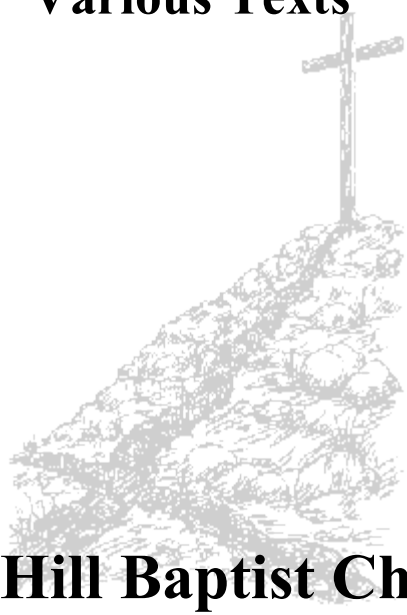


Seven Voices

Parts 3 Various Texts



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FOCAL Read Responsively John 19:28^{KJV} After this, Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the Scripture might be fulfilled, saith, I thirst.

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

Luke 23:46 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.

We have been studying and meditating on the last *seven words* of our Lord spoken from the Cross. The first two words spoken from the Cross,

Luke 23:34 ... Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.

Luke 23:43 ... Verily I say unto thee, Today shalt thou be with me in paradise.

defines who a Christian really is. A Christian is not merely a person who attends Church, who tithes, who is baptized, but is a person who has a deep personal relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. In the third word,

John 19:26-27 ... Woman, behold thy son! {27}
Then saith he to the disciple, Behold thy mother! ...

Jesus surrendered all earthly ties, as He surrendered Himself to be the perfect Sacrifice for our sins. In the

fourth word,

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

that Perfect Sacrifice of God cried out as God the Father and God the Spirit turned away from Him. Our sins, horrible and grievous, were poured out on Him. He became our Perfect Substitute, and we who believe are now *blameless* in God's sight because of what Jesus did for us. His righteousness is *reckoned or imputed* to our account - if we believe. As the Scripture says:

2 Corinthians 5:21 For {God} hath made {Jesus} to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

This does not mean that the Christian does not sin, but it does mean that the Christian is brought into a living relationship with God where we are *led away from sin*. Let's look at the next word from the Cross:

1. What Does "I Thirst" Teach Us?

FOCAL John 19:28 After this, **Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the Scripture might be fulfilled, saith, I thirst.**

There are many good men who will attribute these words

of our Lord, **I Thirst**, to an involuntary cry from a human terribly tormented. Jesus was terribly tormented. Pastor **John MacArthur** writes:

The proportion of His suffering was beyond anything I had ever thought about.

"Many of us limit our perception of Christ's suffering to the nails driven through His hands, the spear thrust through His side, or the crown of thorns jammed on His head. There is little question of that bringing about a great deal of suffering. First century Jewish historian Josephus told of three men who were crucified. They were left until such a time when they should have been dead. But two of them lived. So crucifixion by itself didn't always kill its victim. That is why the executioners would scourge those whom they especially wanted to die. The resulting blood loss and exposure of the internal organs, coupled with the pain involved, would make death inevitable in crucifixion."¹

Crucifixion brings about a terrible blood loss and, I am told, with that blood loss comes a terrible thirst. I am sure you have all seen western movies where a person was shot and, as he lay dying, he asked for water. Jesus had every reason to be thirsty, and to ask for something cool to drink. Yet our text, if we read it carefully, says

FOCAL John 19:28 After this, **Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished,**

¹ The Last Will Be First, The Sufferings of Christ by John MacArthur, All Rights Reserved

THAT THE SCRIPTURE MIGHT BE FULFILLED, saith, I thirst.

Jesus was not now, even in His most terrible of moments, involuntarily calling out for water to satisfy a raging thirst. It is certain that He had a raging thirst. It is certain that He suffered as no Man has ever suffered. But this was not why He cried out, "I Thirst". According to the plain text of the Scripture Jesus spoke those words **knowing that all things were accomplished** - He had done all that the Father wanted Him to do. Jesus spoke those words **that the Scripture might be fulfilled.**

Earlier in His ministry Jesus said:

Matthew 5:17-18 Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: **I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill. (18) For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, TILL ALL BE FULFILLED.**

When Jesus said the words **I Thirst** He was not merely responding to a biological urge to drink. No Beloved, these words were, according to the sacred writ, necessary that Christ fulfill the Scripture. What was left to be fulfilled?

