

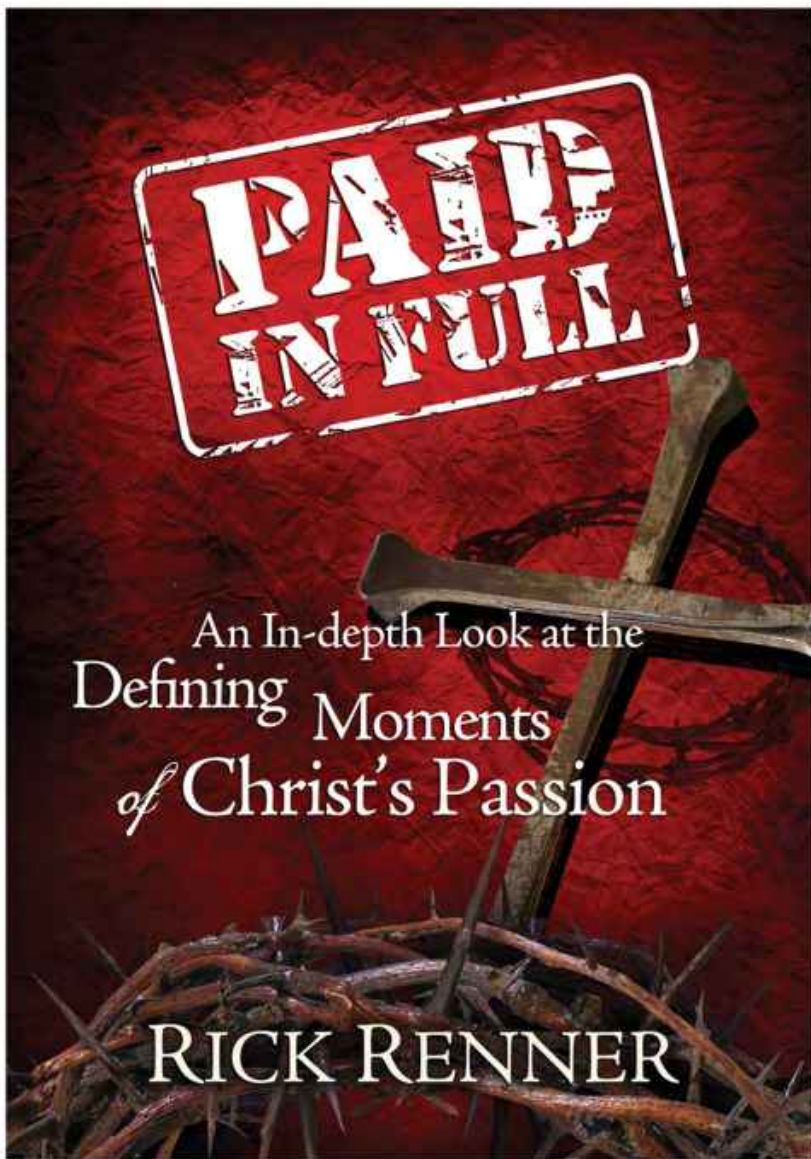
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Defining Moments  
of Christ's Passion

**RICK RENNER**



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*Paid in Full: An In-Depth Look at the Defining Moments of Christ's Passion*

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# *Dedication*

Every Sunday as I was growing up, my pastor, Rev. Robert Post, faithfully preached the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Each week with great conviction, compassion, and boldness, he unflinchingly proclaimed the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. His no-nonsense, unapologetic, clear-cut, compelling, and persuasive presentation of the Gospel dramatically affected me at a young age and still has a formidable influence on my thinking and my philosophy of ministry today.

In this day and age, the preaching of the Cross has become more and more of a rare occurrence. It makes me want to pause and thank God that I had a pastor who faithfully drove the truth of the Cross into my heart, helping me to cherish the Cross and to value the great price that Jesus was willing to pay for me. Over the 20 years Brother Post ministered at our church, his commitment to preach this most important message the world has ever heard never wavered. As a result, I saw many people genuinely repent and come to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ at the altar of our church.

Today it's been nearly 50 years since I first sat under the ministry of my pastor. For decades, I, too, have been giving altar calls and have seen thousands of people commit their lives to Jesus Christ. I would be remiss if I didn't stop to say *thank you* to this precious man for teaching me that leading a soul to Christ is the most important and eternal act I can ever do.

