

Monday, March 12, 2018

We're in one of the major seasons of the church year known as Lent. Lent is a time when we focus on how Jesus suffered humiliation, literal physical torture, and eventually death, to bring the grace of God's forgiveness to a lost people like us.

A story is told of a man who was drafted as a soldier, but didn't go to battle because a friend took his place. The substitute served in the war, but sadly, was killed. The authorities found out about the scheme, and drafted the first man again, but he refused to serve. He went before a judge, and pled that he had already been drafted and had served in the war by means of his substitute; he should now be considered as dead, because his substitute had been killed; and the judge agreed.

2 Cor. 5:14-15 For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died; and He died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf.

The serviceman couldn't be drafted twice. Similarly, no criminal can be hanged twice; one death is all the law requires. When you're saved through faith in Jesus Christ, you are dead to sin; His death is yours. In Jesus, you have died to sin, and your punishment is no more. Your guilt has been wiped away, carried away by Jesus Himself. God's judgment against your sin was piled onto Jesus and He carried it to the cross so you might be freed.

That is the message of God's grace purchased by Jesus on Calvary's cross. Take some time today to thank Jesus for the pain he suffered on your behalf, and for his unmerited gift of grace. If you haven't already, accept that amazing grace of God today.