Bible Reading: Matthew 27:45-46

The seven words on the Cross

Introduction

The seven words spoken by our Lord Jesus Christ on the Cross are seals and idioms. The Last Seven Words of the Messiah are precious words that are important to our admittance into the Glorious Home. These words must be held in high esteem by all Christians; because they are essential and necessary spiritually to their survival in this wicked world. The seven words are helpful and meaningful to the spiritual growth of the Believers. We need to realize that the knowledge and understanding of the seven words on the cross will allow humans to inherit the kingdom of heaven and live eternally.

"My God, My God, why have you forsaken Me?"

The Bible stated that Jesus cried out with a loud agonizing voice on the cross. He groaned out the depth crying loudly because of pain and suffering saying; 'My God, why have you abandoned Me and leaving me helpless'; according to the scripture which says, "And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying 'Eli, Eli, Iama sabachthani?' that is, 'My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?'" <u>Matthew 27:46.</u> First, it should be noted that; inasmuch as Christ came from heaven to this world in human frame; then, He is prone to certain human characters.

It was not as if He was doubting or querying His heavenly Father; but He uttered the statement to fulfill the scripture written in the Book of Psalms, spoken by King David through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit which says, "My God, My God,

why have You forsaken Me? Why are You so far from helping Me, and from the words of My groaning?" <u>Psalm 22:1.</u> Jesus Christ groaned on the Cross; because He did not come to abolish, or get rid of the Law or the Prophets; but He came to complete and fulfill them. The Book of Matthew affirmed this fact by saying, "Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill." <u>Matthew 5:17.</u> It was for this reason that He permitted the will of God to be done after He had spoken the word.

Be assured: God will not forsake His people if: Humans should realize that our God is a merciful and compassionate God; if we are obedient, He will neither fail us nor forget the covenant He swore to our ancestors. Compliance is what will make God not to destroy or desert you; instead He will remember His promise, and He will keep the agreement He made to your ancestors; according to the statement of Moses which says, "(For the Lord your God is a merciful God), He will not forsake you nor destroy you, nor forget the covenant of your fathers which He swore to them." Deuteronomy 4:31.

God reiterated this statement through Samuel by saying, "For the Lord will not forsake His people, for His great name's sake, because it has pleased the Lord to make you His people." <u>1 Samuel</u> <u>12:22.</u> For you not to be forsaken; you must be obedient. For this reason, stop your naïve and immature ways; and live by taking the road of knowledge. If you want to live, give up your foolishness and worldliness; and let understanding guide your steps; according to the Book of Proverbs which says, "Forsake foolishness and live, and go in the way of understanding." <u>Proverbs</u> <u>9:6.</u> If you do not want God to abandon or destroy you; stop being gullible and be obedient.

Jesus abided by the will of His Father

Humans can learn from our Lord Jesus Christ, who abided by the will of His Father despite the torture on the Cross. Christians need to emulate their Lord and Savior; who never go against the will of His Father. Jesus Christ came down from heaven not to do His own will and purpose; but to do the will and purpose of His Father who sent Him. The Messiah did not come to the earth to do what He wants; He came to do what His Father who sent Him wants Him to do. Are you following your own agenda or the will of God? Are you striving to accomplish your own design/plan? Are you pursuing the 'will of God' to be realized in your life? Time has come for you to imitate your Lord Jesus Christ; according to the Bible passage which says, "For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will but the will of Him who sent Me." John 6:38. Remember that God will not forsake you, if you abide by His will.

Similarly, Jesus demonstrated His submission, despite His sorrowful and distressful situation; He complied with the will of Almighty God in the Garden of Gethsemane where He went to pray. The Bible confirmed this event by saying, "He went a little farther and fell on His face and prayed, saying, 'O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will." <u>Matthew 26:39.</u> Whatever that you are passing through, make sure that you abide by the will of God. The most important thing to be considered is how the 'will of God' will be done in your life; immaterial of your situation, or condition. It is inevitable for you to emulate Christ by complying with the will of God; if you want to be rewarded in this world and the world to come. It is for this reason that the Messiah taught us how to pray to our heavenly Father.

The Bible mentioned this important fact in the Lord's Prayer, by saying; "Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven." <u>Matthew 6:10, Luke 11:2.</u> Since the will of God is an indispensable part of humanity; are you ready to comply with the will of God? If the heavenly beings are doing the will of God; are you prepared to abide by the will of God? Do you know that the will of God is essential to your survival in this world? Do you realize that your own purpose may be deadly or harmful to your existence? Do you believe that the will of God is the best for mankind? Your own will might be insignificant compared to the 'will of God' for you; therefore, let the will of God be done in your life.

