

The Seventh Saying from the Cross  
Commitment  
Luke 23:46

INTRO: We come now to the seventh and last saying of Christ from the cross. The number seven is very significant scripturally. "Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit," was the last saying before Christ expired. Six other times our Savior's lips moved in speech upon the cross. The total of the sayings being seven.

1. Seven– the number of completeness.
2. Seven– the number of perfection.
3. At Calvary, the perfections of Christ were displayed:
  - a. Seven is the number of rest in a finished work. In six days, God made the heaven and earth and on the seventh He rested. Looking back on the work of six days, God pronounced creation as "very good."
  - b. Christ came to earth with a work to do and that work was now done. Just as on the sixth day, the work of creation was complete. So the sixth utterance of the Savior from the cross was "it is finished."
  - c. Just as the seventh day brought rest and satisfaction to God in creation, so the seventh saying brings the Savior to a place of rest and satisfaction– the Father's hand. The seventh saying also represents rest for the soul trusting in Christ.

I. A WORD OF CONSUMMATION

- A. In this last saying, we find no trace of struggle or anxiety, for no struggle or anxiety remained. Christ was in perfect repose. He was trusting in the Father. His confidence was in Him.
- B. What He intended to do He had done.
  1. He came to be offered a sacrifice for sin; this He had done. "The iniquity of us all was laid upon Him" (Isa 53:3). It was accomplished.
  2. The purpose that necessitated His incarnation had been achieved.

II. A WORD OF CHOICE

- A. Christ died of His own volition.
  1. His death was of His own election.

2. His life was not taken from Him; He laid it down of Himself.
  3. He declared that He would lay down His life. John 10:17-18.
- B. Christ was perfect master of the situation, and He laid down His own life.
1. The murder of a man could never save us. That is why Satan tried to murder Christ before His hour had come.
  2. The only thing that could save us was the willing sacrifice of God (Isa 53:10).
- C. He died like no other man.
1. He was God incarnate. God became flesh (Jn 1:14, "The word became flesh....").
  2. He gave up His own Spirit.
  3. The Father did not go to the cross and demand His spirit.
- D. Those gathered around the cross said to Him, "He saved others Himself He cannot save" (Mark 15:31).
1. They said Christ could not save Himself. The truth is He would not save Himself.
  2. He chose to die that you and I might be saved and live eternally (I Pet 3:18).

### III. A WORD OF COMMUNION

- A. "Father" – Twice while Christ hung on the cross, He said, "Father."
1. It was the prelude to both the first and last sayings. "Father forgive them....."
  2. Between the first and last cries, there had come a great darkness.
    - a. Christ took the sinner's place. He who know no sin became sin for us. II Cor 5:21, It was a dark hour..."
    - b. Because of our sin, communion with God was broken, and Jesus cried: "My God, My God why hast thou forsaken me."
  3. But now the darkness has passed.
    - a. He, Jesus, is again in perfect fellowship with the Father.
    - b. "The darkness is gone nevermore to return, the fellowship is restored, nevermore to be broken" (Moyer ).
- B. The last saying of Christ from the cross is a quotation from Psalm

31:5. Psalm 31:5: "Into thine hand I commit my spirit...." was the prayer that every Jewish mother taught her child to say before the child went to sleep at night. Much as we teach our little ones to say, "Now I lay me down to sleep."

1. Notice that Christ added something to the beginning and omitted something from the end of Psalm 31:5.
  - a. The word, "Father," is not found in Psalm 31:5.
  - b. Christ omitted, "For thou hast redeemed me." Christ needed no redeemer; He is the redeemer. We need redemption; then we can say Father.
2. We cannot say "Father" until He becomes our Father by salvation. John 1:12, "But as many as received him....."

#### IV. A WORD OF CONTRAST

- A. Jesus said, "Into thy hands I commend my spirit." What a contrast this is to what Jesus experienced here on earth.
  1. Mt 17:22-23, "The Son of man shall be betrayed into the hands of men: and they shall kill him."
  2. Lk 20:19, "The chief priests and scribes sought to lay hands on Him."
  3. Jesus said of Judas, "the hand that betrayeth me is on the table with me" (Lk 21:21).
  4. In Gethsemane, Jesus said to the sleeping disciples: "The hour is come; behold the Son of man is betrayed into the hands of sinners" (Mk 14:41).
  5. Mt 26:50 says that the crowd, "laid their hands on Jesus, and took Him."
  6. Jn 18:22: "One of the officers which stood by struck Jesus with the palm of his hand."
  7. Jn 19:3: "They smote Him with their hands."
  8. Mt 26:67, "then did they spit in His face, and buffeted Him; and others smote Him with the palms of their hands."
  9. Peter preached, "Him... ye have taken and by wicked hands have crucified and slain....whom God hath raised up from the dead" (Ac 2:23-24).
- B. The Savior had voluntarily delivered Himself into the hands of sinners. Now, He voluntarily delivers His spirit into the hands of the Father.
  1. Never again will He be at the mercy of the wicked.
  2. He shall never again suffer shame. He suffered once for all

(Heb 9:24-26).

3. He is in the Father's hands, seated at the Father's right hand.

#### V. WORD OF CONFIDENCE (ETERNAL SECURITY)

- A. The Father's hand is the place of eternal security. When Jesus commended His Spirit to the Father, He also commended the spirit of the saved.
  1. Jesus Christ lived and died for those that would trust Him.
  2. He did not live and die for Himself.
- B. We are safe in the Father's hands because of what Jesus has done for the believer.
  1. Jn 6:37
  2. Jn 18:9
  3. Jn 10:29
- C. Paul placed his faith in Christ and could say: "... for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day." (II Tim 1:12b)

#### VI. WORD OF COMFORT

- A. The words of Christ, "Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit," have been a comfort to saints through the years.
  1. When John Huss was on his way to be burned at the stake, his enemies made a paper cap for him with a picture of the Devil on it. But at the time of death, he could say: "Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit."
  2. The Savior's last words from the cross are among the dying utterances of Polycarp, Augustine, Bernard, Jerome, and others.
  3. Death can be met by these words if you are a child of God.
    - a. The man who can call God his Father can meet death with confidence.
    - b. What a comfort it is to meet death with God.
  4. Commit yourself to God in life, so you can commit your spirit to Him at death.

**CONCLUSION:** Love prompted the sufferings of Christ, He died for sinners. Will you here and now receive Him as your Savior, and commit your all to Him?

Can you say with Paul, “I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I have committed unto Him against the day” (II Tim 1:12b).