

Bryan Station Baptist Church

INDEPENDENT

MISSIONARY

THE PIONEER BAPTIST

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"Preaching The Same Truth We Preached Before Kentucky Was A State"

THE CRY OF ANGUISH

C. D. Cole

Introduction: This is the fourth of the utterances of our Lord from the cross. It is the cry of anguish, the cry of the forsaken Son of God. This cry was the fulfillment of prophecy. In the 2nd Psalm we are told that He would make this cry.

These are words of appalling woe. The word forsaken is one of the most tragic in human speech. In this word many tragedies are wrapped. It is a familiar word in many a life. Who has not been forsaken by someone? Some have been forsaken by friends, wives have been forsaken by husbands, children have been forsaken by parents, leaders have been forsaken by their followers. But the word takes on awful meaning when it speaks of being forsaken of God. The most awful word that will ever fall upon human ears will be when the lost hear Christ say, "...depart from me, ye that work iniquity." Matthew 7:23. II Thessalonians 1:9 says, "Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power."

It is true that the lost man does not realize how terrible it is to be eternally forsaken of God. He has no desire for God and thinks he would get along better without God. The lost man has forsaken God but no lost man has yet been forsaken of God. God sends rain on the unjust and in his providence takes as good care of him as He does his own. But those who have learned how good and great and glorious God is, and how necessary He is to human happiness cannot bear the thought of being forsaken of God. The cry of saints in all ages has been, "Forsake us not, O God." They exclaim, "As the heart panteth after the waterbrooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God." The desire for fellowship with God is a mark of spirituality, and imparted holiness. The holier one is, the more he desires God's fellowship. Now if saved but imperfect men shrink from being forsaken of God, how much more it hurts the sinless Son of God.

These are words of unequalled pathos. They reveal the climax of his sufferings.

It was not the way men treated him, but the way God treated him that made the cross so terrible. All that man did to him was suffered in silence, but when God forsok him it wrung from his lips this awful cry. The soldiers mocked him, they pressed upon his brow the crown of thorns, they scourged and buffeted him, they even went so far as to spit on him and pull out his hair. They drove nails thru his hands and feet and yet he made no out cry. The crowds taunted and jeered as did the thieves, but he opened not his mouth. But when the Lord bruised him, then the wrath of God fell upon him, when God gave him what sin deserves, he cries, "...My God, My God, why hast thou forsaken me?" Matthew 27:46.

I. Here we see the inflexible justice of God. At Calvary God's justice was dealing with sin--sin was getting what it deserves. Christ was being made sin, and God cannot look upon sin with any degree of allowance. God may tolerate the sinner for awhile, but he cannot tolerate sin. He may fix the

time to punish sin and until that time comes he may seem to ignore it. Christ was not a sinner personally, but he was a sinner representatively. He was acting as surety for the guilty, and in law the surety is as responsible as the principle. On cross justice was collecting from the surety so the principle might go free.

II. Here we see the enormity of sin. What is sin? In disposition it is hatred of God; in act it is rebellion against God. This makes sin awful and dangerous. Sin would be bad if it were against man. We think of sin primarily as mistreatment of men, such as murder, theft, adultery, but these things are sin only because they are against God. Sin strikes at God. In getting man to sin, Satan is striking against God. Who can tell to what awful depths sin will descend? Sin would destroy God if it could. And here at the cross we see men trying to do that very thing. Here we see sin in its true colors. Here we see the awful depravity of man.

The tragedy of Calvary must be viewed from four different points. At the cross man did a work. He displayed his depravity by taking the perfect One and with wicked hands nailing him to a cross. Satan did a work. He was manifesting his insatiable enmity against the seed of the woman by bruising his heel. Christ did a work. He was putting away sin by the sacrifice of himself. And God did a work. He was making the soul of his son an offering for sin. His justice was punishing His Son that He might have other sons.

III. Here we see the love of God. "For God so loved the world, that he gave

his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16. Here is the supreme evidence of God's love for sinners. God gave His Son to the tremendous task of creating an inexhaustible bank of merit upon which poor sinners might draw. There must be merit of righteousness for the sinner's acceptance with God. God cannot accept sin, and since every man is a sinner, God accepteth no man's person. No man has any merit of his own. Where will I get merit in which to be accepted of God? Calvary answers the question. Christ climaxed His life of obedience with obedience unto death. He was making a deposit of obedience for those who were paupers in righteousness.

IV. Here we see the basis of salvation. God forsook His son that he might not forsake us. On the cross Christ was enacting the Gospel. He was weaving a robe of righteousness for the naked, providing bread of life for the hungry, righteousness for the unrighteous.

Conclusion: We are saved by faith in what Christ did on the cross. "But now the righteousness of God with out the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets; Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: For there is no difference: For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God: Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:" Romans 3:21-24.