Make a resolution today that whatever the circumstance; you will permit the 'will of God' to be done in your life. Imitate Your Lord and Savior who submitted to the will of God to be done in His life. The scripture attested to this fact by saying, "Again, a second time, He went away and prayed, saying, 'O My Father, if this cup cannot pass away from Me unless I drink it, Your will be done." Matthew 26:42, Luke 22:42. Since you have the assurance that God will not forsake you; however, your submission to the will of God is essential to your admission into the eternal kingdom of heaven. Even if you are being tempted by Satan, or people are persecuting you unjustly; make every effort to permit the will of God is the best thing that can be achieved in the life of anyone.

Perseverance and endurance are necessities

Any wise person will persevere and endure; so that the 'will of God' will be done in his/her life. The conditionality for the will of God to be fulfilled in anyone's life is obedience, perseverance

and endurance. Inasmuch as our God is full of pity and mercy; He will permit His will to be done in your life; if you are faithful and persevere. If you are steadfast, and endure difficult circumstances for the will of God to be fulfilled in your life; then, you will be blessed. Imitate Jesus Christ your Redeemer, whoput up with anything; He went through everything and never once quit; but all the time honoring God. Every person who perseveres is blessed; God will help them in their times of difficulties, and make His purpose to be achieved in their lives.

If you observe the story of Job; you will realize that God favored him, and made him prosperous spiritually; because of his perseverance and endurance. The scripture described the situation of Job who endured under suffering as follows, "Indeed we count them blessed who endure. You have heard of the perseverance of Job and seen the end intended by the Lord—that the Lord is very compassionate and merciful." James 5:11. Since God is full of compassion and tenderness; He will resolve your issues, and provide for your needs; if you persevere and endure, for His will be done in your life.

Every Christians must pass through the difficulties which we are called to endure for Christ's sake. If you want the will of God to be done in your life; then you must be prepared to partake in the hardships of Christianity. The Believers must take part in suffering, for the edification of Christianity throughout the world, as loyal soldiers of Jesus Christ; according to the scripture which says, "You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ." <u>2 Timothy 2:3.</u>

Are you ready to suffer for Christ's sake? If you want the will of God to be done in your life; persevere and endure. Remember, only the people who endure, and bear up under suffering to the end will be saved. If you keep on being faithful, the 'will of God'

will be done in your life; and at the end, you will be delivered. The Book of Matthew chronicled this statement by saying, "But he who endures to the end shall be saved." <u>Matthew 24:13.</u> We pray that you will be granted obedience, perseverance and endurance that will make the will of God to be achieved in your life; in Jesus name. Amen.

Topic: Seven words on the Cross – Part 2

Bible Reading: John 19:25-27

"Woman behold your son; son, behold your mother"

Jesus Christ came into the world; because of the love that He had for the works of His hand, most especially mankind. He professed and preached love throughout His lifetime on earth. Even though He died for humanity on the Cross; at the point of death, He continued to teach us and command us to love one another: most importantly to be our brothers' keeper. It is for this reason that He made the statement: "mother, behold your son; son, behold your mother."

The word of our Lord Jesus Christ on the Cross which says "When Jesus therefore saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing by, He said to His mother, 'Woman behold your son!' Then He said to the disciple, 'Behold your mother!' And from that hour that disciple took her to his own home." John 19:25-26. Jesus made the statement for His mother to know that though He is departing from this sinful world; but she had somebody who will stand in the gap as her son, and accepted her as his own mother: which means the Christians should be their brothers' keeper; because we will all be brethren, and one family in heaven.

The Messiah reminded the Believers about one of the great commandments of God; so that we will understand this important command; without which anyone cannot inherit the kingdom of heaven. Jesus Christ tried on the Cross to make us assimilate and appreciate this significant commandment. Inasmuch as He did not want the Beloved to end their journeys in hell; He made the statement, so that we will receive the commandment into our minds; accept it and retain it. The Lord expected us to be obedient, and apply the commandment to our daily activities.

Love is the great commandment of God: A teacher asked Jesus which is the great commandment in the law. Jesus responded by saying, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets." <u>Matthew 22:37-40.</u> Jesus said to His favorite disciple that Mary is his mother; because we are all brethren in the Lord and Christians are members of the household of God.

Therefore, every elderly man in the church is the father-in-the-Lord of the youngsters; while the elderly women are the mothers in the Lord. Apostle Paul emulated Jesus Christ our Lord by calling Timothy his beloved and faithful son when He sent Timothy to the Corinthians. The Bible testified to this fact by saying "For this reason I have sent Timothy to you, who is my beloved and faithful son in the Lord; who will remind you of my ways in Christ, as I teach everywhere in every church." <u>1 Corinthians 4:17</u>. Paul also referred to Onesimus as his son; according to the Book of Philemon which says, "I appeal to you for my son Onesimus; whom I have begotten while in chains." <u>Philemon 1:10</u>. It is clear that members of your church are your brothers and sisters; even if you are not biologically related.

