

## **“My God, My God, Why Hast Thou Forsaken Me?” (Matthew 27:46)**

These words of the Lord Jesus Christ are well known by many. He shouted them toward the God of Heaven as He hung on the cross; dying for the sins of mankind. These would be some of Jesus' last words before He commended His spirit to God. It has been said that the last words of a man command our attention. Please take notice of the significance of Jesus' proclamation.

We must remember that Jesus is on the cross. He is a broken, bleeding, and dying man that is being mocked by religious leaders and goaded by criminals that hung, on either side of Him. Jesus is on the cross, because He allowed Himself to be put there; not because He deserved to be branded a criminal or any man took Him by force. He sacrificed Himself willingly.

### **I. He Proclaimed His Belief Through His Words (Romans 10:9-11)**

While on the cross, we see that Jesus proclaimed the God of Heaven to be His God. Some might state, “Well, of course God was His God.” But, take a moment and consider the situation. Put yourself there and see if the words flow as easily.

The ministry of the Lord Jesus was one of revealing God to Man. He wanted us to know that God is knowable. He proclaimed His belief through His preaching and was not ashamed to speak the Truth. Now, apply this to the cross. Jesus was put on the cross, because of His belief in God. Many people would take this time to turn away from their belief to avoid persecution. However, Jesus knew the Truth and would not back down from it. His own personal beliefs were not shattered by persecution; instead He continued to preach even unto His death!

### **II. He Proclaimed His Belief Through His Works (James 2:17-20)**

We see too that Jesus did not just use His mouth to proclaim His belief in the God of Heaven; He backed His words up through His works. It is not enough to say something, because people can say anything. If we truly believe what comes out of our mouths, we will back up our words with works. The book of *James* tells us that “***faith without works is dead***”. If a man states that he is a Christian and has not the change about his life to prove it; what good is it doing those around him? How can they know that Jesus is the only Savior through that man's life? They cannot! If we proclaim ourselves to know Christ, we must be certain to act like Him through the power of His Spirit.

Jesus backed up His words with good works. He was always about His Father's business. He healed the sick, made the lame to walk, the blind to see, and preached the Gospel to the poor (***Luke 7:22***). The Lord even performed these good works upon the cross. While bleeding and broken, He saved the soul of a thief that hung next to Him and a Roman centurion that observed the atrocity. What a Savior!

How about you? Is the God of Heaven your God? Think before you answer. Anything can easily become a god. Family members, TV, sports activities, and many other things can gain precedence over the God of Heaven. There is only one God and we must serve Him day by day.

Do you proclaim your faith in the Lord Jesus to others? He tells us that this is our job as believers. Do those at your workplace, home, or church know that you are a believer in Jesus Christ? Do you back these statements up through your works? Works do not save a man from Hell and give him access to Heaven, but they do prove a true belief in the Lord Jesus Christ! If you would like to speak to me about these subjects, please feel free to contact me and make an appointment.

*James Bussard is the pastor of Heritage Park Baptist Church that meets at 8 N. 2<sup>nd</sup> St. in Woodsboro, MD. For questions or comments about this article, please call (301) 304-2127 or write him at HeritageParkPastor@Gmail.com. For more information about the church, please go to [www.FrederickforChrist.com](http://www.FrederickforChrist.com) or call (301) 304-2127.*