

V. Applications

- A. **To Believers:** **Be conformed to the image of the Son of God!** Be Spirit (Soul)-Committing disciples of Christ Jesus! Be committing yourself, your life, your body and soul to God to lovingly do His revealed will, as Christ Jesus did !
- *I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you **present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.*** (Rom.12:1)
 - *Therefore **Be imitators of God as dear children. And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.*** Eph.5:1, 2
 - Be *“**looking unto Jesus, the author and the finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls.*** Heb.12:2, 3
- B. **To Unbelievers:** Why would you not want to be in the loving and caring hands of God?! Why would you not want to know that the moment you die, your soul would go into the favorable and lovingly presence of God, the Father? Take a good, close look at the Lord Jesus Christ! No person can come to the Father except through Christ Jesus! (Jn.14:6)

The Image of the Son of God Observed in

“The 7 Sayings of the Lord Jesus While Hanging on the Cross”:

1. **The Forgiving Savior** in Lk.23:34b – *“Father, forgive them for they do not know what they do.”*
2. **The Ever-Accessible Savior** in Lk.23:43 – *“...Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise.”* spoken to the salvation-seeking sinner on the cross next to the Lord Jesus
3. **The Exemplary Earthly Son** in Jn.19:26, 27 – *“Woman, behold your son!”* spoken to Mary, the earthly mother of the Lord Jesus; *“Behold your mother!”* spoken to the Apostle John
4. **The Self-Sacrificing Savior** in Matt.27:46 & Mk.15:34 – *“My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?”*
5. **The Scripture-Conscience Savior** in Jn.19:28b - *“...I thirst!”*
6. **The Work-Accomplishing Savior** in Jn.19:30a – *“It is finished!”*
7. **The Spirit-Committing Savior** in Lk.23:46 – *“Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit.”*

“...Father, into Your hands

I commit My spirit...”

The Spirit-Committing Savior

Luke 23:46 > Matt.27:50; Jn.19:30b

- I. Notice **HOW** these words were spoken – *“And when Jesus had **cried out with a loud voice...**”*
- A. In speaking of Himself in terms of being “the Good Shepherd” and His chosen people in terms of being “the sheep”, the Lord Jesus said in Jn.10:15b *“...I lay down My life for the sheep.”* He went on to declare in Jn.10:18 *“No one takes it from Me...”*
- B. The forces of evil had done all they could to kill the Lord Jesus, to take His life from Him – but they were not even able to weaken His voice! See Matt.27:37; Jn.19:30
- II. Notice **TO WHOM** these words were addressed – *“...Father...”*
- A. Note **HOW** the Lord Jesus has addressed His heavenly Father throughout these 7 sayings while on the cross – in the 1st saying in Lk.23:34 > **“Father”**, in the 4th saying in Mk.15:34 > **“My God, My God”** and in the 7th saying in Lk.23:46 > **“Father”**
- B. The Significance:
1. **M. Henry:** It “...shows that the dreadful agony of His soul was now over.” The work of redemption was finished!
 2. **Wm. Hendriksen:** “Do they not show that from 1st to last, the Son of God **never** rejected His Father? He kept clinging to the Father throughout; yes, even when He utters the 4th words – *“...why have You forsaken Me?”* – even then the Lord Jesus called the One who had sent Him *“My God, My God...”*
 3. Here we observe **the undiminishing love and commitment** the Lord Jesus had and still has for His heavenly Father. – also **the confidence** He has in His **unbreakable bond** with His Father.
- III. Consider the **MEANING** of what Christ Jesus **SAID** – *“...into Your hands I commit My spirit.”*
- A. These words are thought, by many, to be borrowed from Ps.31:5 written by David, which says, *“Into Your hand I commit my spirit; You have redeemed me, O LORD God of truth.”*
- The Lord Jesus fitted those words of David to His purpose of dying. In doing so, He fitted those words to the purpose of dying saints; and sanctified those words for their use. We read in Acts 7:59 of Stephen using similar words as he was being stoned to death for the cause of Christ – *“...Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.”*

