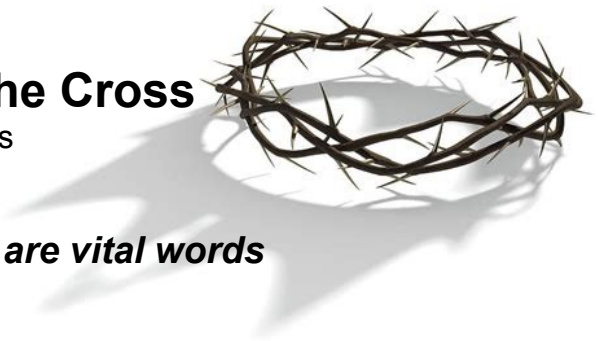

Final Words from the Cross

Selected Scriptures
4-15-2022

Introduction:

**** The final words of our Lord Jesus Christ are vital words for you and me!***

As He was dying for the sins of the world (I Peter 3:18), Jesus said…

1. **"Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do"**
   (Luke 23:34)
   (Christ's words from the cross reflect MERCY)

2. **"Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise."** (Luke 23:43)
   (Christ's words from the cross reflect SALVATION)

3. **"Woman, behold thy son! … Behold thy mother!"** (John 19:26-27)
   (Christ's words from the cross reflect AFFECTION)

4. **"Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?** *that is to say,* **My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?"** (Matthew 27:46)
   (Christ's words from the cross reflect ABANDONMENT)

5. **" I thirst."** (John 19:28)
   (Christ's words from the cross reflect DISTRESS)

6. **"It is finished"** (John 19:30)
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7. **"Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit"** (Luke 23:46)
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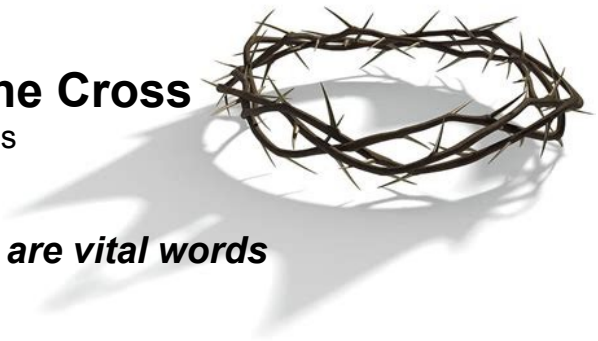

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Final Words from the Cross

Selected Scriptures
4-15-2022

Introduction:
Last words are important words.

Examples:

The final words of a loved one prior to their passing into eternity
The last words before someone leaves home

Christ's last words were not words of vengeance or retribution
1Pe 2:23 Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously:

He did not utter words in self defense, but was silent in defending Himself:
Isa 53:7 He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth.

His communion with the Father was so constant that even when anguish gripped every part of His being, He utters words in prayer.

** The final words of our Lord Jesus Christ are vital words for you and me!*

As He was dying for the sins of the world (I Peter 3:18), Jesus said…

1. "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do"

(Luke 23:34)
(Christ's words from the cross reflect MERCY)

"Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. And they parted his raiment, and cast lots. "(Luke 23:34)

Christ forgave at great cost to Himself; and during the time of His intense pain.

Think about the details of Christ's torment at His crucifixion.

It is true that Abraham, Moses and the Prophets forgave others too, but not with spikes in their wrists and feet.

Stephen in Acts 7 forgave in like manner, but he was not the originator of such ability.

The heart of Christ became like a reservoir in the midst of the mountains. All the tributary streams of iniquity, and every drop of the sins of his people, ran down and gathered into one vast lake, deep as hell and shoreless as eternity. All these met, as it were, in Christ's heart, and he endured them all.

-- Charles Haddon Spurgeon, Christian History, no. 29.

The basis for the forgiveness is ignorance on the part of the crucifiers (I Tim.1:13)
I Cor.2:7-8 - But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory: Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.
"They would not have crucified" – Why Not?

Obviously, if the people who crucified Jesus, knew that He was God (the LORD; the Creator; the King of Kings) they would not have crucified Him. They assumed that Jesus was the illegitimate son of Joseph and Mary, "the carpenter's son", a mere mortal man; a troublesome radical who claimed to be the Messiah.

Also, it may be said that, had the religious leaders known that Christ's death for sinners was essential to God's plan of salvation, they (under Satanic control, in an attempt to foil God's plan) would not have crucified Christ. Out of rebellious spite, they would have avoided any dealings with Christ.

Satan knew God's plan of salvation. This is why he, through Peter, rebuked Jesus for His plans to go to the cross (Mk. 8:33), and no doubt instigated others to demand Him to come down from the cross (Mt. 27:40, 42).

