

Easter is a story of love ...

Although sinless, Jesus Christ was crucified; he died as a sacrifice to make amends for the sins of humanity.

He was hated and rejected;
his life was filled with sorrow
and terrible suffering.
No one wanted to look at him.
We despised him and said,
“He is a nobody!”

He suffered and endured
great pain for us,
but we thought his suffering
was punishment from God.
He was wounded and crushed
because of our sins;
by taking our punishment,
he made us completely well.
All of us were like sheep
that had wandered off.
We had each gone our own way,
but the LORD gave him
the punishment we deserved.

He was painfully abused,
but he did not complain.
He was silent like a lamb
being led to the butcher,
as quiet as a sheep
having its wool cut off.

He was condemned to death
without a fair trial.

Who could have imagined
what would happen to him?
His life was taken away
because of the sinful things
my people had done.

Isaiah 53.3-8

*But death was not the end –
God raised Jesus to life!*

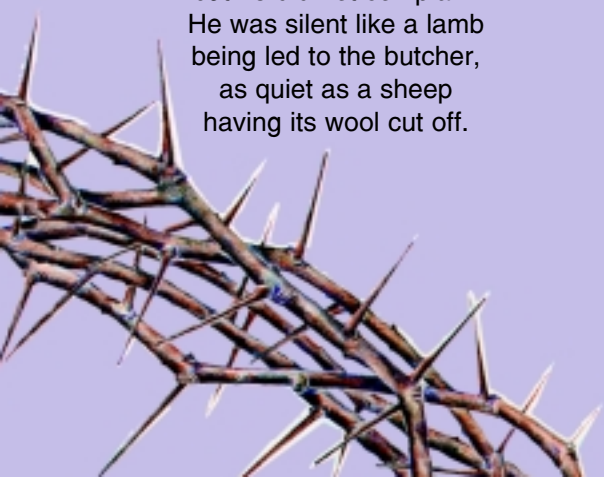
God gave Jesus to die for our sins, and he raised him to life, so that we would be made acceptable to God.

Romans 4.25

*By placing our faith in God, we can share
Christ's risen life. He gives us new life and
hope!*

God was merciful! We were dead because of our sins, but God loved us so much that he made us alive with Christ, and God's wonderful kindness is what saves you. God raised us from death to life with Christ Jesus, and he has given us a place beside Christ in heaven. . . . You were saved by faith in God, who treats us much better than we deserve. This is God's gift to you, and not anything you have done on your own. It isn't something you have earned, so there is nothing you can brag about. God planned for us to do good things and to live as he has always wanted us to live. That's why he sent Christ to make us what we are.

Ephesians 2.4-5; 8-10



**God of love,
Thank you that you reached out
to me through Jesus Christ.
Only love like yours can forgive.
Help me to believe in you
and accept your forgiveness.
Help me to live a life
worthy of your love.
Amen.**



The text of this Selection is from the *Contemporary English Version* of the Bible. We would encourage you to read the entire Bible. Many translations are available from your nearest Canadian Bible Society bookstore.

This Scripture Selection was downloaded free of charge from the Canadian Bible Society website: www.biblesociety.ca and is not for commercial use. This publication is for responsible free distribution.

**Sow the seed. Spread the Word.
Share this Selection with a friend.**



CANADIAN
BIBLE
SOCIETY

10 Carnforth Road
Toronto, Ontario M4A 2S4
Tel: (416) 757-4171
Fax: (416) 757-3376
www.biblesociety.ca