

**‘The Cross: The Agony and the Glory, Part I’
Luke 23:33-56**

Isaiah 53:5

Luke 23:32-56

The Cross from 5 Vantage Points

1. The Torture of Jesus Christ

“Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged” (John 19:1).

“Then Pilate therefore took Jesus, and scourged him” (John 19:1, KJV).

“For they say that the bystanders were struck with amazement when they saw them lacerated with scourges even to the innermost veins and arteries, so that the hidden inward parts of the body, both their bowels and their members were exposed to view;” Eusebius of Caesarea, (Ecclesiastical History, Book 4, Chapter 15).

Luke 23:33

A Physician Testifies about the Crucifixion, by Dr. C. Truman Davis

“The Legionnaire drives a heavy, square, wrought-iron nail through (each) wrist and into the wood...The left foot is now pressed backward against the right foot, and with both feet extended, toes down, a nail is driven through the arch of each, leaving the knees moderately flexed. The Victim is now crucified. As He slowly sags down with more weight on the nails in the wrists, excruciating pain shoots along the fingers and up the arms to explode in the brain — the nails in the wrists are putting pressure on the median nerves.

As He pushes Himself upward to avoid this stretching torment, He places His full weight on the nail through His feet...At this point, as the arms fatigue, great waves of cramps sweep over the muscles knotting them in deep, relentless, throbbing pain. With these cramps comes the inability to push Himself upward. Hanging by the arms, the pectoral muscles are paralyzed and the intercostal muscles are unable to act. Air can be drawn into the lungs, but cannot be exhaled. The victim fights to raise Himself up in order to get even one short breath. Finally, carbon dioxide builds up in the lungs and in the blood stream and the cramps partially subside.

Spasmodically, he is able to push Himself upward to exhale and bring in the life-giving oxygen. It was undoubtedly during these periods that Jesus uttered the seven short sentences recorded...apparently to make doubly sure of death, the Legionnaire drove his lance through the fifth interspace between the ribs, upward through the pericardium and into the heart.” (The Review of the News, April 14, 1976).

Isaiah 53:6

2. The Power of Jesus Christ

Luke 23:42

Luke 23:43

Two undeniable realities from Jesus' promise to the thief on the cross:

A. Only Jesus has the power to save.

Acts 4:12

1 Timothy 2:5

B. Good works cannot save a human soul.

Romans 4:5