Love is required for discipleship: Jesus Christ commanded us to selflessly seek the best for one another. The Lord instructed the Believers to love one another. Whoever wants to inherit the kingdom of God should remember the root command: which says love one another, and act accordingly. The Book of John corroborated this fact by saying, "These things I command you, that you love one another." John 15:17. Anyone who does not love others has disobeyed the commandment of Christ; and such a person may spend his/her eternity in hell; unless such a person changes quickly. Christians must love one another the way Christ loved us. Our Lord exhibited the best way to love by

putting His life on the line for humanity. Are you prepared to obey this commandment of the Lord? Do you know that your boarding pass to heaven is to love others, just like Jesus loved you? The Bible chronicled this commandment by saying, "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you." John 15:12.

The new commandment of the Lord that we are communicating to the Beloved through this publication is to love one another unconditionally. The Believers should keep on loving one another just like how the Lord loved us, and died for us; according to the Bible passage which says "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another." John 13:34. Therefore, the best way for everyone to recognize that Christians are disciples of Christ is to see the love they have for each other. Until when the Christians change their attitude, and start having unselfish concern for one another; that is when they can claim to be disciples of Jesus Christ. To prove that you are a real disciple of Christ; you must love other people like yourself; according to the scripture which says, "By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another." John 13:35. Christians must not forget that it is not their church attendance; but their love for one another that will prove to the world that they are disciples of Jesus Christ.

Rancor must stop among the Christendom

Rancor among the Christendom must stop, and bitterness must cease among the Churches. Believers must not become vainglorious, and rivalry among churches must be eradicated. Christians must stop challenging and irritating one another. It is when provocation and jealousy cease among the Christendom that they can develop spiritually. Hence, we should not be conceited or make others jealous; by claiming to be better than they are; according to the Bible passage which says, "Let us not

become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another." <u>Galatians 5:26.</u> Christians should cease making trouble with each other; instead they should seek the best for one another. The time has come for the Beloved to live their lives by loving and helping others. It is when the Christians permit love to make them serve one another; and they start serving each other with love, that they can proclaim to have eradicated rancor.

Therefore, Christians should love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other. The Believers must love one another deeply as brothers and sisters in the Lord. The Beloved must not lust after one another, but love each other as members of one family; according to the Book of Romans which says, "Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another." <u>Romans 12:10.</u>

Since God is watching us, Christians should not fake their love; instead they should love one another warmly as Believers, and be eager to show respect for one another. For this reason, always owe love to each other, and make sure that the only obligation you have is to love others as yourself. It must be noted that humans owe the perpetual debt of love; which we owe to one another. So let love be the only debt that you owe.

Love is the demonstration of Christianity

Inasmuch as we have heard that we should unselfishly love and seek the best for one another. Don't you think it is time to start loving others as yourself? If God loved us very much and gave His only begotten Son, don't you think we should love each other? Don't you think we should love one another to reciprocate the incredible way that God loved us? The Bible stated that, "Beloved if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another." <u>1</u> John 4:11.

Hence, Christians should help each other in troubles and problems. Reach out to the oppressed and the afflicted people; by assisting them to overcome the misfortune that is causing hardship for them. Believers should carry one another's burdens, and offer each other a helping hand. As it is written, "Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ." <u>Galatians 6:2.</u> Taking care and loving one another is a way to obey the Law of Christ. In addition, Christians who professed to love must also share whatever they have cheerfully.

Believers must be generous with the wealth and skill that God bestowed upon them. Be hospitable to the foreigners, strangers and the needy. It is your duty to cater for the poor and all others who come your way from the household of faith, without any complaint; according to the Book of Peter which says, "Be hospitable to one another without grumbling." <u>1 Peter 4:9.</u> Are you ready to cordially pass around whatever that you have? Are you prepared to share your riches ungrudgingly to prove your love for others? The only acceptable way is to give graciously without murmuring.

Topic: Seven words on the Cross – Part 3

Bible Reading: Luke 23:32-34

"Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do"

Forgiveness of sins is important in Christianity; because without forgiveness, mankind cannot inherit the kingdom of heaven. It is for this reason that John the Baptist the forerunner of our Lord Jesus Christ came into this world to spread the knowledge among his people that deliverance comes by having sins forgiven. The primary mission of John the Baptist is to inform people that they can be saved only when their sins are forgiven.

The prophecy of Zacharias confirmed this fact by saying, "And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Highest; for you will go before the face of the Lord to prepare His ways, to give knowledge of Salvation to His people by the remission of their sins." <u>Luke 1:76-77.</u> Since forgiveness is an integral part of Christianity: John the Baptist was sent to tell his people how to find salvation through remission of their sins. Therefore, you can only be saved from the punishment of sin; if your sin is forgiven.

