

## A Devotional Reflection of the Seven Last Words of Jesus Christ

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### Introduction:

Why is Christ's death good? Calling it a Good Friday because everything is hovered in his goodness.

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

- Christ showed his limitless compassion; that He was willing to forgive these people who mocked him and persecuted him despite their ignorance and wretchedness.
- In Hebrews 9:22, *"Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and **without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.**"*
  - o The forgiveness here is not cleansing, nor forgiving but more of releasing. Releasing from the Old ways to the new covenant that commenced in Christ's death and resurrection.
  - o *Xarizomai* – extending favor (grace); *aphiemi* – send away (releasing)
  - o The death of Jesus on the cross was to inaugurate the new covenant of God with the entire world, and to indicate to all people that we were no longer slaves to sin.
- Suppressed the truth (Rom. 1:18); Christ died for us while we were still sinners (Rom. 5:8)
- Psalm 22:16-18, *"Dogs surround me, a pack of villains encircles me; they pierce[e] my hands and my feet. 17 All my bones are on display; people stare and gloat over me. **They divide my clothes among them and cast lots for my garment.**"*

"Today shalt thou be with Me in paradise." — Luke 23:43

- It fully portrays that our salvation is wholly by faith and not by works.
- The thief on the cross recognized who Jesus really was.

"Woman, behold thy Son." — John 19:26-27

- Christ truly cares. He treasured his relationship to his earthly mother and assured that she will be taken care of after his death.

"My God, my God, why hast Thou forsaken Me?" — Mark 15:34 (Matt 27:46; Psalm 22:1)

- Since God is holy and Christ carries all the sin of humanity—both from past and future, God cannot look at His Son who suffers for the redemption of mankind.
- Read Romans 5:15-21.
- Christ's sacrificial atonement is good enough for our reconciliation to God.
- Good-O-Meter video clip.

"I thirst." — John 19:28 (Ps. 69:21)

- Others say, Christ wanted us to follow to thirst for righteousness, purity, holiness, and His words.

- Christ is fully aware of his purpose. (Isaiah 49:5-7 – “pactum salutis”)
- Fulfilled the prophecy in Psalm 69:21—*anachronistic?*
- Meaning, He is aware that everything is already done and He seeks relief from all his physical agony and pain caused by His wounds.
- Additionally, it shows the fullness of Christ’s humanity. A strong argument against Gnosticism who teaches that Christ does not have a physical body, but a phantom or spirit-like form.

“It is finished.” — John 19:30

- The law has now been fully fulfilled. The debt of sin was now fully paid. The Old Covenant no longer binds us but now released us because of Christ’s good work.
- The new covenant had commenced and was inaugurated during Christ’s death and, later, resurrection. These words are the solid foundation of our hope that our salvation is now made complete only “in and through” Christ.
- Apart from Christ’s work, there is no salvation. Read Acts 4:11-12, *“This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. **And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.**”*

“Father, into Thy hands I commend My spirit.” — Luke 23:46 (Heb 9:14)

- Since the consummation of Christ’s full submission is finally done and the satisfaction of God’s wrath through His sacrifice, the Father had accepted the “unblemished” pure, holy, and perfect atonement for humanity.
- The hope of resurrection is possible since Christ is “The Life” (John 14:6).
- Romans 6:9

### Conclusion:

These words applied to us.

- In his death, we were forgiven – not just made cleansed, but released from the shackles of sin.
- We were assured with our Good Future—the heavenly kingdom of God.
- Gave us confidence that he genuinely cares and is personal to whom he has relations with.
- His ultimate sacrifice is more than good enough as a payment for all our wretchedness.
- In his thirst, we were reminded that in his weakness, we are made strong.
- His finished work is a good work applied and made completed once and for all.
- Our hope is to share the same resurrection of Christ.
- Furthermore, it tells us that we already skipped death to life. (John 5:24)
- Sealed and made children of God (Eph 1:13-15; John 1:12); justified and redeemed (Rom.
- Eternal life (1 John 5:11-13)

*“What was bitter for our Savior is ever so sweet for us.” – Matt Merker*