

THE TRIUMPH OF EASTER
Follow Christ
Banska Bystrica, 4th April 2023

Col 2:13-15 καὶ ὑμᾶς νεκροὺς ὄντας [ἐν] τοῖς παραπτώμασιν καὶ τῇ ἀκροβυστίᾳ τῆς σαρκὸς ὑμῶν, συνεζωοποίησεν ὑμᾶς σὺν αὐτῷ, χαρισάμενος ἡμῖν πάντα τὰ παραπτώματα. ¹⁴ ἐξαλείψας τὸ καθ' ἡμῶν χειρόγραφον τοῖς δόγμασιν ὃ ἦν ὑπεναντίον ἡμῖν, καὶ αὐτὸ ἤρκεν ἐκ τοῦ μέσου προσηλώσας αὐτὸ τῷ σταυρῷ. ¹⁵ ἀπεκδυσάμενος τὰς ἀρχὰς καὶ τὰς ἐξουσίας ἐδειγμάτισεν ἐν παρρησίᾳ, θριαμβεύσας αὐτοὺς ἐν αὐτῷ

Col 2:13-15 And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, ¹⁴ by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. ¹⁵ He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.

OUTLINE

0. INTRODUCTION

- 0.1. JESUS – A VICTIM?
- 0.2. JESUS – THE MASTER OF THE SITUATION

1. JESUS' LOVE FOR GOD (LOVE & SUFFERING)

- 1.1. JESUS' MASTER MOTIVE
- 1.2. LOVE & SUFFERING

2. JESUS' FAITH IN GOD (FAITH & DEATH)

- 2.1. FAITH AND SUCCESS
- 2.2. FAITH AND SACRIFICE

3. JESUS' HOPE IN GOD (HOPE & FAILURE)

- 3.1. THE SOURCES OF MEANING
- 3.2. THE MEANING OF EASTER

4. TO REMEMBER

0. INTRODUCTION

0.1. JESUS – A VICTIM?

- **Luke 23:27-28** And there followed him a great multitude of the people and of women who were mourning and lamenting for him. ²⁸ But turning to them Jesus said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, **do not weep for me**, but weep for yourselves and for your children.

0.2. JESUS – THE MASTER OF THE SITUATION

- **John 19:10-11** So Pilate said to him, "You will not speak to me? Do you not know that I have authority to release you and authority to crucify you?" ¹¹ Jesus answered him, "You would have **no authority over me** at all unless it had been given you from above...."

1. JESUS' LOVE FOR GOD (LOVE & SUFFERING)

- → loving God more than humans; more than self
- the problem anthropocentrism → if there is a "god" he must be there for me
- Augustine: "You have **made us for yourself**, **O Lord**, and our hearts are restless until they rest in You."

1.1. JESUS' MASTER MOTIVE

- → *his master motive* was to please God:

- John 8:29 The one who sent me is with me; he has not left me alone, for **I always do what pleases him.**
- **John 4:32** "I have **food to eat** that you do not know about

1.2. LOVE & SUFFERING

- suffering received from the FATHER:
- **John 18:11** So Jesus said to Peter, "Put your sword into its sheath; shall I not drink the cup **that the Father has given me?**"
- **John 16:32-33** Behold, the hour is coming, indeed it has come, when you will be scattered, each to his own home, and will leave me alone. Yet I am not alone, for **the Father is with me.** ³³ I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."

2. JESUS' FAITH IN GOD (FAITH & DEATH)

- → resurrection
- **1Cor 15:19** If in **this life only** we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

2.1. FAITH AND SUCCESS

- getting vs. giving;
- giving life (sacrifice)
- **Luke 12:50** I have **a baptism to be baptized with,** and how great is my distress until it is accomplished!
- **Mt 17:22-23** Jesus said to them, "The Son of Man is about to be delivered into the hands of men, ²³ and they will kill him, and **he will be raised on the third day.**"

2.2. FAITH AND SACRIFICE

- **John 6:51** I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. And the bread that **I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.**

3. JESUS' HOPE IN GOD (HOPE & FAILURE)

- → the future world

3.1. THE SOURCES OF MEANING

- Albert Camus → the absurdity of being (this life)
 - [Zizek] This is the argument Žižek makes in his latest film, *The Pervert's Guide to Ideology*. ...Žižek claims: Christianity is much more atheist than the usual atheism, which can claim there is no God and so on, but nonetheless it retains a certain trust into the Big Other.
- **Mt 27:46** Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "**My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?**"

3.2. THE MEANING OF EASTER

- the coming KINGDOM – the future world:
- **Isaiah 53:12** Therefore I will divide him a portion with the many, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong, because he **poured out his soul to death** and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and makes intercession for the transgressors.
- **Mt 26:29** ...I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when **I drink it new** with you in my Father's kingdom.

4. TO REMEMBER

- Easter is about the victory of Jesus.
- To understand his victory we have to know his thoughts.
- To celebrate Easter means to be in fellowship with the resurrected Christ.