

## Friday

Read John 19:28–37. There is a lot of rich meaning in Jesus' final words on the cross, "It is finished." The word "finished" in Greek means "accomplished," or "paid in full." What did Jesus "accomplish" and "pay in full" for you through his death?

Read Ephesians 2:8–9. How are you saved, according to these verses?

In what way can you show your gratitude to Jesus for all He suffered for you?

*Thank Jesus for His suffering and death on your behalf. Please pray that God will impact your life and the lives of many others at the Good Friday services tonight.*

## Saturday

*Please pray for the Easter services this weekend, that there will be a spirit of joy because of the resurrection!*



WEEK 8

## When God Seems Distant

APRIL 16 & 17, 2011 • RENÉ SCHLAEFFER • PSALM 22

### Psalm 22 (1,000 B.C.)

**My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?**

*Psalm 22:1a NIV*

Dogs have surrounded me; a band of evil men has encircled me;  
**They pierce my hands and my feet.** *Psalm 22:16b*

All who see me **mock me**; they **hurl insults**, shaking their heads.  
**"He trusts in the LORD,"** they say, **"let the LORD rescue him.**  
Let him deliver him, since he delights in him." *Psalm 22:6–8*

My mouth is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth...  
*Psalm 22:15a*

People stare and gloat over me.  
**They divide my clothes** among them and **cast lots for my garment.** *Psalm 22:17–18*

I am **poured out like water**, and all my bones are out of joint. **My heart** has turned to wax; it has **melted within me.** *Psalm 22:14*

**He has done it [... it is finished]!** *Psalm 22:31 Amplified*

### Crucifixion of Christ (33 A.D.)

About three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" which means **"My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"** *Matthew 27:46*

There they **crucified** him... *John 19:18*

Those who passed by **hurled insults** at him, **shaking their heads...**  
**"He trusts in God. Let God rescue him** now if he wants him..." *Matthew 27:39,43*

Jesus said, **"I am thirsty."** *John 19:28*

When they had crucified him, they **divided up his clothes** by **casting lots.** *Matthew 27:35*

One of the soldiers pierced Jesus' side with a spear, bringing a **sudden flow of blood and water.** *John 19:34*

Jesus said, **"It is finished."** *John 19:30a*



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## *In quoting Psalm 22 on the cross, Jesus is saying to you and me:*

1. " \_\_\_\_\_ "

2. " \_\_\_\_\_ !"

3. " \_\_\_\_\_ !"

"It is finished": Greek *tetelestai*, " \_\_\_\_\_ "

Christ has **redeemed** us from the curse . . . becoming a curse for us . . .  
*Galatians 3:13a*

4. " \_\_\_\_\_ !"

"Oppressed people will eat until they are full. Those who look to the Lord will praise him. May you live forever. All the ends of the earth will remember and return to the Lord. All the families from all the nations will worship you!

*Psalm 22:26–27 CW*

## *Daily Meditations*

### *Monday*

Read Psalm 22:1–21. This psalm has two parts; this first half is a cry of despair. Why do you think the psalms model for us, again and again, that we can be totally honest with God when we feel abandoned by Him, or when we feel life is unfair?

Why is that kind of honesty better than any other alternatives?

When have you felt the furthest from God? What has helped you in the past when you have felt this way?

Why do you think Jesus said these exact same words on the cross?

*Thank God that He is glad when we are honest with Him. Honestly tell him of your joys and sorrows today. Please pray for the Easter and Good Friday services, that the Good News will be clear!*

### *Tuesday*

Read the second half of Psalm 22, verses 22–31. Here the mood changes — it becomes triumphant — almost playful! If the verses in the first half of Psalm 22 describe the suffering of Christ, how do these verses relate to Jesus?

Of the final four application points on page two of the message notes, which do you need particularly to hear at this point in your life? Why?

*Thank God that the resurrection and glorification followed the suffering of Christ — and will follow your suffering too, if you trust in Christ! Pray for the Easter services, and pray for opportunities to invite people! Thanks!*

### *Wednesday*

Read Matthew 27:41–66. There is so much in these verses that is fascinating! Now that you have read Psalm 22, when you see Jesus quoting the first phrase here, do you think it is a deliberate quotation? What is Jesus' reason for this, in your own words?

Read 2 Corinthians 5:21, and Galatians 3:13. How would you summarize the truth expressed in these verses in a way people today could understand?

At what point in your life did you come to realize that Jesus died for you?

- As a child
- Years ago
- Just recently
- I don't know that I have

*Though we will never fully understand it, we can trust in Christ's finished work on the cross for us! Thank God for that today. Please pray that the Easter services this weekend will be full of joy in what Jesus did.*

### *Thursday*

On the Thursday before Easter, Christians traditionally remember how Jesus washed the disciples' feet at the Last Supper. Read John 13:1–17. What was Jesus teaching when he washed the disciples' feet?

How are we to "do these things", as he says here?

How are you "blessed" if you do these things?

*Thank God that we serve One who came not to be served, but to serve. Pray that this attitude will be typical of you, and me, and the other Christians at our church and worldwide. Please pray for the Easter services this weekend, that the gospel will be powerfully presented.*



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