As I stand in front of my own congregation and before audiences in meetings around the world, it is now *my* responsibility to call sinners to repentance and the backslidden to recommitment. As I do, I often remember Brother Post standing before me and the rest of the church, giving his own altar calls. I can still hear his voice as he walked the aisles and passionately begged people to make their hearts right with God.

Brother Post, there is no doubt that today, at least in part, I mirror the example you lived before me as I grew up in your church. I want to

dedicate this book to you, for God mightily used you to drive the message of the Cross deep into my heart. Thank you for demonstrating compassionate love for the lost and for teaching me that leading a soul to Christ is the greatest honor in the world. This was, is, and always will be the greatest and most important message I could ever preach.

My dear pastor, I know that when we all stand before Jesus, much of what has been accomplished through my life and ministry will be accredited to your account, for you have been so instrumental in helping to form who I am and what I believe today. So much of the passion in my heart and the work God is doing through my life is a result of what you imparted to me through your faithful years of service. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

*Rick Renner*

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# *Acknowledgments*

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*Rick Renner*



# Introduction

Easter was always a big day in our home, as it is in most Christian homes. The day on which we celebrate may not be the actual day the event took place, but it is nonetheless a special day to remember and celebrate Jesus' victory over sin, death, and the grave. *It is a sanctified time to focus on the price paid for our souls.* How I thank God that Easter was celebrated by my parents and by the church we attended. It's a memory I'll always cherish!


Unfortunately, far too often we never even think about the final days of Jesus' life except at Easter time. Although the final days of Jesus' life are filled with truths and principles to guide our lives, we don't stop to consider the profound significance of all that happened to Him during that time.

But everything about this story — *everything* — is relevant and applicable to your everyday life. This powerful, life-changing story should not be relegated to one day a year when you celebrate Easter. *This is the story of all stories, filled with truths and pertinent principles that will empower you to overcome in every area of your life!* So I urge you to open your heart as you read the truths contained in these pages. Study to see what you can learn from Jesus to help you walk as He walked on this earth.

It is my prayer that by the time you reach the end of this book, you will have gained a far deeper understanding of the price Jesus paid to set you free — and that as a result, you will never be the same.

*Rick Renner  
Moscow, Russia  
November 1, 2007*





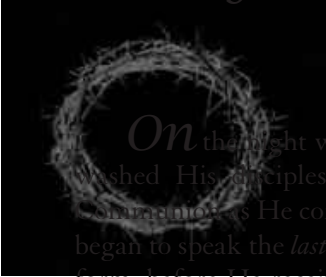
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*Final Words*

## chapter

# 1

## *Jesus' Final Words*



On the night when Jesus was betrayed, He got on His knees and washed His disciples' feet. Then He served the disciples their first Eucharist as He confirmed His covenant with them. Afterward, Jesus began to speak the *last words* He would ever speak to them in His human form, before He received a glorified body. As Jesus looked into the eyes of His disciples, He knew this was the last time He'd speak to them in this capacity. He also knew that these last words would be among the most important words He had *ever* spoken to them.

*So what did Jesus say to His disciples in those final, intimate moments with them?*

Think about what *you* would talk about if you knew you were looking into the eyes of your family members and friends for the last time. I seriously doubt you'd joke or make a lot of small talk.

Such moments are hallowed and sacred. It would be a time for you to carefully weigh your words and to speak what you believe is most important for your listeners to remember after you are gone.

- ❖ If you had the opportunity to speak your *last* words to those you love, wouldn't you carefully choose the words you spoke in that final moment?
- ❖ Wouldn't it be a time to say the things that were most important and dear to your heart — words that communicated the deepest feelings of your soul to your loved ones?

## J E S U S ' F I N A L W O R D S

If you are like the majority of other human beings, it would be your greatest desire in that final moment to make your last words the most thoughtful, advantageous, and heartfelt words you could leave with the people who mean the most to you.

In every person's life, there are key moments when he or she is faced with the need to speak *concluding words*.

- ❖ Before a person slips into eternity, he often prays for an opportunity to speak final words of farewell to his loved ones.
- ❖ A person may need to speak final words at his workplace because of a job change that requires him to relocate and thereby leave behind associates and friends with whom he has worked for a long time.
- ❖ Parents come to that moment when they must carefully speak their last words to their son or daughter right before their child stands before a minister and commits his or her life to someone else in marriage.

There are many different reasons you might need to speak *last words* at various times in your life. Can you think of a time in particular when you had to choose final words to speak to people whom you deeply loved?

