

dipped it in vinegar and gave it to Him. Jesus said, "It is finished." Life and suffering were removed from Him, instantly.

The Word says that He gave up the ghost. This means Christ, God's part of the Son, left Jesus, Mary's part of the Son, on the cross and went into paradise.

In St. John 8:29 Jesus said, "The Father hath not left me alone." Please don't say God turned His back on His only begotten Son. God at no time ever turned His back on His Son.

NO, A MILLION TIMES NO!

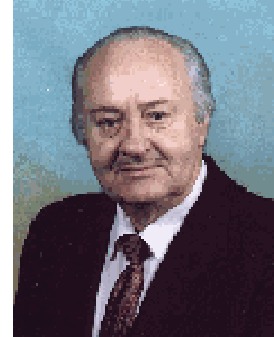
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My God, My God! Mark 15:34



Jesus said, "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" Most Christians throughout the world have misunderstood this statement. It has been told millions of times that Jesus took all of the sins of the world upon His shoulders, and they were so dirty and filthy that God, His Father, could not look upon Him. It has been said, because of the awful mess of sin and shame, the Father turned His back on His Son and forsook Him in so much that Jesus begged for The Father not to forsake Him. God did not forsake His son.

Jesus did die for the sins of the world. God did give His son, but Jesus had all the power to change the course of man and salvation. In the garden, Jesus questioned the Father whether or not there was any other way to bring about a one worldwide redemption for man. If it had not been the sole decision of Jesus, He would not have gone to the Father three times. He, Jesus, was making a decision, and what a decision it was.

On the mountain of transfiguration, Moses and Elijah recounted the plan to Jesus. Jesus knew all that had been spoken of Him by the prophets. He knew He had the power to call more than 12 legions of angels to come and deliver Him. He said, with His own mouth, that if He did this it would change all of the scriptures (Matthew 26:54).

Jesus had full power to do as He wished. The Father loved Jesus, His only begotten son, more than any

earthly man could possibly love his son. I would not ask my son to do something and then turn my back on him; neither would the father of Jesus.

Jesus, making the decision to carry out the will of His Father, went to the cross. While hanging there looking back on His life, He saw that He had fulfilled all of the scriptures to the letter except one: Psalms 69:21: "and in my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink." Jesus realized that the Father could not see Him suffer any longer and was at an instant ready to take life and suffering from Him. By knowing this, realizing that He had about eight seconds of life left and not being willing to leave the 69th chapter of Psalms unfinished (St. John 19:28), Jesus said, " My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me? I thirst." In other words, "Father, let life stay in my body until I get the vinegar and fulfill the scriptures." A soldier ran, got a sponge, put it on a reed,