

Sermon

"The Seven Words"

Good Friday, April 6th, 2012

Rev. Dr. Alfonso O. Espinosa

(note: our bulletin cover lists the order of the seven words from ancient and recent sources, though there is some debate about which word was 2nd and which word was 3rd. For example, Gerhard switches the 2nd and 3rd on our cover...we cannot be absolutely certain, but there is good reason to put the first two words about forgiveness side-by-side as the cover does.)

Introduction: Our High Priest Jesus...

A. Conducted the three works of the High Priest for God's people:

- 1. Instruction**
- 2. Prayer**
- 3. Sacrifice**

B. His saving work was FOR US sinners!

- 1. The significance of the Hill of the Skull.**
- 2. The significance of being in the middle.**
- 3. The significance of His outstretched arms.**

I: First Word: The purpose of His cross, namely FORGIVENESS (to the Jews and all people).

II. Second Word: The purpose of His cross, namely to open heaven (to the Gentile and all people).

III. Third Word: The purpose of His cross, namely to unite His Church.

IV. Fourth Word: The purpose of His cross, namely to take the condemnation of hell for us.

- A. After three hours from 9 am to 12 pm, it became dark as night from 12 pm to 3 pm (this is historically attested to in many sources).**
- B. Darkness is symbolic for hell and condemnation.**
- C. Galatians 3:13: He became a curse for us.**
- D. He took our condemnation for sin.**

V. Fifth Word: The purpose of His cross, namely a symbol of what was about to be completed.

VI. Sixth Word: The purpose of His cross, namely to complete all payment and sacrifice for all time!

VII. Seventh Word: The purpose of His cross, namely to give us the way to live and the way to die and the way to live forever!