

Prayer List of the Sick and Afflicted:

Ray Sturgill is in the rehab section of the St. Francis hospital in Indianapolis. Following completion of rehab he is hopeful that he will be discharged then will likely return following the first of the year to have a procedure performed to address his heart coronary artery blockage.

Bob Hawkins has been suffering from a viral respiratory infection.

Charlie Henard is being treated for pneumonia.

Floyd Coley is being treated for a respiratory infection.

Iris Hash's son, Bobby Epeards, is doing better with his heart issues and is no longer under hospice care.

Linda Jones had eye surgery in Cincinnati to correct cataracts and to have an iris replacement in her injured eye from her younger days. She is doing well.

Delores Hendrickson is still struggling with a bad cough and is having some vision issues caused by dry macular degeneration in her eyes.

Charlie Henard's niece, Brittany Henard, is battling terminal cancer.

Karen Sproles is still dealing with pain in her knee. She got good results with testing performed regarding her kidneys.

Jean England, daughter of Karen Sproles, is still having stomach issues associated with stress.

Shirley Cook's daughter-in-law is scheduled for gall bladder surgery on Tuesday.

Alice Wade is recovering from surgery performed on her thumb.

John Richardson is battling with bloating and stomach issues.

Pray For Our Shut-Ins:

Gloria Hale, Karen Sproles, Iris Hash, John & Terry Richardson

Pray For The Mission Works We Are Supporting:

John Grubb (Mission work in Asia), Daniel Goshorn and family (Mission work in Peru). See latest mission reports on the bulletin board in the back of the auditorium.

Men's Business Meeting:

The next men's business meeting will be Wednesday, January 1st at 5:00 PM.

Monthly Pitch-in Dinner:

Our next pitch-in dinner will be Sunday, January 5th, following the AM services.

Following the pitch-in, at 1:00 PM, we will have a service in song.

2025 Planning Meetings:

The men and women of the congregation will meet at the building to hold separate meetings on Saturday, January 11th at 9:00 AM to plan works for the 2025.

Radio Program:

Please remember to tune in every Sunday morning at 8:00 AM to WCBK 102.3 FM to hear our radio program which is entitled: "Preparing For Eternity".

God's Plan For Our Salvation

Hearing the word of God (Romans 10:17; Acts 16:32).

Believing what is taught (Mark 16:16; Hebrews 11:6).

Repentance (Acts 2:38; Luke 13:3; Acts 17:30).

Confession (Romans 10:9, 10; Acts 8:37).

Baptism (Acts 2:38; Mark 16:16; I Peter 3:21; Romans 6:3, 4).

Faithful Christian Living, after the above five steps (I Peter 2:11, 12; Rev. 2:10).

December 15, 2024

MORGAN STREET CHURCH OF CHRIST

**540 E. Morgan Street
Martinsville, IN 46151
(765) 342-6027**



Schedule of Services:

Sunday

Bible Study – 9:30 AM

Worship – 10:30 AM

Evening Service - 6:00

Wednesday

Bible Study – 6:00 PM

Thursday

Ladies' Bible Study – 11:00 AM (March through October)

Radio Program:

"Preparing For Eternity"

Sunday Mornings 8:00 AM, WCBK 102.3 FM

Website:

www.morganstreetchurchofchrist.org

Gospel Preacher – Bob Hawkins

ELI, ELI, LAMA SABACHTHANI

John Chowning

Though simple and concise, the Holy Scriptures are also profound. Few sentences in God's word are more weighty than the four Aramaic words Jesus uttered shortly before He declared *"It is finished"*, bowed His head, and gave up His spirit (John 19:30).

One Bible student observed that "this cry of Jesus has more profound content than any mortal can hope to comprehend...This is exactly what finite man should expect when contemplating the Infinite."

This simple question — *"My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?"* (Matt. 27:46) — generates much food for thought and reverent meditation. Consider the following seven points to ponder:

"Eli, Eli, lama sabachtani" is a quotation of Scripture. It is the first verse of the Messianic psalm composed by David a thousand years earlier (Psalms 22:1). This psalm — which is so graphic and precise — has been aptly titled "David's Description of Calvary." In verse sixteen, it predicts the means of Jesus' horrific death, centuries before execution by crucifixion was even introduced into human history! Through the excruciating pain, our Lord still had God's word in His mind and on His tongue. His earthly ministry ended as it had begun — by quoting Scripture (cf. Matt. 4:1-11).

