

Sunday Morning, March 20, 2016  
Father, Forgive Them  
Luke 23:34

- I. Christ's Prayer Is Not for Himself  
1 Timothy 2:5
  
- II. Christ's Prayer Is to the Father
  - A. Christ Is Not Forgiving from the Cross
  - B. Christ Is Praying to the Father, That the *Father* Do Something
  
- III. Christ's Prayer Is for Sinners
  - A. Christ Is Praying for All Sinners
  - B. Christ Is Praying for Ignorant Sinners
  
- IV. Christ's Prayer Is for a Suspended Sentence
  - A. This Prayer Was Answered.
  - B. This Prayer Was Asking for the Delay of Judgment.  
2 Sam 6:1-7
  - C. This Prayer Was a Prayer of Strength and Power  
Col 2:13-15

*Quotes*

The Scripture makes a clear distinction between the **event** of the death of Christ and the **significance** of this event. That Christ died is a simple matter of history; that Christ died **for our sins** is the gospel itself.  
-Alister McGrath, *I Believe*

It is tempting to look upon the crucified Jesus with condescending pity and feel sorry for his brutal suffering. Yet, out of respect for Jesus' dignity we must resist that temptation, because Jesus did not die as yet another helpless victim. Rather, with the cross on the horizon of his life, Jesus said that no one would take his life from him in defeat, but rather he would give it and take it up again in victory (John 10:18). Furthermore, Hebrews 12:2 encourages us to "[look] to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God." In dignity and triumph, Jesus endured the cross because of the joy that awaited him on the other side of his resurrection, where the Father is glorified in heaven and sinful people have been atoned for on the earth. Today Jesus sits upon his throne in heaven, smiling as he rules over all creation and prepares for the day of his final coming to establish his eternal throne upon the

earth. This triumphantly joyous Jesus is not served by our pity but by our praise.  
*Death by Love*

-Marc Driscoll,

He was on the cross because that is exactly where he wanted to be. He hung in torture because he knew that that was precisely what was needed if there ever was going to be any hope for those who would believe in him. He did not hang in defeat. He hung in triumph. -Paul Tripp