

## Forgiveness

By Scott F. Moller

In Luke 23:34a Jesus said, "*Father, forgive them for they do not know what they are doing.*" I think these are some of the most beautiful words ever spoken. These words show us the heart of Jesus while He was hanging on the cross. He had been rejected by the people, falsely accused by the rulers, scourged by the soldiers, and nailed to a cross for a crime He did not commit. He was guilty of nothing, but there was no bitterness in His heart. He was wronged in every way imaginable, yet He was requesting forgiveness for the wrong doers.

One might ask, "How could Jesus have this attitude towards these men?" It was because He understood the will and heart of the Father. God, the Father, desired and was seeking forgiveness for all mankind. This was the very reason and purpose for Jesus being on the Cross. Paul tells us in Romans 5:10a, "*When we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to Him through the death of His Son.*" You see, God did not wait for mankind to seek His forgiveness before He acted. He provided Jesus as the means of forgiveness while men were still hostile towards Him. When Jesus cried out in John 19:30, "*It is finished,*" His work was done. He had conquered sin and forgiven the human race from God's perspective. All that was left was for men to ask for and receive the forgiveness He offered.

In life, we each must grapple with our standing before God. The Apostle Paul declares that we are all sinners and fall short of God's standard (Romans 3:23). Paul continues (Romans 6:23) that because of our sin, we are due death and eternal separation from God. Please take time this Easter Season to examine yourself as you stand before God. Jesus purchased your forgiveness when He hung on the cross in your place. If you have not done so already, pray to Jesus and accept the gift of salvation He is offering to you.