"Eli, Eli, lama sabachtani" is a prayer of horror. "Forsaken" is a harsh, stark, and heartbreaking word. When the apostle John introduces Jesus in his Gospel, he writes: *"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God"* (John 1:1). The Greek preposition translated "with" is *pros*. It denotes a face-to-face relationship of love and intimate fellowship. This relationship is the antithesis of "forsaken." Never before in His existence had Jesus ever experienced the emotional and spiritual anguish and devastation which wallops someone when he has been abandoned by a loved one.

"Eli, Eli, lama sabachtani" is a startling statement. From the book of Genesis onward, the God of heaven consistently promises to be loyal to His people. Consider the following declarations: *"And, behold, I am with thee, and will keep thee in all places whither thou goest, and will bring thee again into this land; for I will not leave thee, until I have done that which I have spoken to thee of"* (Gen. 28:15). *"(For the Lord thy God is a merciful God;) he will not forsake thee, neither destroy thee, nor forget the covenant of thy fathers which he swore unto them"* (Deut. 4:31). *"Be strong and of good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them: for the Lord thy God, he it is that doth go with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee ... And the Lord, he it is that doth go before thee; he will be with thee, he will not fail thee, neither forsake thee: fear not, neither be dismayed"* (Deut. 31:6, 8). *"And they that know thy name will put their trust in thee: for thou, Lord, hast not forsaken them that seek thee"* (Psalms 9:10). *"I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread"* (Psalms 37:25). *"For the Lord will not cast off His people, neither will he forsake His inheritance"* (Psalms 94:14). *"Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for He hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee"* (Heb. 13:5). The

faithfulness of God is a significant trait of His holy character; yet here, Jesus' startling affirmation is that He has been forsaken by Jehovah!

"Eli, Eli, lama sabachtani" is an announcement of propitiation/atonement for humanity's sin. As foreshadowed by the Day of Atonement's scapegoat (Lev. 16) and predicted by Isaiah (53:4-6) at Calvary, Jesus bore our sins in His own body (1 Peter 2:24). God made Him who knew no sin to be a sin offering for us (2 Cor. 5:21). He propitiated God's wrath against all human ungodliness and unrighteousness. It was the only way God could be both just and the justifier of those who obey the Gospel (Rom. 3:26).

"Eli, Eli, lama sabachtani" is irrefutable proof of Jesus' complete obedience. Though the question of "Why?" was on His lips, Jesus never wavered in His obedience to God's will. Being obedient to God to the point of death was an essential requirement for Jesus to be qualified and become the author of eternal salvation (Heb. 5:8-9). Like the patriarch Job, Jesus' love and loyalty to God and His will was independent of His circumstances.

"Eli, Eli, lama sabachtani" is a declaration of divine love for sinners. Hours prior to Calvary Jesus had stated to His apostles, *"Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends"* (John 15:13). The fact that Jesus died for His enemies — not His friends — demonstrates or showcases God's love in a way that sets it apart from all others (Rom. 5:8). From the cross, Jesus could save Himself from death or save us from the second death; He could not do both. He lovingly chose our salvation.

Not only did Jesus' love cost Him His life, His role in the eternal purpose of human redemption — from His incarnation to His ultimate delivering up the kingdom to the Father — has permanent ramifications. The Son — like His bride, the church — shall be subject to God after He has conquered and judged the devil and all evil (1 Cor. 15:27-28). Who can comprehend the breadth, length, depth, and height of such love?

"Eli, Eli, lama sabachtani" is a warning of sobering certainty. At Calvary, God poured out His wrath on His beloved Son. Though He had been beseeched three times in the Garden to let this cup pass, Jehovah's righteousness could not be compromised. If God spared not His own Son, it is a sobering certainty that He will not spare anyone who does not believe the Son. Rather, *"the wrath of God abideth on him"* (John 3:36). He who does not believe and obey the Gospel shall be damned (Mark 16:16). Hell is the eternal abode of the forsaken.