I remember such a moment in my life. After serving one church for many years and literally pouring our hearts and souls into that congregation, Denise and I sensed that it was time for us to follow God's call elsewhere. The days passed and the time drew nearer to our last church service with our congregation. More and more I became aware that when I stood before the people as senior pastor for the last time, I'd be preaching the most important message I'd ever preached to that church.

In the years we had served in this church, the congregation had heard many of my sermons. But in that last service, I'd be speaking my *last words* to them as their senior pastor. Therefore, I knew my words had to be carefully chosen and sensitively spoken. It was essential that I leave

them with the message that was most important for them to hear from me as I stood before them for the last time in the role of their senior pastor.

After Jesus washed His disciples' feet and served them their first Communion, He stayed with them and taught them for a lengthy period of time. We don't know exactly how long Jesus' teaching lasted that night, but three entire chapters (John 14, 15, and 16) are devoted to His last words to His disciples. These chapters contain the Spirit-inspired record of what Jesus said to His disciples just hours before He went to the Cross and the grave. This would be the last time He'd ever speak to them as the Leader they had known in human form.

Jesus was about to physically depart from this world. He knew it was absolutely essential that the disciples learn how to rely entirely on the Spirit of God for guidance and direction after He left. Therefore, Jesus used His last moments to teach the disciples how to follow the Holy Spirit's leadership in the same way they had followed Him.

It must have seemed strange to the disciples as they listened to Jesus speak about the Holy Spirit. They had been accustomed to Jesus physically and visibly leading them, but now they were learning that the Spirit of God would become their Leader. This would be a Leader they couldn't see, couldn't touch, and couldn't audibly hear; yet they were supposed to follow Him just as they had followed Jesus. They were probably thinking, *What is the Holy Spirit's leadership going to be like in our lives? Does He act and think differently than Jesus? What is it going to be like to follow the Spirit of God?*

Knowing that these were normal questions to ask, Jesus used His final moments with the disciples to dispel all fear and insecurity they might have felt about following the Holy Spirit's leadership. This is why Jesus was so careful to use key words when He spoke to them about the coming of the Holy Spirit. In John 14:16, for example, Jesus said, "And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter...."

I want to draw your attention to a very important word in this verse — the word “another.” In Greek, there are two possible words for “another.” The first is the Greek word *allos*, and the second is the Greek word *heteros*. The word *allos* means *one of the very same kind; same character; same everything; or nearly a duplicate*. The second word, *heteros*, means *one of another kind or one of a different kind*. This word *heteros* forms the first part of the word *heterosexual*, which, of course, describes someone who has sexual relations with a person of the opposite sex.

**Jesus used  
His final moments  
with the disciples  
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Holy Spirit's  
leadership.**



The Greek word used in John 14:16 is the first word, *allos*. The word *allos* emphatically means that *the Holy Spirit would be like Jesus in every way*. This conveys a very strong and important message about the Holy Spirit. Jesus wanted the disciples to know that the Holy Spirit was just like Him. Following the Holy Spirit wouldn't be any different than following Him, except the Spirit's leadership would be invisible rather than physical and visible, as Jesus' leadership had been.

John 14:16 could thus be translated to mean: *“I will pray the Father, and He will send you Someone who is just like Me in every way. He will be identical to Me in the way He speaks, the way He thinks, the way He operates, the way He see things, and the way He does things. He will be exactly like Me in every way. If the Holy Spirit is here, it will be just as if I am here because We think, behave, and operate exactly the same.”*

Earlier in John 14, Philip told the Lord, “...Shew us the Father, and it sufficeth us” (John 14:8). Jesus answered, “...Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father” (John 14:9).

Jesus was the exact image of the Father when He walked on this earth. Hebrews 1:3 (AMP) declares, “He is the sole expression of the glory

of God [the Light-being, the out-ricing or radiance of the divine], and He is the perfect imprint and very image of [God's] nature....” This means Jesus reflected the character of His Heavenly Father in every way. That is why Jesus told Philip, “...He that hath seen me hath seen the Father....”

Although the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are each distinct Members of the Godhead, there is only one God, and each Person of the Godhead shares the same substance and essence. So if you see Jesus, you see the Father. By looking at Jesus, you can discover the Father's will. Jesus did and said exactly what the Father would do and say. His life, attitudes, and actions were the absolute manifested will of the Father, for the two were united in nature, in character, in thought, and in deed.

