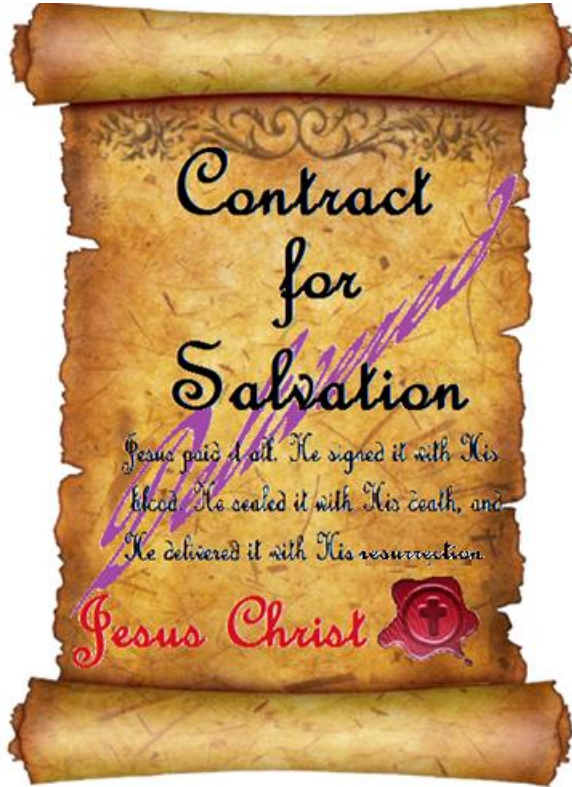


Salvation
Signed, Sealed, & Delivered



By
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And when Jesus had cried with a loud voice, He said “Father into thy hands I commend my spirit: and having said thus, He gave up the ghost. Luke 23:46

24 Now upon the first day of the week, very early in the morning, they came unto the sepulchre, bringing the spices which they had prepared, and certain others with them. 2 And they found the stone rolled away from the sepulchre. 3 And they entered in, and found not the body of the Lord Jesus. 4 And it came to pass, as they were much perplexed thereabout, behold, two men stood by them in shining garments: 5 And as they were afraid, and bowed down their faces to the earth, they said unto them, Why seek ye the living among the dead? 6 He is not here, but is risen: Luke 24:1–6 (KJV 1900)

As we celebrate this Easter Sunday, let me say that while this is not how we are accustomed to celebrating the risen Christ, Our heavenly Father will love the fact that even in this difficult time we still know how to show our deep love and appreciation for the great sacrifice and wonderful resurrection. Happy Easter to you all!

The audience watched this drama unfold. They witnessed the beating and the scourging. They jeered and sneered as he was wounded in his hands and feet. They mocked and joked as he was crowned with thorns. They cried “crucify Him! Crucify Him! Crucify Him!” They listened as the guilty thief challenged him to come down from the cross, save himself and he and the other thief. And yes they heard Him as He prayed Father forgive them for they know not what they do. They were careful observers as He suspended time and circumstance to take care of His mother. They were mystified by the blackening of the noon day sun. They were stunned by the earth quake and the rent of the vail in the temple. They were stupefied by the moon dripping in blood. Yes the audience experienced the drama. They could not help but notice the immediate salvation that was given to the other guilty, but contrite, thief who was also crucified with Jesus. And they were confused by Jesus’s loud cry. “**Eloi, Eloi, Lama Sabachthani?** Which really meant **My God My God, why has Thou forsaken me?** They thought He was calling for Elias.

But now the drama has drawn to its end. The fall of the final curtain is imminent. There is left but one short, simple, yet serene soliloquy: elegant in its simplicity, profound in its impact, and poignant in its meaning. ***“Father into Thy hands I commend my spirit.”*** He gave up the ghost. Now you would have thought there would be outrageous pandemonium, now that the crowd had gotten what it wanted. But this was no ordinary commencement from an ordinary man. This was God’s only begotten! Emmanuel, Mary’s baby, the bright and Morning Star. This was the Wonderful, The Counselor, The Mighty God, The Prince of Peace, and The Lilly of the Valley. This was Jesus! The one who had healed the sick, raised the dead, gave sight to the blind, caused the lame to walk, and the dumb to talk. This was Jesus! He is the one that had fed the five thousand, calmed the angry sea with three little words ***“Peace be still!”*** This was Jesus who spoke and said ***“Father into thy hands I commend my spirit.”*** There was just something about what He said and the way that He said it that left the crowd speechless. The scripture say the best they could do was beat their breast as they walked away. What

did Jesus say? And how did He say it that caused such a response?

First of all He called God “Father.” Unlike the earlier *My God My God*, cry when He bore the sins of the world on his shoulders. Jesus called Him Father. An intimate, affectionate call from son to father, from child to parent. Father, a loving description of the closeness of their relationship. Not one who feels in any way abased or abandoned, forsaken or forlorn. It was not the cry of one who was deserted, dismayed, or distant, but up close and personal. *“Father! Into thy hands I commend my spirit.”*

Second, the term *“commend”* as it is used in this phrase is taken from the Greek word *Paratithemi* which means to deposit as a trust for protection. Jesus knew that His Father would take care of his most precious possession, His soul. Jesus’s faith and confidence in His Father was unshaken even in the aftermath of the horrific events He had endured. Jesus knew that He had to be wounded for our transgressions. He expected to be bruised for our iniquities, and he knew that the chastisement of our peace was upon Him. Jesus knew

that His endurance of stripes was necessary for our healing. So Jesus accepted the cross and all of its humiliation and signed humanities salvation contract with His blood, thus fulfilling the will of His Father. And now He would seal that contract with His death. ***“Father into thy hands I commend my spirit.”*** Father I have done all that you have assigned to my hands to do. I have completed my mission. Man’s redemption has been put in place and His salvation is secure. ***“Father into Thy hands I commend my spirit”.***

Now that was what Jesus said, but it wasn’t just what He said, it was also the way He said it. It was not a tearful, weaken, wailing. It was not a languishing limitation. He did not sound like one who was a frustrated, defeated martyr. That’s not what the crowd heard. What they heard was the strong, vibrant, bellowing voice of the triumphant victor who had delivered that final, fatal blow! He has signed it, sealed it and now He is ready to deliver on His promise. They had forgotten what Jesus had said. He had warned them that if He be lifted up He would draw all men unto Him!

Now if I stopped right there, that within itself is a powerful, inspiring summary of God's plan for man, but wait till you hear the rest of the story:

24 Now upon the first day of the week, very early in the morning, they came unto the sepulcher, bringing the spices which they had prepared, and certain others with them.

2 And they found the stone rolled away from the sepulcher.

3 And they entered in, and found not the body of the Lord Jesus. 4 And it came to pass, as they were much perplexed thereabout, behold, two men stood by them in shining garments:

5 And as they were afraid, and bowed down their faces to the earth, they said unto them, Why seek ye the living among the dead? 6 He is not here, but is risen:

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When they came to the tomb they found it empty! The angels said "***Why seek ye the living among the dead. He is not here, but has risen!*** Jesus had signed our salvation with His blood, He sealed it with His death, and now He has delivered it Hallelujah with His resurrection!!!!