

“Jesus is Lord, even over my death.” Colossians 1:13–14

Jesus is Lord. He is Lord over all things. He’s the Lord of life, love, heaven and earth and everything in between. He’s the Lord of the visible and invisible, Lord of the past, the present, and the future. Jesus is Lord!

One of the earliest Christian confessions was not that Jesus was a teacher, leader or miracle worker, but that Jesus Christ is Lord.

That’s easy to say that when life is going well. It’s easy to confess Jesus is Lord when the sky is blue and birds are singing and all is right in the world. At such times, we gladly and naturally confess that Jesus is Lord. But life does not always go our way, as it often did not for the first Christians. And for many facing heavy persecution, things are not well.

But eventually we will all have to bow to another lord that has been ruling since the sin of our first parents. Its name is Death. It rules all people of all places and times, rich or poor, powerful and weak, famous and common. Despite our most valiant efforts and our most brilliant minds, none can outsmart or outlast lord death.

Unless the Lord Jesus returns first to take us directly to heaven, we will all die. Have you thought much about your death? I bet you tend to avoid the subject when it’s about you. A funeral, near-death experience, surgery, depression or severe illness can bring it to mind.

We don’t want to think about death, but Good Friday is a good day to face it. That’s what the Lord Jesus was doing on Good Friday. Today almost two thousand years ago, He directly faced death. And it was indeed a frightful experience.

Jesus’s death was frightening because it was **painful**. A servant strikes him in the face, soldiers flog his back with whips. He endures the pain of thorns pressed down on his head, a heavy cross on his bloodied shoulders, nails through his hands and feet, parched mouth, and the struggle just to breathe.

His death was also **humiliating**: false charges, mockery of the soldiers, naked exposure on the cross, the taunting of fellow Jews.

Worst of all was the **separation**. Abandoned by the Palm Sunday crowds, deserted by disciples, and finally forsaken by His heavenly Father. Jesus faces death completely alone. But He was not alone in death, and so we are not alone in death. Paul wrote to the Galatians. **“I have been crucified with Christ,”** Paul was there. And so were we. Not physically. Jesus hung there alone, but in faith, we believe that in His pain He took our pain. His humiliation was ours humiliation. His separation was our separation. His death was our death.

Paul wrote to the Colossians, **“Through his death, he has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son”** We’ve already been delivered. And, therefore, we do not fear.

Lord Death will continue until the Lord Jesus returns in his glory. But we will never know the fear of complete separation. We will never feel the pain and humiliation Jesus suffered on the cross. Our sins He has already removed. In Christ’s death, we have already died. And through faith in him, we are already risen with Him.

Tonight, on this Good Friday, we confess good news. The lord death no longer reigns. For “Jesus is Lord, even over my death.”

Amen.