As Jesus teaches the disciples about the Holy Spirit, He takes this truth one step further. Just as Jesus is the exact image of the Father in every way, now Jesus unmistakably tells the disciples that when the Holy Spirit comes, He will exactly represent Jesus in every word. That's why the word *allos* is used to make this point. It leaves no room for doubt that the Holy Spirit will be exactly like Jesus.

The word *allos* tells us the Holy Spirit perfectly represents the life and nature of Jesus Christ. Jesus did only what the Heavenly Father would do, and now the Holy Spirit will do only what Jesus would do. As Jesus' Representative on earth, the Holy Spirit never acts on His own or out of character with the life of Jesus Christ.

You see, the Spirit of God was sent to bring us the life of Jesus. Just as Jesus told Philip, “If you've seen Me, you've seen the Father,” now He is telling us, “If you have the Holy Spirit, it will be just as if you have Me.”

I've often heard Christians ask, “I wonder what it must have been like to walk with Jesus. Wouldn't it be wonderful to walk with Him and to hear His voice and talk to Him?” But believers who ask these kinds of questions don't understand the ministry of the Holy Spirit. If they did,

they'd know that having the Holy Spirit with them is just like having Jesus right at their side!

You and I must stop looking backward and grieving over what we missed by not living 2,000 years ago. Instead, we must learn to let the Holy Spirit lead and guide us, just as He did in the Early Church. Jesus' physical absence didn't stop the early believers from performing miracles, raising the dead, casting out demons, healing the sick, or bringing multitudes to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. Because the Holy Spirit was with them, the ministry of Jesus continued uninterrupted in their midst.

Never forget — as a child of God, you have the Holy Spirit working within you and alongside you every moment of every day. And because the Holy Spirit is the exact representation of your Lord and Savior, it's just like having Jesus right there at your side.

Jesus' last words to His disciples revolved around the ministry of the Holy Spirit in the lives of believers. That's how serious this message was to Jesus! Since Jesus considered this subject to be so important, why don't you open your heart to the work of the Spirit today? Let the Holy Spirit represent Jesus to you, your church, your family, your business, and your city, just as He did to believers who lived during the time of the book of Acts.



Your last words to a person, or your final words on a matter, establish a defining moment. Whatever may have transpired before, or whatever may follow afterward, is to be understood and viewed through the lens of those concluding words.

As you consider Jesus' final words to His disciples, think about those individuals for whom you care deeply. If you knew you were slipping into eternity or permanently changing locations, what would your words be to them, and why?



Jesus gave an in-depth description of the Holy Spirit to His disciples. He even told them it was to their advantage that He was going away, for then the Holy Spirit could come into their lives. Unlike Jesus, who at that time could only be *with* them, the Person of the Holy Spirit would move among Jesus' followers collectively and dwell within them individually.

Imagine a scenario in your life in light of this knowledge that you have that kind of supernatural help to you. What distinct advantages open up to you as a result of having constant access to a wise Counselor who is willing to help you in every conceivable way and to give you the right solution to every possible situation?



In what specific ways are you pursuing a deeper relationship with the Person of the Holy Spirit?

## About the Author



Rick Renner ([renner.org](http://renner.org)) holds an earned ThD (Doctor of Theology) from a prominent Russian university and is a respected Bible teacher and leader in the international Christian community. He is the author of an extensive list of books, including bestsellers *Sparkling Gems From the Greek 1* and *2*, and his accumulated titles have sold millions of copies worldwide. Rick's understanding of the Greek language and biblical history opens up the Scriptures in a unique way that enables his audience to gain wisdom and insight while learning something brand new from the Word of God.

Today Rick is the overseer of the Good News Association of Churches, founder of the Moscow Good News Church, pastor of the Internet Good News Church, founder of Media Mir, and president of the Good News Channel — the largest Russian-speaking Christian satellite network in the world, which broadcasts the Gospel 24/7 to countless viewers in more than 83 nations. He is also founder of TBV, a national channel that broadcasts to all of Russia.

Rick is the founder of RENNER Ministries in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma, and host to his TV program, also seen around the world in multiple languages via television, Internet, and satellite. He leads this amazing work with Denise — his wife and life-long ministry partner — along with their sons and committed leadership team.