"What is so amazing is the fact that God worked out His wise plan in and through human ignorance. Wicked hands of blinded men crucified, but this is exactly what God had willed (Acts 2:22-23)." (Gromacki, p. 34).

We also should follow Christ's Pattern of Forgiveness

Eph. 4:32 - *"And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you."*
Col. 3:13 - *"Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any; even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye."*
How did Jesus forgive?
Jesus forgave...

a. By suffering for the sins of others
   1 Peter 3:18
   For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit:
   (In order for forgiveness to be real, someone has to pay the debt)
b. By envisioning God's Higher Purpose
   (Heb. 12:2 - "*[Jesus envisioning] the joy that was set before him endured the cross...")*
   (In order to forgive, you must believe that God has an ultimate good purpose for what others have put you through)

2. "Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise." (Luke 23:43)

(Christ's words from the cross reflect SALVATION)

"And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise. " (Luke 23:43)
Although this thief initially railed on Christ (Mt.27:42-44), he came to his senses and saw the error of his words, and trusted Christ.

The Theology of the Repentant Thief is quite amazing:

Luke 23:39 And one of the malefactors which were hanged railed on him, saying, If thou be Christ, save thyself and us.
40 But the other answering rebuked him, saying, Dost not thou fear God, seeing thou art in the same condemnation?
41 And we indeed justly; for we receive the due reward of our deeds: but this man hath done nothing amiss.
42 And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom.

1. **He believed in the existence of God (v.40)**
   "Dost not thou fear God?"

2. **He believed that he was a sinner (v.41)**

3. **He believed in the punishment of the wicked (v.41)**
   "we receive the due reward of our deeds"
   (It is interesting to note that this man was a victim of capital punishment and yet he believed in capital punishment)

4. **He believed in his need for repentance (change of mind)**
   (Note his attitude before and after Conversion)

5. **He believed in the Sinlessness of Christ (v.41)**
   "this man hath done nothing amiss"

6. **He believed in the Lordship and Deity of Christ (v.42)**
   "Lord…"

7. **He believed in Life after death**
   (He did not believe in soul-sleep)

8. **He believed he was totally unable to save himself**

9. **He believed that Jesus was willing and able to save him.**

10. **He was willing to completely entrust himself to Jesus Christ**

11. **He believed that the Heavenly Kingdom belonged to Jesus Christ and that Christ had control over the future**
    "your kingdom"

3. "Woman, behold thy son! … Behold thy mother!" (John 19:26-27)

(Christ's words from the cross reflect AFFECTION)

"When Jesus therefore saw his mother, and the disciple standing by, whom he loved, he saith unto his mother, Woman, behold thy son! [27] Then saith he to the disciple, Behold thy mother! And from that hour that disciple took her unto his own home." (John 19:26-27)

Apparently, Joseph had passed on into Eternity by this time. Mary was a widow. Jesus makes final preparations for Mary to be taken care of. He gives the responsibility to John to care for her.
Note: Jesus is not deifying Mary or giving her any power over John by this statement (as Roman Catholicism teaches), but rather is entrusting her into John's care so that he might meet her needs by opening his home and caring for her as a son would care for his mother. Widows are to be cared for (Acts 6:1-2; I Tim 5:3-10)

4. "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? *that is to say,* My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" (Matthew 27:46)

(Christ's words from the cross reflect ABANDONMENT)

"And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" (Matthew 27:46)
If Jesus is omniscient, why did He as God the Father this question?

Answer:

- For our benefit to ponder the answer to His question.

(Why did the Father forsake the Son? 1) Because from 12:00 - 3:00 in the afternoon, Jesus was bearing in this body the sins of the World; and darkness was over all the Land during that time (Mt.27:45) illustrating how the Father turned His back on His own Son; and 2) Because Christ was becoming a curse for the world (Gal.3:13)

- The ultimate reason, was to fulfill Scripture.
  (By asking the question, Jesus was fulfilling Psalm 22:1 which says: " My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me? why art thou so far from helping me, and from the words of my roaring? "

  Note all of the Messianic prophesies regarding the crucifixion in Psalm 22

5. " I thirst." (John 19:28)

(Christ's words from the cross reflect DISTRESS)

This is the shortest phrase uttered from the cross.

The words "I thirst" show Christ's Humanity; He was subject to dehydration.

Due to the torments of crucifixion, the thickening of the blood, and the short gasps of air through the mouth, Jesus would have been so parched and dry.
Ps 22:15 My strength is dried up like a potsherd; and my tongue cleaveth to my jaws; and thou hast brought me into the dust of death.

"After this, Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the scripture might be fulfilled, saith, I thirst." (John 19:28)
Psalm 69:21 - "They gave me also gall for my meat; and in my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink."

He received the vinegar (cheap bitter wine mixed with "gall" [a pain killer] - Mt.27:34) to his lips and tasted it, but would not drink.