Many years before God prophesied through several men that the Messiah, when He came, would suffer terribly on

the Cross of Calvary. The Psalmist David wrote of the Coming Messiah:

Psalms 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.

and again in:

Psalms 69:20-21 Reproach hath broken my heart; and I am full of heaviness: and I looked for some to take pity, but there was none; and for comforters, but I found none. (21) They gave me also gall for my meat; and in my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink.

As Jesus approached death He knew that God required the Davidic prophecy be fulfilled. Jesus cried out "**I Thirst**" knowing that the prophecy *must be fulfilled*. When He cried out "**I Thirst**" the Roman executioner put a sponge filled with **gall and spoiled wine** in His face. According to the Scripture He drank this terrible concoction just before surrendering to the Eternal Father.

Jesus Christ came to *precisely fulfill the prophecy of God concerning the Messiah*. In our day and age we often think that "close is close enough", or as I heard while in the military, "That's close enough for government work". The thought in our lives is that we need not be too precise. Even in the realm of truth many

believe that "close is close enough". That there is no absolute truth, no perfect standard that must be followed. May I say that God is *the Perfect Standard*.

Too many people today are trying to work their way to Heaven, and this frightens me beyond measure. If Jesus, with full cognizance, recognized that He had to drink vinegar to fulfill God's requirement for our salvation, how can we believe that we can get to Heaven on our own feeble works? A certain group will say that you must be baptized in the midst of their denomination else you will not be saved. Another group will say that their priests must, in long robes and with all due ritual, chant over your body as it lays dying, else you will not go to Heaven. Yonder man says that he feels that he can be saved on the golf course or at the fishing hole, and that he can worship God in those places rather than with other believers on Sunday. Certainly you can be saved anywhere God is, and certainly God can save you at the fishing hole, but will God be on your mind while you bait a hook? Another man, certainly deemed "good" by his friends and family, drives past the Church on Sunday as he goes to plow a field or sit in a recliner watching the "game" on television. Do any of these people make sense to you, dear ones, when you consider the *Perfect Standard* that is God.

Jesus had to fulfill the prophecy. If He had not cried out, "**I Thirst**", then would God have accepted the Sacrifice that went before? Obviously not, else the Scripture would not have said so.

FOCAL John 19:28 After this, **Jesus knowing**

that all things were now accomplished, that the Scripture might be fulfilled, saith, I thirst.

Though **all things were now accomplished**, though the sacrifice had been made, yet one more thing remained. A prophecy that many have considered obscure had to be fulfilled. Jesus had to say **I Thirst**, and Jesus **had to drink vinegar and gall**. God said it, it had to be so.

We waste too much time in our own human imperfections *debating* the things of God rather than recognizing what God has decreed and *doing it*. It does not make sense that a Perfect Man can stand in our place on the Cross, so many have taken to believing that Jesus did no more than come to this earth to be a perfect example for us to follow. He certainly is a perfect example, the best example, the only example - but this is not the main reason He came to this earth. He came to this earth to *fulfill the Law and the Prophets*, to fulfill that which the Scripture said of the Messiah, and as the Perfect Lamb of God to make payment for our sins.

If God is this precise - if God the Son knows that God the Father is this precise - how can you possibly hope to be saved if you do not believe on Jesus? Do you believe that "close enough is good enough" with God? It is not! Jesus perfectly fulfilled the Law. He fulfilled the Law in His human birth:

Matthew 1:22-23 Now all this was done, **that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the**

Lord by the prophet, saying, (23) Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.

Jesus grew up in Nazareth,

Matthew 2:23 ... that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, He shall be called a Nazarene.

He ministered in Capernaum,

Matthew 4:14-16 That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying, (15) The land of Zebulun, and the land of Naphtali, by the way of the sea, beyond Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles; (16) The people which sat in darkness saw great light; and to them which sat in the region and shadow of death light is sprung up.

Jesus healed people, not to be seen of men, but so:

Matthew 8:17 That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet,

saying, Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses.

Even Jesus' teaching style was in parables as a fulfillment of God's prophecy:

Matthew 13:34-35 All these things spake Jesus unto the multitude in parables; and without a parable spake he not unto them: (35) That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying, I will open my mouth in parables; I will utter things which have been kept secret from the foundation of the world.

