

The Fourth Word: Christ's Isolation
"My God, My God, why hast Thou forsaken Me?"
(Matthew 27:46)

"Of the seven words spoken by our Lord from the cross, this fourth word is the central word in every way." (Strauss) Why is this so? Because it more than any other portrays the incomprehensible extent of Christ's work on the cross.

The context tells us that a three-hour-long supernatural darkness fell over the world from noon until 3:00pm. There is much that we do not understand about this anguished cry. But what we do know is enough.

Darkness is a biblical metaphor for evil and sin. (John 3:19-20) There is absolutely no darkness in God. He is light, i.e. pure holiness. (1 John 1:5) Jesus Christ, the sinless Lamb (1 Peter 1:19), was Himself perfect in holiness in every way. Being God of very God He is light (John 8:12). When Jesus became our sin-bearer, all sins of all mankind for all time were laid upon Him as He hung on the cross (1 Peter 2:24). Because God is holy, He cannot look upon sin (Habakkuk 1:13). God's penalty for sin is death, not just physical death, but a more terrifying spiritual separation away from the light of His gloriously radiant and holy presence in a literal and eternal hell (2 Thessalonians 1:9).

The full fury, the entire wrath of God for all sin was poured out on Jesus Christ as He hung there on that cross. Jesus paid it all! And that means He spent our eternity in hell! (Isaiah 53:3-12) ***Jesus spoke this 4th word that we might not have to!***

Make it personal: Meditate on that promise anew, that says, "I will never leave you, nor forsake you." Because He was forsaken, you need never be! Turn to Hymn # 178, *Hallelujah, What a Savior!* Read the *first four* stanzas. When you are ready move to the **fifth** word. Follow the **red** line.