Jesus also confirmed that His Blood is the New Testament; which ratifies the agreement between God and mankind. The Blood of Jesus is a substitutionary atonement for the forgiveness of sins; according to the statement of our Lord Jesus Christ during His Last Supper which says, "For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins." <u>Matthew 26:28.</u> It is clear from the passage that cancellation of sins is a necessity for anyone who intends to reside eternally in the Glorious Home.

Jesus Christ said on the Cross "Father forgive them, for they do not know what they do." <u>Luke 23:24.</u> Inasmuch as humanity is sinners; Christ did not want the punishment of our sins to be held against

us; in a manner that will hinder our chances to enter the kingdom of heaven. Had it been Jesus did not beg His Father to forgive mankind; nearly all people will end their journeys in hell.

Humans are filthy

Though humans were formed from the dust of the ground, we are also filthy. Our iniquities and transgressions made us unclean in the presence of Our Creator. We are born in guilt and sin from the moment our mothers conceived us. We have sinned and done wrong since the day we are born; according to the Book of Psalms which says, "Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin my mother conceived me." <u>Psalm 51:5.</u> We can deduce from the passage that humans are impure and sinners from the day of their conception.

The Bible clarified that people cannot be pure or clean; unless they are washed in the Blood of Jesus; and anyone born of a woman, or carried out of the belly of a woman through cesarean section operation cannot be righteous or just; unless the sins of such a person is forgiven. Mortals can never be considered faultless; unless such people have received remission of sins. Therefore, no human is pure and innocent in the presence of the Lord; until God overlooks and forgives the iniquities of such a person.

The Book of Job corroborated this fact by saying, "What is man, that he could be pure? And he who is born of a woman, that he could be righteous? If God puts no trust in His saints, and the heavens are not pure in His sight, how much less man, who is abominable and filthy, who drinks iniquity like water!" <u>Job 15:14-16.</u> If you accept that you are neither pure nor guiltless why not seek forgiveness from God? Inasmuch as all your good deeds are like polluted garments, don't you think you should seek remission of sins? Why not seek pardon from God in order to be absolved from

punishment of sins?

Since humans are infected and contaminated with sin, don't you think you should seek the Blood of Jesus for purification? The Book Isaiah testified to this fact by saying, "But we are all like an unclean thing, and all our righteousness are like filthy rags; we all fade as a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away." <u>Isaiah 64:6.</u> Hence, seek forgiveness from God before it is too late. Flee from your wrongdoing, and depart from your lifestyle that is carrying you far from God's favor toward destruction.

Confess your sins and be pardoned: It is essential that you confess your sins; so that God will forgive and forget your iniquities. You must not conceal your guilt; but admit and confess your sins to the Lord. God will forgive the sins of anyone who confesses his/her wrongdoing; according to the scripture which says, "I acknowledge my sin to You, and my iniquity I have not hidden. I said, 'I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,' And You forgave the iniquity of my sin." <u>Psalm 32:5.</u> If you come clean about your transgressions to God; then He will forgive your sins, and dissolve your guilt.

Do not forget that if you admit that you have sinned, and confess your sins; God will certainly forgive your sins. The only thing that will make the Lord to dismiss your lawlessness, and purify you from everything not in conformity with His will and purpose is to confess your wrongdoing. Since God is just and reliable; He can be trusted to forgive you, and take/wash your sins away; if you confess your sins to Him. The Bible attested to this fact by saying, "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." <u>1 John 1:9</u>. Are you ready to confess your sins today? Do not procrastinate, but do the right thing now; so that your sins will be forgiven.

Repent and be forgiven

Humanity needs to repent before God can forgive their sins. They need to confess their wrongdoing, and be sorry for their sins. If you want your sins to be forgiven; confess your iniquity and be sorrowful for your sins. Do you know that confession of your sins alone will not earn your forgiveness, unless you are remorseful; according to the scripture which says, "For I will declare my iniquity; I will be in anguish over my sin." <u>Psalm 38:18.</u> When was the last time that you are deeply sorry for what you have done? Do you know that the conditionality to be forgiven is to be remorseful?

The only sacrifice that is acceptable to God is a heart that is broken and sorry for sin. You must have a penitent heart, and feel sorrow deep in your heart for your iniquities; in order to please God. As it is written, "The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, a broken and a contrite heart—These O God, You will not despise." <u>Psalm 51:17.</u> Your heart must be without pride, and you must be sad concerning your sins; before your sins can be forgiven.

