

Christ's Death

By: David C. Mills 02/2001

Recently, I have heard either directly or indirectly; a few people make the statement that suffocation was the cause death for our Lord Jesus Christ on the cross. This disturbs me deeply from within, to think that if indeed he did so, that it would imply that "they" took His life from Him without His control. Thus nullifying His sovereignty.

In each gospel account we read that "He" yielded or gave up the ghost.

Matt 27:50 Jesus, when he had cried again with a loud voice, yielded up the ghost.

Mark 15:37 And Jesus cried with a loud voice, and gave up the ghost.

Luke 23:46 And when Jesus had cried with a loud voice, he said, Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit: and having said thus, he gave up the ghost.

I suppose that some will argue that in Gen 25:17 Ishmael gave up the ghost, Gen 25:8 Abraham gave up the ghost, Gen 35:29 Isaac gave up the ghost, Lam 1:19 my priests and mine elders gave up the ghost, Acts 5:5 Ananias gave up the ghost and in Acts 12:21, Herod gave up the ghost. Or maybe that in Ps 31:5 David said to the Lord, "Into thine hand I commit my spirit". (Ps 31:5 - Into thine hand I commit my spirit: thou hast redeemed me, O LORD God of truth.)

But please keep in mind, that it was never stated in scripture that these men's lives would not be taken from them, by men. (In fact, God also had control over their lives as He does ours, as He did His own.) As for Jesus, John 10:17-18 says "Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again. No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father." The Lord Jesus Christ gave up his own life.

My second thought lies within the account as described by Jesus through John, in chapter 19 of the Book of John.

John 19:30-33 - When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost. The Jews therefore, because it was the preparation, that the bodies should not remain upon the cross on the sabbath day, (for that sabbath day was an high day,) besought Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away. Then came the soldiers, and brake the legs of the first, and of the other which was crucified with him. But when they came to Jesus, and saw that he was dead already, they brake not his legs:

Although we see the obvious prophesy fulfillment in that "not a bone was broken", we can also take note that Christ's legs were never broken, as the other two had, and which had caused them to suffocate. Yes, Christ choose to allow them to hang him on the cross, but I don't believe that scripture warrants the view that they killed Christ. "No man taketh it from me", pretty clear. Christ did not die because life slowly dwindled from His veins as he hung there on the cross. His life was not taken from Him. Christ died because by an act of His will, He dismissed His soul from His body.

Christ was sovereign over His death, as He was sovereign over His resurrection.