Whether a person goes to church regularly or not does not depend on how far he lives from church, but rather on how far he lives from God.

THIS IS THE DAY

"This is the day which the Lord hath made: we will rejoice and be glad in it." Psalms 118:24

This is the day! This is the best day to do today's task. "This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it." "Just think of the opportunity you have. A whole day! Think of all you can accomplish today for the Lord. With His help, there is no limit to what can be done today.

What is there for you to do today? Set goals and organize your work. When the children of Israel prepared the tabernacle in the wilderness, it was an organized effort. Each worker had a specific task and a goal. No matter how small a job may have been, it was considered important. No small task could be left undone. Each worker performed his task accurately and finished his task on time. The results: a finished product in which all were proud.

Ask the Lord what He wants you to do today and do it. Set specific goals and do your very best to achieve them. When the day is done, the Lord will be honored with your accomplishments.

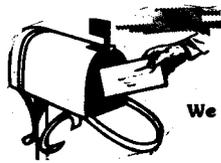
No matter how insignificant your task may seem to you, if it is done in the Lord's will, it is important.

When this day is gone, so is its opportunity. Don't miss it.

J. Rivers

Cast
all your care
upon Him;
for
He careth
for you.





We get letters..

A SOUND, NEW TESTAMENT
CHURCH IN FLORIDA

Stephen W. Shelton
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Dear Brother Gormley:

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. It has been a couple of months now since our last correspondence and we just wanted to share the blessings that God has showered upon us.

In our last letter that we mailed out to churches of like faith and order, we announced our plans to organize into a New Testament Baptist Church. Organizational services were held on November 17, 1984, at our mother church, Central Avenue Baptist Church in Tampa, Florida. We organized with 14 members at that time as two of our mission members, Brother and Sister Hubbs, who had been with us since we started in January, 1983, and who had originally come from the mother church decided to stay with the mother church. We were sorry to see them leave as they were a blessing to us but we want the Lord's will to be done in their lives.

The Lord continues to bless though as a couple who has four children who had been visiting our services for the past six months surrendered to scriptural baptism two weeks after organization and then my wife's parents who also live in the area now came forward during the same service. This brings our membership to 18 people, made up of 10 women and 8 men. We also have 10 children in our services so our regular attendance is 28 and when we have visitors, our attendance is generally between 28 and 34.

These past two weeks, we have seen some new visitors come into our services and we feel that we will be seeing more of them in the weeks to come. However, the man is in the coast guard and expects to be transferred in the next 6-8 months, but we pray they will come and visit with us on a regular basis until then and learn more of the truths

of God's word.

We praise God for His wonderful and multiple blessings and we thank God for your prayers on our behalf. As you can see the Lord is establishing His church in Largo, Florida, and I am thankful that the Lord has placed me in the midst of His people here and I ask for your continued prayers that He may use this vessel to spread the gospel throughout Largo, St. Petersburg, and Clearwater.

After two years of working a fulltime secular job and pastoring, preparing four lessons a week, the Lord has opened the door for me to go parttime at my secular job, maintaining all my insurance benefits, so that I can devote more time to the study of the word and be able to feed the people with a little more spiritual food. We praise the Lord for this opportunity.

The Bryan Station Baptist Church has certainly been a blessing to this pastor and this assembly and we enjoy receiving the Pioneer Baptist. We would like to invite anyone who is in our area to come worship with us or if you know of anyone coming to the area, to visit or live, tell them about us.

In His service,
Stephen W. Shelton

PLEASE

If you are moving send us a change of address. It costs more postage to have one paper returned to us than to mail you the paper for a whole year.

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"The will of the Lord be done." Acts 21:14b

The Lord Jesus, in the Garden of Gethsemane, has shown us how to suffer. He chose His Father's will. Though Judas, prompted by Satan, was the instrument for mixing the cup and placing it to the Saviour's lips, He looked right beyond him to the Father, who permitted him to work his cruel way, and said: "The cup that My Father giveth Me to drink, shall I not drink it?" And He said repeatedly, "If this cup may not pass from Me, except I drink it, Thy will be done." He gave up His own way and will saying, "I will Thy will, O My Father. Thy will, and not Mine, be done."

Let all sufferers who read these lines go apart and dare to say the same words: "Thy will, and not mine. Thy will be done in the earth of my life, as in the heaven of Thy purpose, I choose Thy will. "Say this thoughtfully and deliberately, not because you can feel it, but because you will it; not because the way of the cross is pleasant, but because it must be right. Say it repeatedly, whenever the surge of pain sweeps through you, whenever the wound begins to bleed afresh. "Not my will, but Thine be done." Dare to say yes to God. "Even so, Father, for so it seemeth good in Thy sight."

F.B. Meyer



**God's mercy
endureth forever.**