Do not allow iniquity to destroy you: Iniquity is what is making the lives of countless people around the globe miserable. Sin has dragged down many prominent people, and their lives were made meaningless. Christians must turn from evil; else their sin will destroy them. Believers should repent and stop sinning; so that sin will not cause their downfall; according to the Bible passage which says, "Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways,' says the Lord God. 'Repent, and turn from all your transgressions, so that iniquity will not be your ruin.'" <u>Ezekiel</u> <u>18:30.</u>

You will be penalized unless you repent. For this reason, start doing things to show that you have really given up your sins. You must demonstrate new behavior that proves a change of heart,

and a conscious decision to turn away from sin. As it is written, "Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance." <u>Matthew 3:8.</u> Are you ready to change your heart and lifestyle?

Forgiveness will give you access to heaven

Forgiveness belongs to the Lord, and God alone can forgive your sins. God forgives our sins; so that humans can worship Him with submissive wonder. If God keeps records of our wrongdoings; nobody will stand a chance, and our prayers will not be answered: hence, He forgives us; so that we can stand in awe of Him. As it is written, "But there is forgiveness with You, that You may be feared." <u>Psalm 130:4.</u>

Seek forgiveness offered by the Lord, so that you will enter the kingdom of heaven. Jesus demonstrated that He has power to forgive; when a paralytic man was brought to Him for healing; by saying, "....Son, be of good cheer; your sins are forgiven you." <u>Matthew 9:2.</u> The paralytic man was cured, because his sins were forgiven. We pray that every sin that puts you in a dissatisfied condition will be forgiven today, in Jesus name.

For this reason, in Christ alone we have redemption; because of His sacrifice on the Cross which resulted in the forgiveness of our sins, and the cancellation of our sins' penalty. Humans have redemption through the Blood of Jesus, who forgives our sins and sets us free. The Bible validated this fact by saying, "In whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins." <u>Colossians 1:14, Ephesians 1:7.</u> Jesus said, 'Father forgive them, for they do not know what they do' because humans need to be forgiven their sins; in order to rule and reign eternally with Him.

Topic: Seven words on the Cross – Part 4

Bible Reading: John 19:28

<u>"I thirst"</u>

When Jesus Christ knew that His mission was about to be successfully accomplished; He was longing to be with His Father. Jesus Christ is yearning to be in the presence of His Father to give account of His mission on earth. The Lord was not thirsting for water, or a drink; instead He was thirsting to claim the honor, power, and glory that accrued to Him; for successful completion of a mission concerning those created in the likeness of God. It is for this reason that Jesus said on the Cross "I thirst" John 19:28. The statement signified that the Lord was yearning to reoccupy His heavenly throne.

Jesus is craving to break the seals of the scroll, open the scroll, and occupy His throne. Inasmuch as Jesus Christ is the only Being in heaven that is worthy to collect the scroll from the Ancient of Days, Christ broke the seals; because He had the authority and virtue. Jesus is the only Being who is entitled and deserves to open the scroll; that was the reason He opened it. The Bible chronicled this fact by saying, "And I saw in the hand of Him who sat on the throne a scroll written inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals. Then I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, 'Who is worthy to open the scroll and to loose its seals?' And no one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll, or to look at it." <u>Revelation 5:1-3.</u>

Since no other being except Christ is morally and spiritually fit to break the seals, and open the scroll. He took the scroll from Almighty God who sat on His own throne; according to the scripture which says, "Then He came and took the scroll out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne." <u>Revelation 5:7.</u>

Then there was joy in heaven, and the heavenly beings were rejoicing; because of the great redemption performed by Jesus Christ; saying, "...You are worthy to take the scroll, and open its seals; for You were slain, and have redeemed us to God by Your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, and have made us kings and priests to our God; and we shall reign on the earth." <u>Revelation 5:8-10.</u> From the passages, we can deduce that Jesus Christ was thirsty to finish and perfect the great redemption that He performed. Hence, it is your duty to make your spirit yearn for God.

Let your soul thirst for God

Jesus Christ had laid the example for us to follow; therefore, let your inner self longs for your Creator. Are you craving for God because of Salvation, or prosperity? Your soul must thirst for the presence of God; if you want to inherit the kingdom of heaven. The spirit of whoever that claims to be faithful must yearn for God; according to the Book of Psalms which says, "My soul thirst for God, for the living God. When shall I come and appear before God?" <u>Psalm 42:2.</u> Do you think you are thirsty for God, or you are deceiving yourself? Do you think you are worthy to come into the presence of the Ancient of Days? If not change before it is late.

Do not forget that if your soul refuses to thirst for God; it will thirst for the Devil, or the vanities of this world; and you may end your journey in hell. Therefore, stretch out your hands in prayer, every morning and night to your Maker, and let your soul thirst for God; like how an arid land thirsts for water. Do not fail to lift up your hands in prayer to God who can deliver you from your adversaries, and bless you beyond your comprehension. If you do not want to end your journey in hell; it is time for you to make your spirit yearn for God, just as a dry land needs rain.

