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A BREATHTAKING WEEKEND

**THE GOOD NEWS OF GOD'S GRACE
THROUGH JESUS CHRIST**

A BREATHTAKING WEEKEND

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A BREATHTAKING WEEKEND

According to the Bible, the moment a person dies he becomes an instant theologian. Whether an atheist or a Buddhist ... whether a Muslim or a Christian ... whether a good person or a bad person or somewhere in between, when one “steps through the unseen veil” into eternity, he sees the one true God of glory (Amos 4:11-12; 2nd Corinthians 5:8). And as his mind adjusts to his new surroundings – be it Paradise or Hades – his perspective changes considerably. The things of this world quickly fade as his eternal home comes into sharp focus.

On Sunday, January 20th of this year, the soul of my mother, Jane Doe, stepped through that veil.

If we could somehow summon her out of eternity to stand before us once again, I am sure we would have many questions to ask her. But there would be *one thing* – above all else – *she* would want *us* to know ... clearly and fully.

She would, of course, declare that the crucified Son of God really is alive! After all, she has now seen Him in His radiant fullness. But there is something else Jane knows, and she would not want us to miss it.

She would want us to know *why* God the Father had His Son executed to begin with. She would want us to know why it was not the will of God for Jesus to live to a ripe, old age (as she did), die of natural causes (as she did), and *then* be raised from the dead. Jane would want us to understand the purpose of His Cross.

She would want to remind us that she ... and every member of her family ... and every friend she has ever had ... and, indeed, every person reading these words ... that *we all* have broken the moral laws of a holy God.

FOR ALL HAVE SINNED AND FALL SHORT OF THE GLORY OF GOD. (ROMANS 3:23)

She would want us to know that our sins are *capital crimes* against our divine Judge ... crimes that carry the death penalty.

THE WAGES OF SIN IS DEATH. (ROMANS 3:23)

She would want us to know that this deadly problem we all have cannot be solved by being a good person or by promising God that we will try harder to be a better person. (If that were true, then Jesus Christ died for nothing.)

I DO NOT NULLIFY THE GRACE OF GOD, FOR IF RIGHTEOUSNESS COMES THROUGH THE LAW, THEN CHRIST DIED NEEDLESSLY. (GALATIANS 2:21)

Nor can this problem be solved by going to church ... or by joining a church ... or by being active in a church ... or by following the religious rituals of a church. (One does not become a Christian by acting like one.)

FOR BY GRACE YOU HAVE BEEN SAVED THROUGH FAITH; AND THAT NOT OF YOURSELVES, IT IS THE GIFT OF GOD; NOT AS A RESULT OF WORKS, SO THAT NO ONE MAY BOAST. (EPHESIANS 2:8-9)

She would want us to know that there is only one way to satisfy the justice of the Holy One, the One Whom we have all offended by our crimes of immorality. And that one way is *death* ...

that someone must pay this debt of death ...

and until someone does, you and I will remain on God's death row, under His just condemnation ...

which explains *why* the Father sent His Son to be executed on a Roman cross.

We call that day of His death "Good Friday"; and we do so for a good reason, for it is the day when our debt of death was *paid in full*. As a result of that Execution, each of us can now be pardoned from our deserved sentence of eternal death ...

forgiven all our sins: past, present, and future ...

cleansed – fully and forever – by the blood of the Savior ...

clothed with the righteous robes of the risen One ...

and confident that, as with the triumphant Son of God, we, too, will be resurrected by the power of almighty God unto eternal life.

Yes, it is true: Jane Doe was a woman of admirable character traits, one who loved her family and faithfully served within her church. But let there be no mistake. If she could stand before us right now, if we could somehow summon her out of eternity and ask her, "What is the one thing you want us all to know?" she would direct our attention away from herself. She would, instead, laser beam our focus on

the Lamb of God Who takes away the sin of the world! (John 1:29)

The One Who, on that Good ... that Excellent ... that Magnificent Friday afternoon,

died for us ... in our place ... as our Substitute ... so that we would not have to.

The One Who was, on that Joyous ... that Glorious ... that Breathtaking Sunday morning,

raised from death to everlasting life ... so that we could be, too.

A “Good Friday”! What an understatement! It is a *Priceless Friday*, promising a priceless Deliverance to all who *turn away from their lawless deeds and cling, by faith, to the finished work of the resurrected Son of God!*

No good deed is good enough for anyone to earn this salvation.

No sin is too great to exclude anyone from it.

The Savior’s invitation is offered to us **all**:

“I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE; HE WHO BELIEVES IN ME WILL LIVE EVEN IF HE DIES.” (JOHN 11:25)

This is truly “Good News.” No, that’s not correct. This is not just “good” news any more than it had been just a “good” Friday. This is “Priceless News”! This is “Over-the-Top Fantastic News”! This is “Exceedingly Magnificent News”! News of *freedom* from the painful agony of spiritual bondage! News of *living water* that quenches the thirst of a dry and withered soul! News that floods a broken, empty, and misery-bound heart with *never-ending joy!* News of *rescue* from eternal death!

The Judge Who demands our punishment is offering us His pardon! It is His promise to you and to me. And it comes from the One Who cannot lie:

*FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD,
THAT HE GAVE HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON,
THAT WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM
SHALL NOT PERISH,
BUT HAVE ETERNAL LIFE.
(JOHN 3:16)*