

FINALLY IT IS OVER

Luke 23:46

(Not entirely original with me)

Introduction: This was the last utterance of the Savior before He died. Seven times His lips moved into speech while He hung on the cross. Seven is the number of completeness or perfection. Seven is also the number of "rest in a finished work:" (Genesis 2:2). So, here with Christ. He had been given a work to do and now the work was done; so just as the 6th day brought the work of creation to a completion, so the 6th utterance of the Savior was "it is finished." Just as the 7th day was the day of rest and satisfaction, so the 7th utterance of the Savior brings Him to the place of rest - in the Father's hands.

1. At last, finally, the Savior is back in communion with the Father again.

- For three hours He had hung there on the cross suffering at the hands of man and Satan.
 - For three hours more He had hung there on the cross suffering at the hand of God.
- Now the darkness is past, the work is done and communion with the Father is restored - forever.
- The same FATHER Jesus commended His spirit to is the same One we also all "Father."
- ***"Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the children of God..." (1 John 3:1)***

2. Here is seen a designed contrast.

- For more than 12 hours Christ had been in the hands of men, even though He could have easily just walked away, but He allowed Himself to be delivered into the hands of sinners.
- Now all is over. Man had done his worst, the cross had been endured, the appointed work done.
- Jesus now, voluntarily delivers His spirit into the hands of the Father.
 - Never again to be in the hands of men.
 - Never again to be at the mercy of the wicked.
 - Never again to suffer shame.
 - Into His Father's hands He commits Himself, and the Father will now look after Him.
- Once He was in man's hands, now they will be in His. Once they cried "away with Him" and now He shall say, "depart from me."

3. Here is seen Christ's perfect yieldedness to God.

- When a boy of 12, His mother had to look for Him and he said, ***"Wist ye not that I must be about My Father's business?"***
- When Satan urged Him to make bread out of stones, when the sisters of Lazarus sent for Him to come help His friend, He did nothing that did not bring honor to God, His Father.
- In all things Jesus submitted Himself to the Father. As He had lived, so He died - yielding Himself into the hands of the Father.
- Truly, in all things Jesus has left US and example.

4. Also seen is the absolute uniqueness of the Savior.

- He died as none other ever did nor ever will. His life was not taken from Him, He laid it down.
 - He "dismissed His spirit" - He "breathed out His spirit."
- For OUR salvation, two things were necessary: The complete satisfaction must be offered to God's outraged holiness and offended justice through a substitute for us and the substitute (savior) must die.
- With the sinner, it is death first, then the judgment, but with Jesus, it was reversed - He endured the judgment of God against our sins, THEN He died. A unique life - a unique death.

5. Here is seen the place of eternal security.

- When Jesus commended His spirit into the hands of the Father, He also presented OUR spirits along with His to the Father's acceptance and keeping.
 - *"...My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and none is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand..."*

6. Here is seen the blessedness of communion with God.

- It is now OUR privilege to enjoy communion, company with God, the Father at all times.
- Do not dread death, for in that hour the Father will still be with US. Let US throw ourselves into the arms of a loving and waiting Father.

7. Here is seen the heart's true heaven.

- It matters not what happens to this old body, for our soul and spirit are safe.
- Let US, also utter those same words of Jesus: *"...Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit..."*
- Being with the Heavenly Father wherever, is the believer's heart desire.

CONCLUSION:

- We live in a world of trouble and are unable to care for ourselves, much less will we be able to do so in death. The world, the flesh and the devil are against us, but there is a canopy which protects us from all harm and sin - IT IS THE FATHER'S HAND!