

**"Thine is the Power, the Glory, the
blessing, and the majesty, forever.
Amen."**

Paschal Doxology



Paradoxes of the Cross

Great Friday 2026

SHAME AND WEAKNESS to GLORY AND POWER

- The Cross Was the Most Shameful Means of Execution
- "...He was numbered with the transgressors, and He bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors." (Isaiah 53:12)
- The Crucified Is Made Physically Weak
- "He guards all his bones; not one of them is broken." (Psalm 34:20)



Shame Becomes Glory, the Weakness Becomes Power

- "For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God." (1 Corinthians 1:18)
- "But we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God." (1 Corinthians 1:23–24)
- "And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name." (Philippians 2:8–9)

Shame Becomes Glory, the Weakness Becomes Power

- “...who by weakness showed forth what is greater than power.” (*O Only Begotten*, 6th Hour of Great Friday)
- EX: St. Paul’s sickness
- And He said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.' Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me." (2 Corinthians 12:9)



THE BRUISED IS THE HEALER

- The Wounds He Carries Are Not His Own
- "But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed." (Isaiah 53:5)
- The Divine Physician
- "For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin." (Hebrews 4:15)

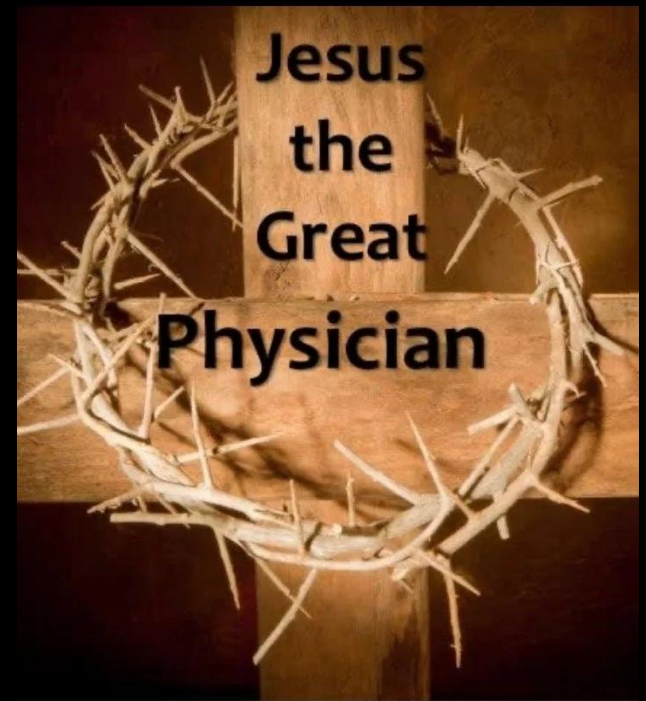


Healing from the corruption of sin

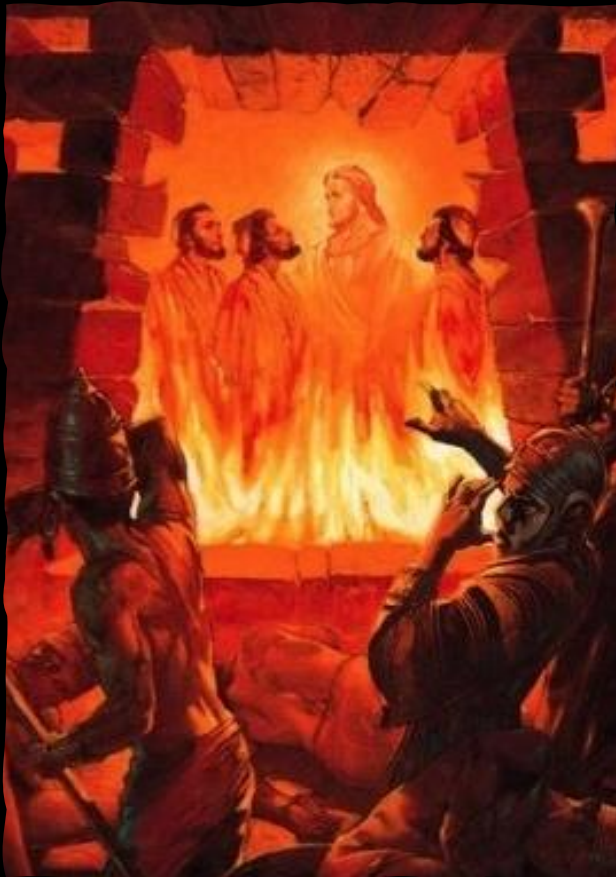
- Guilt
- "For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him." (2 Corinthians 5:21)
- Shame
- "...who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame." (Hebrews 12:2)
- Fear
- "For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, 'Abba, Father.'" (Romans 8:15)

His wounds became our medicine

"Who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness — by whose stripes you were healed." (1 Peter 2:24)



DEFEAT to VICTORY



- Everything Points to Defeat
- The Enemy's Greatest Weapon Becomes His Own Destruction
- "And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses, having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it." (Colossians 2:13–15)
- Winning by Losing
- EX: 3 Holy Youth
- EX: Susanna

DEFEAT to VICTORY

- The enemy fears the Christian who bears His cross, but not everyone.
- EX: Paul at Ephesus
- Then some of the itinerant Jewish exorcists took it upon themselves to call the name of the Lord Jesus over those who had evil spirits, saying, "**We exorcise you by the Jesus whom Paul preaches.**" Also there were seven sons of Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, who did so. And the evil spirit answered and said, "**Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are you?**" Then the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, overpowered them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded." (Acts 19:13-16)
- The source of our victory is in Him
- "**But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.**" (1 Corinthians 15:57)



THE PURSUED becomes THE PURSUER



- He Was the Pursued from the Very Beginning
- Herod
- Pharisees and Sanhedrin
- "Then the Pharisees went out and plotted against Him, how they might destroy Him." (Matthew 12:14)
- "And the chief priests and the scribes sought how they might kill Him, for they feared the people." (Luke 22:2)
- The devil pursued Him
- "Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil." (Matthew 4:1)



THE PURSUED becomes THE PURSUER

- We Too Are Being Pursued
- "If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it." (Genesis 4:7)
- "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour." (1 Peter 5:8)
- At the Cross, the Pursued Becomes the Pursuer
- "Therefore He says: "When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, And gave gifts to men." (Now this, "He ascended"—what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth? (Ephesians 4:8-9)



THE PURSUED becomes THE PURSUER

- He Also Equips Us to Become Pursuers
- "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:19–20)
- "And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it." (Matthew 16:18)

Summary

The Cross is the Throne of God

This is His coronation

He reverses man's condition:

- Shame and Weakness to Glory and Power
- The Bruised Is the Healer
- Defeat to Victory
- The Pursued became The Pursuer