- B. The Greek word (para the somai) translated “commit” means “to deposit, to commit, to entrust”; it is a verb that is in the future indicative tense, middle voice
1. Christ Jesus is saying, “I will commit My spirit, I will deposit My spirit, I will entrust My spirit into God, The Father’s hands.” (to put in the care of another; to commit to the charge of > I will put the care of My spirit into the Father’s hands.)
 2. That is exactly what the Lord Jesus did AFTER crying out “Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit.” Jn.19:30b “*And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.*”
- C. Notice that what the Lord Jesus gave up (yielded up, laid down) was His spirit (small “s”) – not the Holy Spirit, nor His divine nature, but His human soul!
1. That immaterial part of man that uniquely sets man apart from all other animals – his soul (Gen.2:7) See Job 2:4; Mk.8:36
 - a. The most precious natural possession that every person possesses, is his/her own life (Job 2:4), his/her own soul (Mk.8:36)
 - b. The Lord Jesus was the unique God-man.
 2. This means that the Lord Jesus not only offered His physical body (Heb.10:10) as the sacrifice for His people’s sins, but also gave His human soul, Isa.53:10; Mt.20:28; Eph.5:2
 - o Heb.10:10 *By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.*
 - o Isa.53:10 *Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise Him; He has put Him to grief. When You make His soul an offering for sin, ...*
- D. In other words,
1. The Lord Jesus entrusted His human soul into the Father’s hands to be safely and securely kept UNTIL the 3rd day when the Father would (Rom.4:24; Heb.13:20) re-unite Christ’s disembodied human spirit with His buried physical body, making that resurrected body forever incorruptible, glorious and eternal, like His human soul
 2. The Lord Jesus deposited His human soul into the Father’s hands as part of the full ransom price paid to the Father to free His people from their bondage to sin.
 3. The Lord Jesus deposited His human soul into the Father’s hands to pay in full the wages of His people’s sins.
 4. The Lord Jesus entrusted His human soul into the Father’s hands as that which would forever reconcile His people into the eternal love and favor of God.

- E. How exceedingly terrible sin must be in the sight of the thrice holy God of the Bible to require such an infinite ransom price to be paid!!
- F. How much more exceeding is the amazement of God’s saving grace (His undeserved love and favor) that He would not withhold His only begotten Son to pay the ransom price absolutely necessary to redeem His elect people!!! (Rom.8:32)
- o I Jn.4:10 *In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.*
 - o Rom.5:8 *But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*
 - o Jn.15:13 *Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one’s life for his friends.*
 - o I Jn.3:16 *“By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us...”*

IV. The SIGNIFICANCE of What the Lord Jesus DID – “Having said this, He breathed His last.”

- A. The Lord Jesus kept His word, as He had always done and always will do.
1. He said, “Father, in Your hands I (will) commit My spirit.”
 2. Then “Having said this, He breathed His last.” What He said He would commit, what He promised He would commit, He committed – His spirit into the Father’s hands
- B. The Lord Jesus Christ truly is a man, without sin, the unique God-man. When He died (gave up His spirit), they buried His body in a tomb, but His human soul went immediately into God’s presence where He was lovingly received with exceeding joy! So it will be for every believer when their appointed time of earthly departure comes. And their souls will be wonderfully kept till the coming day when their soul will be re-united with their resurrected bodies.
- C. Christ Jesus is not only the Lamb of God who takes always the sin of His people, He is also the great High Priest. He has entered into the heavenly tabernacle not made with hands, to appear in the presence of God for believers to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself.
- o J. Calvin: “Let us remember that it was not in reference to Himself alone that Christ committed His soul to the Father, but that He included, as it were, in one bundle all the souls of those who believe in Him, that they may be preserved along with His own (soul).” Heb.9:11, 12, 23-28