

right to be called the children of God.” Anyone who steps into eternity un-forgiven, has passed ten thousand churches; has heard twenty-five thousand Christmas carols; and has walked by the cross, telling Jesus, “I don’t need you”.

Our salvation also cost the Father. God is not some vague power, far beyond anything we can imagine. He is a person; and a person feels pain. Isaiah 63:9 says “in all of our afflictions, He is **afflicted**.” Ephesians 4:30 says the **HOLY SPIRIT** is “**grieved**” when we do wrong. **JESUS** “**wept out loud**” when He looked at Jerusalem for the last time, knowing it would be destroyed 40 years later with thousands of people dying who had rejected Him (Luke 19:41).

God was angry when the people He delivered from Egypt, turned back to idols (Exodus 32). When Moses pleaded with Him for mercy, he said He was willing to forgive. When they did it again hundreds of years later, He pictured Himself, in Hosea 11, as father or mother holding a little child, teaching them how to walk. And He said, “How can I give you up”.

God suffered watching **His Son suffer for us**. I have told my members through the years, that I **MIGHT** be willing to die for them. I cannot say I would, because none of us knows that. But I also said, I would never in a million years, give one of my children or grandchildren to die for them.

In seminary, Dr. William Hendrix had an unusual slant on Jesus’ words from the cross, “**My God, my God, why have You forsaken me?**” (Matthew 27:46). In East Texas, we had all watched on TV as emergency responders tried to get a five-year-old boy out of a deep well. They couldn’t go down into the well because the walls would crumble. They dug another hole about ten feet away from it. At the right depth they would dig a small opening and pull him out. The work was slow and we watched

prayerfully as darkness began to fall. His parents were looking down to calm him and let him know they were there. Over and over he cried, “Mama, help me. Daddy, help me.” From time to time the mother or father had to turn away to weep where he could not see them. Dr. Hendrix said there was something of that in the heart of God on Calvary that day. Isaac Watts said:

“Well might the sun in darkness hide / And shut His glories in / When Christ the mighty Maker died / For man the creatures’ sin.

Hosea 11 shows us that God suffers like a parent, when **He sees us sin**. I believe the father saw the boy coming home when he was a long way off because he looked down that road every day. And every parent knows his heart was broken every day. One of the biggest lies out of the pit of hell is when young people sin and say, “I’m not hurting anybody but myself.” They are hurting the people who love them.

Can you imagine how God felt when he saw David in bed with Bathsheba, another man’s wife? God took it personally. He sent Nathan to call him back and said this through him:

“I chose you. / I kept you safe. / I let you rule. / and I would have given you much more than this. Why did you disobey Me and do such a horrible thing?” (2 Samuel 12)

When David repented, he said, “**It is against You and You only that I have sinned.**” He knew he had hurt Bathsheba and her husband; but most of all he knew he had hurt God, who had been good to him (Psalm 51).

Every time we do something wrong, we pick up a hammer and join the crowd at the foot of the cross, that killed Him. Hebrews 6:6 says:

“We crucify the Son of God all over again and subject Him to public disgrace.”