You need to make your soul crave for your Maker if you want to survive in this sinful world. Inasmuch as your soul is a spiritual desert; let it thirst for God and not Lucifer; according to the statement of David through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit which says, "I spread out my hands to You; My soul longs for You like a thirsty land." <u>Psalm 143:6.</u> The time has come for you to emulate Christ, by permitting your soul to thirst for God like a parched land thirsts for rain.

Do you want a drink from the springs of the water of Life? Jesus Christ is ready and committed to freely give water from the lifegiving fountain to everyone who is thirsty of God. If you want a drink from the fountain of life at no cost, or without payment; let your spirit thirst for God. If you want to be among the conquerors who will not participate in second death; yearn for your Creator; according to the Bible passage which says "And He said to me, 'It is done! I am the Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely him who thirsts.'" <u>Revelation 21:6.</u> We pray that the Alpha and Omega will count you worthy to receive a drink freely from the fountain of Life. Amen.

Topic: Seven words on the Cross – Part 5

Bible Reading: Luke 23:39-43

"Today you will be with Me in Paradise."

Paradise is the heavenly place where the Believers who are worthy will reside in heaven forever. It is the abode of Adam and Eve before the fall of mankind. Paradise is the ultimate home of the righteous people who will rule and reign eternally with our Lord Jesus Christ. It is where the glorious or the celestial body of the just will live perpetually after resurrection and the final judgment.

Paradise can also be referred to as the New Jerusalem, which is the City of God. New Jerusalem is a City of happiness, peace and free of worries. New Jerusalem is an ideal, beautiful and pleasant City; where God will wipe away our tears after death. In general, it is a City where the Beloved will have access to the Fountain of Life and the tree of Life, in joy. Those who are worthy to inherit the kingdom of heaven will live eternally in New Jerusalem.

<u>Repentance is required to live in Paradise:</u> Jesus Christ came into this world to give humanity repentance, and a second chance to inherit the kingdom of heaven. Jesus came to arouse and invite the erring people to repent; by changing their minds for better, and amend their ways with abhorrence of their past sins. Consequently, Jesus said in the Bible, "I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance." Luke 5:32. It is for this reason that Jesus Christ forgave the thief on His right hand who repented on the cross; and the Lord gave a favorable response to his request to be remembered when Christ comes into His kingly glory and power. The Bible corroborated this event by saying, "Then he said to Jesus, 'Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom.' And Jesus said to him, 'Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise.'" Luke 23:42-43. Remember that without repentance, you cannot live in Paradise; but we pray that God will count you worthy to reside forever in Paradise. Amen.

Obedience and repentance are the keys to Paradise: Obedience of the commandments of the Lord is the best way to please your Creator and walk with Him. It is the duty of every living soul to obey the laws and the teachings of the Lord; else they will not enter, or reside in Paradise. We need to realize that the obedient people will be blessed, and God will keep the covenant and the mercy that He swore to the ancestors for the obedient people; by making them live a prosperous and peaceful life on earth. Now that you know that obedience is required; why not add obedience to your repentance to live forever in Paradise? If Jesus Christ our Lord is obedient; don't you think it is time for you to quit your disobedient activities?

Jesus affirmed that only the obedient people will have access to Paradise; according to the scripture which says, "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God." <u>Revelation 2:7.</u> If you want to be given fruit from the tree of Life, be obedient. We pray that you will be among those who will be given the right to eat from the tree of Life that grows in Paradise. However, not all Christians will dwell in Paradise; according to the Bible passage which says, "For many are called, but few are chosen." <u>Matthew 22:14.</u> Unless you add obedience to your repentance; you will not reside in Paradise. We pray that God will count you worthy to dwell forever in Paradise. Amen.

<u>New Jerusalem: The City of God:</u> The people who overcome the world through their faith in Jesus Christ will live perpetually in Paradise. If you emerge victorious, you will be made into a spiritual pillar in the temple of God, and the name of God will be written on you, in order to dwell forever in New Jerusalem the City of God. Christ will make each conqueror who overcomes

Lucifer by the Blood of the Lamb, a spiritual pillar in the Sanctuary of God and write New Jerusalem the City of God on them. As it is written, "He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go out no more. I will write on him the name of My God and the name of the City of My God, the New Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God. And I will write on him My new name." <u>Revelation 3:12.</u>