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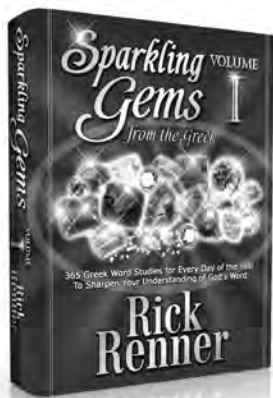
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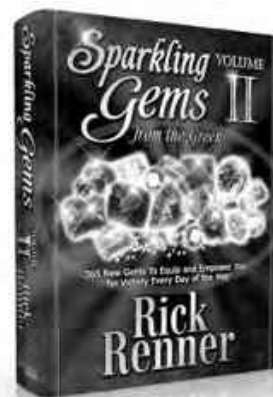
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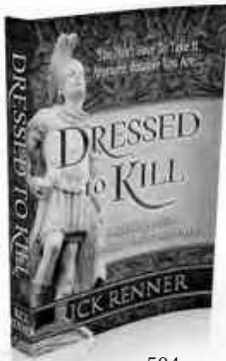
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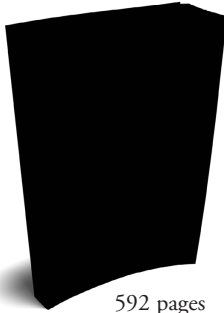
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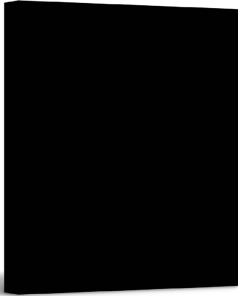
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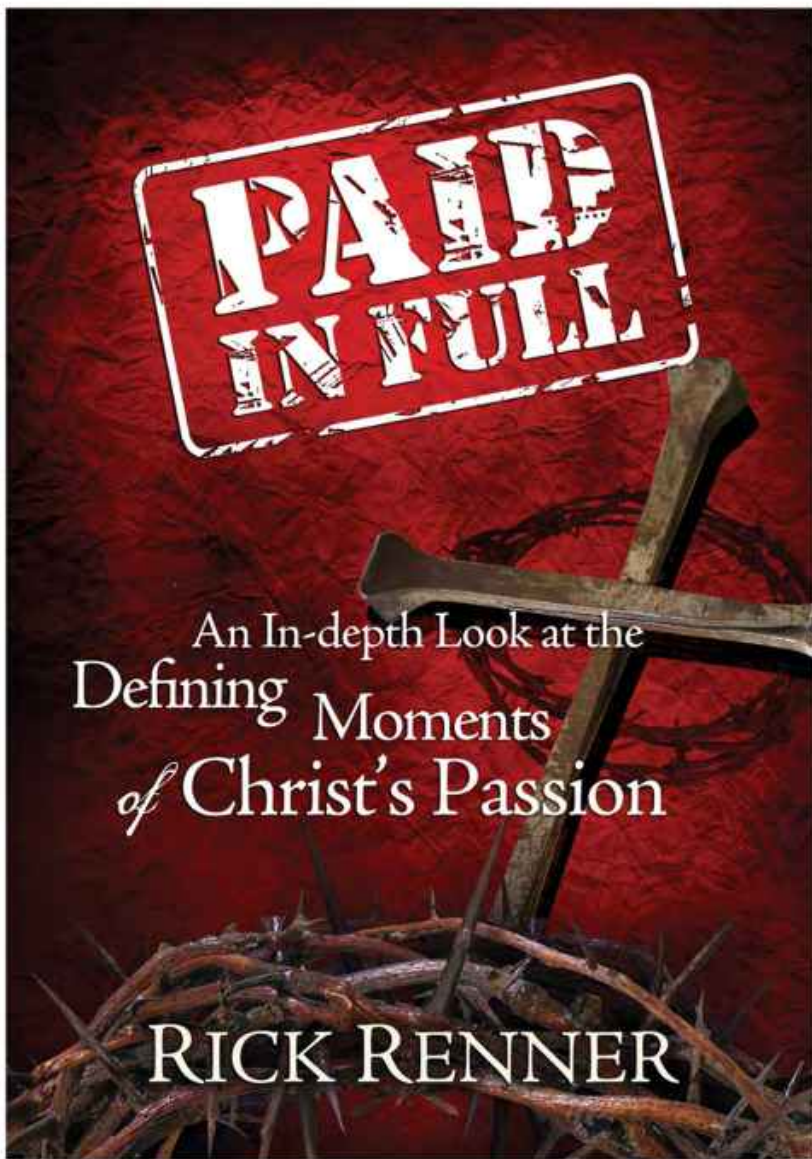
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