for our sins – he took those sins with him to a place never to be remembered again. We remember our sins, and people and the devil love to remind us of that fact. But God, once forgiven – they are erased from the book. The account has been paid.
- Story of the Rolls Royce
A man who lived in England came over to the United States to go to a resort for several months. He wanted to bring along his Rolls-Royce for the trip, so he had it carefully packaged and shipped overseas. While visiting the U.S., something happened to the car—a mechanical failure of some sort—so he called over to England and explained his problem to the company. Rolls-Royce told him, "That's fine. Within 48 hours, we'll have a mechanic with the auto parts there to fix it for you."

They put a mechanic on a plane with the necessary car parts and flew him to the United States. He worked on the car in the parking lot of the resort, fixed it in good time, got on a plane, and flew back to England. The man happily drove his Rolls for the rest of his time in the U.S. Then he packaged it back up, put it on a ship, and sent it to his home in England.

Nearly a year after the man returned to England, he discovered he had never received a bill from Rolls-Royce. So he wrote the company a letter, saying,

"This date last year there was something wrong with my Rolls-Royce and you flew a mechanic over to help me. You fixed it, but I've never received a bill. If you should find that bill in your office, I'll be happy to pay for your efforts at fixing my car."

He received a letter back from Rolls-Royce that simply said:

"In the files at the headquarters of Rolls-Royce, there is no such account saying anything has ever been wrong with a Rolls-Royce anywhere that you speak of."

Mac Brunson, "The Purpose of the Passion," Preaching Today Audio, No. 282

Micah 7:19 (NIV)

⁽¹⁹⁾ You will again have compassion on us; you will tread our sins underfoot and hurl all our iniquities into the depths of the sea.

Psalms 103:12 (NIV)

⁽¹²⁾ as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.

Hebrews 8:12 (NIV)

⁽¹²⁾ For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more."

- Corrie Ten Boom said this "He took my sins and cast them in the deepest ocean and then stuck a sign up saying "No Fishing"

4. Rising He justified freely forever

A cloud of doubt hangs over home run king Barry Bonds. On August 7, 2007, Bonds hit number 756, the home run that broke Hank Aaron's record. Most of the talk about the new record, though, is whether it really should count, because Bonds is alleged to have used steroids. Sports buffs say if his name goes in the record book it should be accompanied by an asterisk. The asterisk, of course, means that the record is a sort-of record, a footnoted record. The asterisk means the record is tainted.

The asterisk idea didn't go away. Mark Ecko, the man who bought the ball that Bonds hit to set the record, asked baseball fans in an Internet poll what he should do with it. The fans voted for him to brand the baseball with an asterisk and donate it to the baseball Hall of Fame. In the summer of 2008 that's what Ecko did.

Having an asterisk by your name is actually something we all should be able to identify with. Scripture talks about the Book of Life, in which the names of each believer is recorded. With all the sins we have committed in this life, you would expect that each of us would have an asterisk by our name in this all-important Book. Tainted. Don't really belong.

But so great is our justification in Christ, so perfect is his work on the cross, so just is God in justifying you, that in the Book of Life there will be no asterisk by your name. Because of Christ's atoning work on the cross for you, you truly belong in the kingdom of God.

Craig Brian Larson, editor of PreachingToday.com; source: "Bonds' 756th HR ball lands in Hall," USA Today (7-2-08), 1C

Romans 3:24 (NIV)

⁽²⁴⁾ and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.

Romans 5:1 (NIV)

⁽¹⁾ Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

5. One day He's coming, oh glorious day, oh glorious day

- While studying for a communion service I was reading the passage in Matthew where it spoke of Jesus and the last supper and how that was going to be the last drink of wine that he would have until his disciples were with him in heaven.

Matthew 26:27-29 (NIV)

⁽²⁷⁾ Then he took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. ⁽²⁸⁾ This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. ⁽²⁹⁾ I tell you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it anew with you in my Father's kingdom."

- Then when Jesus spoke of the coming Kingdom of God he uses the picture of a 'banquet', a great party that God is inviting all of us to.
- This was pictured in the OT of what Heaven was going to be like. This great banquet, look at what Isaiah says,

Isaiah 25:6-9 (NIV)

⁽⁶⁾ On this mountain the LORD Almighty will prepare a feast of rich food for all peoples, a banquet of aged wine-- the best of meats and the finest of wines. ⁽⁷⁾ On this mountain he will destroy the shroud that enfolds all peoples, the sheet that covers all nations; ⁽⁸⁾ he will swallow up death forever. The Sovereign LORD will wipe away the tears from all faces; he will remove the disgrace of his people from all the earth. The LORD has spoken. ⁽⁹⁾ In that day they will say, "Surely this is our God; we trusted in him, and he saved us. This is the LORD, we trusted in him; let us rejoice and be glad in his salvation."

We see this as what Heaven will be like in Revelations,

Revelation 21:1-4 (NIV)

⁽¹⁾ Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. ⁽²⁾ I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. ⁽³⁾ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. ⁽⁴⁾ He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."

- But here is the sad truth about the banquet in Heaven. The problem was that as people were invited to the banquet they began to give excuses as to why they couldn't come. Putting it off for another time, when it would be more convenient, more comfortable, more to their time table.

Luke 14:15-24 (NIV)

⁽¹⁵⁾ When one of those at the table with him heard this, he said to Jesus, "Blessed is the man who will eat at the feast in the kingdom of God." ⁽¹⁶⁾ Jesus replied: "A certain man was preparing a great banquet and invited many guests. ⁽¹⁷⁾ At the time of the banquet he sent his servant to tell those who had been invited, 'Come, for everything is now ready.' ⁽¹⁸⁾ "But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said, 'I have just bought a field, and I must go and see it. Please excuse me.' ⁽¹⁹⁾ "Another said, 'I have just bought five yoke of oxen, and I'm on my way to try them out. Please excuse me.' ⁽²⁰⁾ "Still another said, 'I just got married, so I can't come.' ⁽²¹⁾ "The servant came back and reported this to his master. Then the owner of the house became angry and ordered his servant, 'Go out quickly into the streets and alleys of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind and the lame.' ⁽²²⁾ "'Sir,' the servant said, 'what you ordered has been done, but there is still room.' ⁽²³⁾ "Then the master told his servant, 'Go out to the roads and country lanes and make them come in, so that my house will be full. ⁽²⁴⁾ I tell you, not one of those men who were invited will get a taste of my banquet.'"

- That 'glorious day' will be a day of celebration where he will open up the aged wine barrels we will all take a cup and he will make a toast tell us welcome to the banquet, to the party.

- He has given the invite to everyone, to all of you.

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- Have you accepted his invitation to the banquet?
- You can either accept the invitation or reject it. Oh how I wish you would. I wish we would all be ready.
- This is what the bible tells us to do. To confess with our mouth that Jesus is the Lord and believe in our heart that he died for your sins. To live for his return. Who wants to RSVP today?