We pray that you will be among the victorious people who will reside eternally in New Jerusalem; where there will be no suffering, crying, sorrow, mourning, or pain. Anguish and grief will be expelled from the lives of residents of New Jerusalem; God will wipe away their tears and pacify them in every possible way, and they will never taste death again; but live forever; according to the vision of New Jerusalem revealed to John which says, "..... And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain for the former things have passed away." <u>Revelation 21:2-4.</u> If you want to live in New Jerusalem: the Paradise of God, repent and be obedient. We pray that you will be among the people who will dwell eternally in New Jerusalem the City that is illuminated by the glory of God and Jesus Christ the Lamb is its light, <u>Revelation 21:2-23.</u>

Topic: Seven words on the Cross – Part 6

Bible Reading: Luke 23:44-46

"Father unto Your hands I commit My Spirit"

Jesus Christ said on the Cross 'Father unto Your hands I commit My Spirit' <u>Luke 23:46.</u> In order for people to ascertain that He came from Almighty God, and He was returning to Him; so that every trace of doubt will be erased permanently from peoples' minds. It is also for Christ to fulfill the prophecy of David concerning Him; inasmuch as He did not come to destroy the Law or the Prophets. <u>Matthew 5:17.</u> He made humans to realize that our God is a faithful God, and redemption belongs to Him; according to the scripture which says, "Into Your hands I commit My Spirit; You have redeemed me, O Lord God of truth." <u>Psalm 31:5.</u> You need to understand that you will be among redeemed of the Lord, if you do what is right and acceptable to God; by committing your spirit into His hands.

This word spoken on the Cross also demonstrated the loyalty, and dedication of our Lord Jesus Christ to His heavenly Father. Jesus knew that His Father will guard and protect His Spirit that He entrusted to God; until the time that He is ready to retrieve it. The Bible corroborated this fact by saying, "... and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day." <u>2</u> <u>Timothy 1:12.</u> Do not forget that God will keep whatever that is committed into His hands until the Last Day. We pray that God will give you the understanding to do what is good at all times, and commit your spirit into His hands.

Your soul belong to God: Your soul belong to God; therefore do not deny your Creator access to your soul; but commit your spirit into His hands so that it shall be well with you. The Bible stated that "And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a

living being." <u>Genesis 2:7.</u> The breath of life is the Spirit of life; it is what makes humans living souls; it is what made mankind living beings. Therefore, emulate Jesus Christ by committing your spirit into the hands of God today.

Do not deny the Owner of your soul the control of your spirit; else Satan will hijack the control of your soul. The best thing that can happen to any living soul is to surrender his/her soul to his/her Maker. Hence, be obedient and give God total jurisdiction over your soul. Inasmuch as God is the Owner of your soul; you must not oppose, tempt, or blaspheme God in your mind; but use your soul for the progress and promotion of the work of God, the Owner of your soul. The Bible attested to the fact that our soul is a property of God by saying, "Behold, all souls are Mine; the soul of the father as well as the soul of the son is Mine; the soul who sins shall die." <u>Ezekiel 18:4.</u> We pray that you will neither die miserably, nor prematurely; in Jesus name. However, let your soul to be loyal to God; else you will end your journey in Satan's camp.

Do not convey your soul to Satan: Nowadays, many people in the world have mortgaged their souls to Lucifer. People throughout the globe are conveying their Spirit in droves to Satan; due to their ambitions and aspirations. The Christendom is not spared; because worldliness is entrenched among the Christian world. Today, the churches are more concern with material values; rather than a spiritual existence. The pleasure of the world is paramount in the hearts of many Christians, and they are devoted to temporal things of this world; instead of the eternal things of heaven. Countless Believers have forgotten that they are foreigners and strangers on earth; who will return to their native land or home, one day.

Therefore, it is time to abstain from evil desires, and passions of the flesh that can defile their souls. Christians who intend to inherit the kingdom of heaven; will not surrender their souls to

worldly desires and their corrupt nature. Do not indulge your ego at the expense of your soul; refrain from the evil things your body wants to do that are fighting your soul; according to the Bible passage which says, "Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul." <u>1 Peter 2:11.</u> Refrain from worldly desires that wage war against your soul if you do not want to spend your eternity in hell.

Hence, give up your evil ways; start thinking pure thoughts, and be faithful to God the owner of your soul. Stop all your rebellious activities; purify your heart with the Blood of the Lamb, and be devoted to your Maker. Follow the footsteps of our Lord Jesus Christ; by committing your spirit into the hands of God, and you will be given eternal life. Do not forget that you cannot rule and reign with the Lord; unless your heart is steadfast before him; so make the resolution today; in order to be granted admission into the Glorious Home.

Topic: Seven words on the Cross – Part 7

Bible Reading: John 19:28-30

"It is finished"

Everything that has a beginning must have an end. Jesus Christ came into this world and conducted all His activities with zeal; because of the Love that He had for the work of His Father. He performed all His works with humility, and endured to the end. Jesus Christ successfully completed His mission on earth when He said on the Cross "It is finished."

