

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding. For through wisdom your days will be many and years will be added to your life.

As Jesus moves towards the cross, as He is mocked and tormented and isolated more each moment, as everything would appear to be going completely wrong, Christ, the Lamb of God, demonstrates pure fear of the Lord, true wisdom from above.

“Not my will but yours be done” He prays as He alone persists in agony and exhaustion, sweat and blood already beginning to drip from your Lord. Complete submission to the Father, trust even though it would seem that everything has slipped from God’s hands and has gone awry as He is forsaken by friends and handed over to those who would ensure His death.

What Christ was doing is no different than what we are called to do each and every day. Our moments won’t typically lead to death, and certainly not death for the sins of the world, but what He is faithfully living in these moments of torment is having no other God, using the Lord’s name not in vain but in prayer and praise, and certainly honoring the Lord’s day—He is trusting in the God’s Word and promises in every moment. And He is not shirking, being rebellious against any of the other commands, either. He refuses to harm those around Him, even those who strike Him, He will not speak falsely of those who are lying about Him. He honors His Father and His mother,

and He does not covet the life of all those standing by, those who are not dying unjustly and causing His suffering.

This is what our days should look like. This is what our days never look like. This is why Christ, following perfectly the fear and wisdom of God, why He entered into our fray, living the demands placed upon us, for you.

God has given Him a tongue of those who are taught, of those who are wise and truly understand, and even here it is not to His benefit but to yours—that He may sustain those who are weary. His ears are awoken to the wisdom of our God and He knows it to be good and true that God would bring about the salvation long ago, promised to those who first went astray, who first followed other paths, forsaking the fear of the Lord and His wisdom. So He sets Himself like a flint, unchanging from this course, cemented in His righteousness, that which He has lived out as He cared for the least of these, as He taught the crowds, as He preached about the mercy of God, as He battled Satan in the wilderness and proved His power over the host of the evil one by casting them out. He has been perfectly righteous all along, and even in the injustice He now suffers, He does not compromise.

When He is struck, when they crown Him with thorns, when they strip Him and nail Him to the beams, as He is hoisted up for all to see, as He thirsts and struggles to even breathe, He remains faithful. Even as He prays “my God, my God, why have You forsaken me,” He is not despairing of His faith but earnestly praying about the honesty

of His situation. The Father has turned His face away from His Son; He suffers hell as life leaves His flesh. And still He does not turn aside from the wisdom of God, from His fear and trust in our God.

Because the wisdom of God is to save His creation that has forsaken Him; and it is the wisdom of God to do so not by the sword, Christ our Lord forcing all to believe by sheer strength and might, but instead by service and sacrifice, by the death of the Lamb of God slain for sinners.

Wisdom, true fear of God, does indeed lengthen our days. It brought Christ's life to an end on that Good Friday, but in doing so, such wisdom ensured that our days would have no end. While your unfaithfulness had truly earned death for you, the death of the Wise One, the Righteous One, the Sinless One means life eternal for you who receive such wisdom.

Christ was betrayed for you. Christ was reviled for you. Christ was humiliated for you. Christ became your sin for you. Christ died for you. And it was the wisdom and mercy and love of God for you that caused it all to take place. It is by the Wisdom of God that this Friday is Good. And it is good because the One who truly fears God has stolen your sin, died your death, and has thus opened heaven's gates by His loving sacrifice.

In His Name. Amen.