When Jesus entered Jerusalem for the last time to be crucified for our sins it was to fulfill God's Law:

Matthew 21:4-5 All this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying, (5) Tell ye the daughter of Zion, Behold, thy king cometh unto thee, meek, and sitting upon an ass, and a colt the foal of an ass.

Jesus went to that Cross, rejecting the assistance of twelve thousand angels, any one of which could have easily killed thousands of armed soldiers. Why? He said:

Matthew 26:53-54 Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father, and he

shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels? (54) But how then shall the Scriptures be fulfilled, that thus it must be?

The Scripture had to be fulfilled. Jesus had to die. He had to suffer for us. He had to cry out, "**I Thirst**", and He had to drink the bitter gall of vinegar and *of our sin*, so that we could be saved.

How you *hope* to be saved if you reject Him?

"**I Thirst**" teaches us that God is precise, perfect, holy, and requires a Perfect Sacrifice if we are to be saved. "**I Thirst**" teaches us the great love of Jesus Who, putting even His own personal needs aside, came to die for us.

"**I Thirst**" teaches us that - unless we come to Christ for salvation - we cannot hope to enter God's Heaven. Only He perfectly paid the penalty for our sins, Blessed be His Name!

2. "It Is Finished" and "Father, Into Thy Hands I Commend My Spirit" - Precious Promises To The Christian

FOCAL John 19:30 When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, **It is finished**²: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.

Luke 23:46 And when Jesus had cried with a loud

2 Perfect Passive Indicative of G5055, **τέλεω**, teleō, *tel-eh'-o*, From G5056; to *end*, that is, *complete, execute, conclude, discharge* (a debt): - accomplish, make an end, expire, fill up, finish, go over, pay, perform.

voice, he said, **Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit**: and having said thus, he gave up the ghost.

Illustrate I decided to walk in the beautiful mountains of Gatlinburg, Tennessee though it seemed a bit cloudy. Just to be on the safe side I decided to take my umbrella with me. All around I saw the beauty of God's creation and, as I heard the birds singing in the trees, I wondered that He could love us so.

Suddenly what the clouds threatened now they brought to pass. The rain started coming down. "Not a problem", I thought, as I raised the umbrella and patted myself on the back for remembering to bring it. Good planning keeps us dry. Yet in a few moments my "good works" appeared to me as so much foolishness. The skies lit up with flash after flash of lightening. The umbrella that I held had a metal rod that ran from tip to handle. If the lightening should strike that "good work", the coyotes would be having barbecued "Buffaloe" tonight. Then the Spirit of God spoke to my heart.

"**It is finished**" our Lord said. If I were to die in this next moment, wouldn't I be with my Savior? If the believer dies he goes to be with the Father. My works cannot save me - though often our works do get us in trouble. Our works are not what take us into Eternity to live with the Eternal Father forever. No Beloved, that which saves is the fact that Christ *finished what the Father sent Him to do*. We need add nothing to our salvation. He paid our penalty, He fulfilled the Law, He then, having finished the work, performs that work of

salvation in us who believe. The Scripture says:

John 1:12-13 But **as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: (13) Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.**

When Jesus came to this earth He came to accomplish that which God gave Him to do. God the Father sent God the Son to perfect a bridge between imperfect man and Perfect God. Jesus told His disciples at the beginning of His earthly ministry:

John 4:34 ... My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work.

Just before Jesus went to the Cross He recognized that He had finished the *earthly ministry* when He prayed to the Father:

John 17:4 **I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do.**

Now as Jesus ends His life - for no man took it from Him - **He gave up the ghost** - our Lord says "**It is finished**". This is only one word in the Greek text, but in the English it should be rendered **This has been finished**

with the result that it stands finished forever. This is not a Word of defeat, but it is a Word of Victory! What did Jesus finish?



Jesus' sacrifice became a *covering for sin*.

When Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden of Eden, God in His Grace *covered them* and clothed *them*:

Genesis 3:21 **Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make coats of skins, and clothed them.**

This covering did not come because Adam and Eve deserved it. The covering came because Adam and Eve were in a *relationship with God*. Though this relationship had become marred by sin and disobedience, God sacrificed *innocent animals* to make a covering for their guilt and shame.

Jesus Christ died to be the *perfect covering* for the sinner. As the Sacred Scripture says:

Romans 4:6-8 Even as **David also describeth the blessedness of the man, unto whom God imputeth righteousness without works, (7) Saying, Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose**

sins are covered. (8) Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin.