The Lord Jesus Christ ascended to heaven, and He was glorified by His Father; which signifies that any Christian who successfully finishes his/her mission on earth will also be glorified with the Messiah. Such a person will rule and reign forever, with Jesus Christ our Lord. With this knowledge; do you think you are on the right track to complete your mission successfully? Are you ready to do away with whatever that can hinder your access to the Glorious Home? Do you know that whatever you are passing through is incomparable to the joy that awaits you in heaven? Are you working to entrench, or destroy the Legacy of Christ? Are you prepared to endure and persevere; in order to be counted worthy? We pray that you will not perish with the world, or die for enemies to mock; instead you will complete your mission successfully, in Jesus name. Amen.

Jesus successfully completed His mission: The primary reason why Jesus came to this world is to accomplish and complete the work of His Father; by granting repentance to humans, and showing mankind the narrow path that leads to life. The nourishment of Christ is to do the pleasure of His heavenly Father. The only food that satisfies the hunger of Christ is doing the will of God, and finishing the task that the Ancient of Days has given to Him. The Book of John attested to this fact by saying,

"Jesus said to them, 'My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work." John 4:34.

Do you derive your nourishment from doing the will of God, or not? Can you proclaim that doing the work of God is what keeps you going, and making you wax stronger? Are you ready to do what God wants without complaints? It is time to make obedience of the will of God your priority; so that you will successfully complete your mission in this sinful world. You cannot profess to be doing the work of God; unless your acts are glorifying God. Do not be deceived; until your works are bringing glory to God everywhere under the sky; you cannot proclaim to be on the spiritual path of success. Jesus Christ brought honor to the work of God, and revealed His awesome glory to the whole world. Jesus completed to the last detail the assignment given to him by God. The Bible confirmed this fact by saying, "I have glorified You on earth, I have finished the work which You have given Me to do" John 17:4.

What efforts are you making to finish your work in this world successfully? Do you think your actions and reactions are bringing glory to God? If not, you need to change quickly; by emulating our Lord Jesus Christ who accomplished his mission on earth. Christ said on the cross "Everything is done" before giving up His Spirit; because He has completed His duty on earth; according to the scripture which says, "So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finish" And bowing His head, He gave up His Spirit." John 19:30. The last sentence of Jesus Christ on the Cross was "It is finished" which means; "The strife is over, the battle done; now is the victor's triumph won; O let the song of praise be sung. Alleluya!" We pray that weeping and mourning will end in your life today, and God will give you victory over your troubles and spiritual battles; in Jesus name. Amen.

Beware of evil desires, greed, and pride: It is evident that this

world is filled with craving for sensual gratification; greedy longings of the mind; assurance in our resources, and confidence in the stability of our earthly possessions. The whole world system is based on sinful desires, greedy ambitions and glamour that all humans think splendid. None of selfish desires, greed, and foolish boastful pride are from God; but they come from the world; according to the Bible passage which says, "For all that is in this world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world." <u>1 John 2:16.</u>

Inasmuch as humans want their own way; they want to appear important at every occasion, and they are taking pride in their achievements/possession; therefore, Satan weaponized these evil desires against mankind; to put countless people in spiritual bondage, and cause their downfall in the presence of God. Are you one of those who want to please their sinful desires? Are you boasting about your material possessions, instead of striving to enter the Glorious Home? We pray that physical gratification and extravagant lifestyle will not make your mission on earth unsuccessful; in Jesus name. Amen.

Endure to finish your race with joy: You need to make the accomplishment of your assignment in this world your primary goal. The only thing that Christians should consider precious is finishing their course in this world with joy. Believers must make completion of their missions on earth; paramount in their hearts. The Beloved should not care about whatever happens to them; as long as they finish the work that Jesus Christ gave to them. The Book of Acts corroborated this fact by saying, "But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I receive from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the Gospel of the grace of God." <u>Acts 20:24.</u>

Is finishing your task your purpose, or not? What steps are you taking to successfully finish your race with joy? Can you

proclaim that your goal and the most important thing to you is completion of your mission? For this reason, be focused on Jesus Christ; who will strengthen you to finish your race with joy. Make sure that you are not distracted by the things of this world; instead fix your eyes and mind on Jesus Christ; in order to inherit the kingdom of heaven. You must endure your pains, suffering, and trauma; because of the joy of accomplishing your goal. If you want to be among the saints, who will worship before the heavenly throne of God; you must endure whatever you are passing through, and disregard the mockery of humans. As it is written; "looking unto Jesus, the author and 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." Hebrews 12:2. We pray that God will grant you power of endurance that will count you worthy, to sit on the right hand side of the heavenly throne of God; in Jesus name. Amen.