6. "It is finished" (John 19:30)

(Christ's words from the cross reflect COMPLETION)

"When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost." (John 19:30)

τετελεσται - paid in full (this word would be stamped on a receipt indicating that complete payment had been made)

When Jesus said, "It is finished" (Jn. 19:30), he was indicating that His work was complete; that is, the end had been reached (Bill Jackson).

ILLUS: Hymn - "Jesus Paid It All" If Jesus paid it all, there is no more to pay.

Is. 53:5, 6 - Substitute - EX: Basketball and a man "subbing" for the other. When a substitute takes one's place, the former team player must get off the field. When Christ took our place, we got off the field. We no longer try to work for our salvation.

It was a mountain one-room school house where severe discipline was used to keep the rowdyism of uninterested pupils in check. The noon recess was ended and the teacher was interrogating the class with regard to the disappearance of Sally Jane's lunch. After a few minutes of verbal threats and demands, a sob was heard. It was little Billy--a thin, undernourished child. His family was the poorest of the poor.

"Did you take Sally Jane's lunch?" demanded the teacher.

"Yes, sir," mumbled Billy through his tears. "I was hungry."

"Nevertheless, you did wrong to steal and you must be punished," declared the teacher. As the teacher removed the leather strap from its place on the wall, Billy was ordered to the front of the room and told to remove his shirt. The arm of the teacher was raised over the bent and trembling form of little Billy.

"HOLD IT, TEACHER!" shouted a husky voice from the rear of the room. It was Big Jim striding down the aisle removing his shirt as he came. "Let me take his whipp'n," he begged.

The teacher was aghast, but knowing that justice must be demonstrated, he consented and laid the belt to the back of Big Jim with such force that even the stronger boy winced and his eyes watered. But Billy never forgot the day that Big Jim took his place.

--James S. Hewett, Illustrations Unlimited (Wheaton: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc, 1988) pp. 34-35.

An infinite price was paid; we have an infinite salvation. If it was finite., it would run out. EX: When we had been in Heaven for 1,000 years, an angel would come up to you, tap on your shoulder, and say, "Your time is up. You now have to spend eternity in hell."
Romans 10:3 - "Do"
Romans 10:4 - "Done"

"If you living the truth of Rom. 10:4, you're a missionary; if 10:3, you're a mission field."
"Evangelism is 'done' people going to 'do' people and telling them that the work was 'done.'"

You cannot be "doing" and "done" at the same time. If you are "doing," you are not "done," and if you are "done," you don't need to do. (Bill Jackson)

Religion says "Do"; The Bible says it is "Done"

> Diagnostic Question:
> If you died today and stood before God and He said to you, "Why should I let you into my heaven?" If the response is "I've lived a good life" "I didn't do anything to deserve otherwise" "I've been a good Baptist" "I was baptized as an infant," etc. -- They are trusting their works.

Ephesians 2:8-9 - "Not of works" -

II Tim. 1:9 - "Who hath saved us, and calls us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began."
Titus 3:5 - "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, by the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Ghost."

Purgatory is a place of doing. Mass is an occasion of doing. Come back next week and we will do some more.

Acts 13:39 - "And by him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye would not be justified by the law of Moses."
Gal. 2:16 - "Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall not flesh be justified."
Gal. 3:24 - "Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith."

A "works" salvation denies the sufficiency and efficacy of Christ's work on Calvary.

The cross is "I" crossed out.

"When a sufficient price is paid, no further price can be exacted" (Bill Jackson, Do Or Done, p. 14).

You can't add to infinity. Christ is infinite and His work is of infinite value.

7. "Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit" (Luke 23:46)

(Christ's words from the cross reflect REUNION)

"And when Jesus had cried with a loud voice, he said, Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit: and having said thus, he gave up the ghost." (Luke 23:46)

1 Peter 4:19
Wherefore let them that suffer according to the will of God commit the keeping of their souls to him in well doing, as unto a faithful Creator.

Christ entrusted Himself (the full essence of His person - His spirit) into the hands of the Father.

So must you do!

A boy and his father were driving down a country road on a beautiful spring afternoon, when a bumblebee flew in the car window. The little boy, who was allergic to bee stings, was petrified. The father quickly reached out, grabbed the bee, squeezed it in his hand, and then released it. The boy grew frantic as it buzzed by him. Once again the father reached out his hand, but this time he pointed to his palm. There stuck in his skin was the stinger of the bee. "Do you see this?" he asked. "You don't need to be afraid anymore. I've taken the sting for you." We do not need to fear death anymore. Christ has died and risen again. He has taken the sting from death.

-- Adrian Dieleman, Waupun, Wisconsin. Leadership, Vol. 15, no. 1.