
Love Revealed

Good Friday

A lot of people have no idea about the importance of Easter, except to say they get a long weekend.

Real Love

Easter provides a time where we can stop and remember that love in its purest form has been revealed. Jesus, the Son of God, shows the depth of His love by giving up His life for ours.

Two days later God declares in an incredible and powerful way, that Jesus really is Son of God who died for the sins of the world by raising Jesus from the dead.

On Good Friday we remember what happened at the cross and we see a love which is none other than God's own love revealed to us.

Looking for Love

Married at First Sight - How good would it be to be loved just as you are?

Imagine a love so powerful that you are accepted just as you are but a love that compels you, and enables you, to be a better you.

The good news about Good Friday is that Jesus revealed a love just like that.

Love Revealed

God revealed Himself in Jesus and revealed a love like no other (2 Corinthians 5:19).

God revealed a love that accepts us as we are but is powerful enough to make us better people too.

What would that God look like if He were to become human and live among us? He would look just like Jesus and never more so than as He hangs there dying on the cross.

Responding to Love Revealed

Standing in front of the cross where Jesus hung, the Roman soldier charged with the duty of killing Jesus by crucifixion says;

"Surely this man was the Son of God." Mark 15:39 (NIV)

Have you stood before the cross and recognised that this was a love revealed which proclaims this man as none other than the Son of God?

Have you allowed yourself to accept what was accomplished on your behalf?

"We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are. For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard. Yet God, in his grace, freely makes us right in his sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins."

Romans 3:22-24 (NLT)

We all have the same problem. Our pursuit of freedom, life, love, knowledge and power apart from God (sins) make it impossible for us to know God all by ourselves and that has some serious consequences.

The Bible says, "the wages of sin is death" (spiritual separation from God). God is perfect and good in every respect, and in His eternal plan of a new heaven and earth there will be no sin. It doesn't matter if our mistake was a little one or a big ugly one—it's enough to separate us from God forever.

God's desire in revealing His love in Jesus is to forgive us, but one day the whole world and all people will be judged, and the penalty is separation from Him in torment as a part of God's justice and punishment unless we ask for forgiveness and receive this revealed love.

This gap is far too big for us to cross alone. We are all sinners and salvation is not something we can earn, but it's something that God gives freely to all who believe.

The Good News is this - God loves us, despite our ignoring Him and doing our own thing, and He wants to have a relationship with us. God came up with a solution to this problem— He sent His son Jesus to suffer the penalty that our sins deserve. Jesus took our mistakes upon Himself so that you can be perfect in God's eyes. This is true love revealed!

Have you brought your pains and struggles, your questions and tragedies of your own life into the amazingly loving, light of the cross?

It's at the cross that Love has been Revealed. The cross is where we come to, to be undone, exposed until we realise that this was the only way that we could really change for the better.

On the cross we see dying love, and we recognise it as the undying love of God. The undying love of God as revealed in the wounded body of Christ offering life, rest and meaning.

When love is offered it needs to be received for it to take effect in our lives. We receive this love when we acknowledge we need His love and ask for forgiveness for running our own lives.

Father God, you have revealed yourself in the cross of Jesus to be our God, full of love and hope. Would you open our eyes today to see fresh this incredible love that it might strike a chord in our hearts that we too might be able to make a proclamation that you are indeed the Son of God and as such you deserve our worship. As we respond to you and ask for forgiveness, for it was our sin that nailed you to that cross; that we might also in our hearts that we can receive your forgiveness, your peace and your life.

If this Easter you have decided to follow Jesus and receive His love, we would like to be able to help you in your new journey. Please see someone at the Information Desk for a gift pack. Alternatively email us at church@riverlifechurch.org.au and we will be in touch.

Communion

For those in our service who are celiac sufferers, there is a gluten free option available on the front table to the right. Please help yourselves so that you can join with us in the Lord's communion