If you believe on Jesus Christ for salvation your sins are covered by His Blood, by His sacrifice. **"It is finished"**. You do not need to earn your salvation. He has completed the work, and completed it perfectly.



Jesus Christ became the substitute for our punishment.

When Jesus said **"It Is Finished"** He acknowledged that He stood in judgment *in our place*. Christ came to earth to take our hell, so that we who believe can one day go to heaven. The Scripture says:

2 Corinthians 5:21 For **he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.**

We are **made the righteousness of God in Christ**. Not in ourselves, but by faith in Him. His sacrifice was pure, for He was - is - and will always be *without sin*.



When Jesus cried out **"It is Finished"** He was declaring that the work of God was perfect.

complete, fulfilled, without any gaps.

Those who accept Christ as Savior become *Christians*, a people who are *chosen to be like Him in all things*. We are not perfect, but God works in us. You can see this in God's calling of Israel and God's calling of the Church. When God freed Israel from bondage in Egypt and took them to Mount Sinai, Israel had every intent of obeying God. Yet *forty days following the Passover* Israel was melting down jewelry and making a golden calf to worship. Compare this to the Church. Forty days after the Passover the disciples were gathered in an upper room praying. God the Holy Spirit came into the Church, and it began to evangelize and lead others to Christ.

Jesus gave His life for the Christian, the Christian gives his life to Jesus. This is no great thing, dear friends, for what is our life but

James 4:14 ... **what is your life? It is even a vapor, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.**

Once you give your life to Jesus it becomes something grand, something great, something eternal. The Christian is the literal **workmanship of God (Ephesians 2:10)**. The Christian lives a *substituted life*, living for Christ because Christ has empowered us to do so. Unlike the Israelite at Sinai we are commanded to:

Colossians 1:10-13 KJVR That ye might **walk**

worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God; (11) Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and long suffering with joyfulness; (12) Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: (13) Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:

If you belong to God then remember that **"It Is Finished"** does not mean you are free to wallow in darkness and sin. **"It Is Finished"** means that He lives in you, He works in you, He purposes in you, and He will design in you His perfect will.

The great preacher **C.H. Spurgeon** wrote³:

"Imagine for a moment that you are living in the age of the Roman emperors. You have been captured by Roman soldiers and dragged from your native country. You have been sold for a slave, stripped, whipped, branded, imprisoned and treated with shameful cruelty. At last you are appointed to die in

the amphitheater, to make holiday for a tyrant. The populace assemble with delight. There they are, tens of thousands of them, gazing down from the living sides of the spacious Coliseum. You stand alone and naked, armed only with a single dagger—a poor defense against gigantic beasts. A ponderous door is drawn up by machinery and there rushes forth the monarch of the forest—a huge lion. You must slay him or be torn to pieces. You are absolutely certain that the conflict is too stern for you and that the sure result must and will be that those terrible teeth will grind your bones and drip with your blood. You tremble. Your joints are loosed. You are paralyzed with fear, like the timid deer when the lion has dashed it to the ground. But what is this? O wonder of mercy!—a deliverer appears!

A great unknown leaps from among the gazing multitude and confronts the savage monster. He quails not at the roaring of the devourer, but dashes upon him with terrible fury, till, like a whipped cur, the lion slinks towards his den, dragging himself along in pain and fear. The hero lifts you up, smiles into your bloodless face, whispers comfort in your ears and bids you be of good courage, for you are free. Do you not think that there would arise at once in your heart a desire to know your deliverer? As the guards conducted you into the open street, and you breathed the cool, fresh air, would not the first question be, "Who was my deliverer, that I may fall at his feet and bless him?"

Do you not know what He has done for you? Oh My Beloved, do you not wish to fall at His feet and worship

³ DO YOU KNOW HIM? NO. 552, DELIVERED ON SUNDAY MORNING, JANUARY 31, 1864, BY THE REV. C. H. SPURGEON, AT THE METROPOLITAN TABERNACLE, NEWINGTON.

Him? Jesus Christ is not a mere Man Who died, nor a Martyr Who was unjustly slain. Jesus Christ is the King of Kings and Lord of Lords Who stood in your place and in my place. He died for us, suffering the penalty of sin for all who believe in Him. Will you not surrender to Him today? Will you not draw near to Him and bless Him? May God's Precious Spirit help you all to hear and act on these words.

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

