

## His Saving Purpose

We have still not explained why this vinegar mixed with gall or myrrh was incompatible with Jesus' calling-why He could not drink if He was to do His Father's will to the uttermost-why He had to refuse it in order to atone for our sins. In Matt. 26:36, we read of a cup, a drink: "Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt." This, is a different cup than the one the Jews and the Romans wanted to give Him. Of that same cup we read Psalm 75:8 that says: "In the hand of the Lord is a cup, and the wine is red; it is full of mixture; and he poureth out of the same: but the dregs thereof, all the wicked of the earth shall wring them out, and drink them." What cup is Jesus' talking about in these verses? The cup is the wrath of God against our sins, because it was filled with the wrath of God against the sins of His people, and it was so much more bitter than the vinegar mixed with gall. That cup was so bitter that the thought of drinking it made Jesus, the Son of God, pray three times in the garden that it might pass from Him. It was so bitter, that the very thought of drinking it pressed out of Him the bloody sweat in the garden. He, the Son of God, could hardly bear the thought of drinking *that* cup. Christ refused the vinegar mixed with gall, because He had to drink the cup of which Ps. 75:8 speaks. That cup of God's wrath He had tasted in all the suffering that was part of His life on earth. In being forsaken by His own, rejected by men, and despised. He always tasted God's anger with our sins. Now He had to drain that cup to the bottom and taste its bitterest dregs, and the cup of drugged wine or vinegar which was offered Him would not allow Him to taste the bitterest of the cup that God had given Him to drink. He could not drink both times that it was offered to Him, for as Lev. 10:8-10 states: "and that ye may put difference between holy and unholy, and between unclean and clean."

As the High Priest, all His life He was doing the work of the Old Testament priest. Take no wine or strong drink, especially, wine that was drugged, that will affect His judgment and senses. He fulfilled prophecy, and was under the law and obeyed it. Also, the giving of His life, was an act of self-sacrifice. He gave His life in His passion, therefore, our lives do not belong to us but to Jesus for He was the Lamb who was being offered for our sins.

Jesus drank the cup of God's wrath because He loved His own. He loved them to the end. The only thing that saves us from having to drink the cup of God's wrath is faith in Jesus Christ. It is the faith that unites you to Him, so that you can say: "He drank it for me. I am in Him by faith." The cup is also a blessing that you will drink to the fill when you stand in the presence of God and are present at the wedding feast of the Lamb as revealed in Rev. 22.

\*\*\*\*(excerpted from: [www.prc.org](http://www.prc.org))

## *"Jesus Tasting and Not Drinking"*



*Jesus knew His calling so perfectly, that He would and could not drink this vinegar mixed with gall.*

*This was Satan's last attempt to turn Christ aside from the work that God had given to him.*

*Everything He did on the Cross  
He was doing to work out our salvation.*

## "Jesus Tasting and Not Drinking"

\*We have in Matthew 27:34 what seems like a rather minor detail in the story of Jesus' crucifixion. It's even possible that we have read this account of Jesus' suffering and never realized that there were two occasions during His crucifixion when He was offered something to drink. This is no minor detail, but part of the Gospel of the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is were not important, it would not be recorded for us in the Gospel.

There are many other things that we would like to know about the crucifixion that are not recorded. They are not included in Scripture, because they are not necessary for us to know. The things that are included are there because they are necessary. That is the doctrine of the *sufficiency* of Scripture. That doctrine means that everything necessary for our salvation is recorded in Scripture, and, by the same token, that what is recorded, *is* necessary.

That is true of what we have here in Matthew 27:34: "They gave him vinegar to drink mingled with gall: and when he tasted thereof, He would not drink." That is the Gospel. If Jesus had drunk that vinegar mixed with gall, there would have been no redemption for us, and we have to know He did not drink it because it was one of the things that had to be done for our salvation, in order that atonement might be made for our sins.

With this in mind, let us notice three things in connection with this theme:

1. "His Bitter Cup." The vinegar mingled with gall that was offered to him. 2. "His Steadfast Refusal to Drink of the Cup." That "When He had tasted thereof, He *would not* drink." 3. "His Saving Purpose in Not Drinking of that Cup." Why did Our Lord refuse that vinegar mingled with gall? The answer to this question is that Jesus had a definite, saving purpose in refusing that cup. \*(excerpted from: [www.prea.org](http://www.prea.org))

\*\*In both Matt. 27:34 and Mark 15:23, Jesus is offered wine mingled with gall and myrrh. What is gall and myrrh? Gall is bile secreted by the liver. Biblically, it is used to denote bitterness of spirit (Acts 8:23). Myrrh is an aromatic gum that grows in Arabia, Abyssinia, and India. It was used to sweeten the smell and taste of various foods. It was also used in embalming (John 19:39). In Greek, wine mingled with gall is "ozos" which is a mixture of sour wine or vinegar and water. In Greek, wine mixed with myrrh is "oinos" which simply means wine.

\*\*\*(excerpted from: [www.carm.org](http://www.carm.org))

\*\*\*The Holy Sponge is one of The Instruments of The Passion of Jesus, and it was dipped in this sour wine. An object that was identified as the Holy Sponge was later identified and venerated in Palestine, in the Upper Room of the Constantinian Basilica, where Sophronius spoke of it, circa 600 AD. A piece of The Sponge, brown with blood, is preserved in St. John Lateran Basilica in Rome. More pieces are preserved in Rome at the Basilica di Santa Maggiore, Santa Maria in Trastevere and at St. Mary in Campitelli. \*\*\*(excerpted from: [//en.wikipedia.org](http://en.wikipedia.org))

## His Bitter Cup

\*\*\*The vinegar, mingled with gall, was not the only thing that Jesus had an opportunity to drink on the cross. There were two occasions where drink was offered to Him. The first was just before He was nailed to the cross. The second was, after six hours of suffering, when He Himself said, "I thirst", and someone gave Him vinegar to drink on a sponge. There was a difference as to what was offered Him on those two occasions. In the first instance, it was wine or vinegar mixed with gall or myrrh. On the second occasion it was just vinegar. Jesus refused the wine mixed with gall or myrrh because He had not yet been nailed to the cross. This mixture was a drug used to sedate those who were being crucified. On the second occasion the wine was intended to be a sedative as stated in Prov. 31:6. It was offered not out of pity, but so that both the Jews and Romans together might more easily carry out their wicked purpose. Jesus was offered no pity (Psalm 69:20).

## His Steadfast Refusal

Scripture is very definite about Jesus refusing this drink. It does not say that He *did not* drink but He *would not*. Jesus' refusal to drink lies in the fact, that everything He did on the cross He was doing to work out our salvation. He was coming to the climax of His work in this life. Every step of His earthly life led Him to the cross, and everything He did was somehow related to our salvation and involved in that great work of making atonement for our sins. There was not a word He spoke, nor anything He did, that did not have to do with the work of redemption. He was fulfilling the will of His heavenly Father and saying: "Not My will, but Thine be done" for our salvation. Jesus knew His calling so perfectly, that He would and could not drink this vinegar mixed with gall.

In fact, in light of His refusal, we can go so far as to say, that this was Satan's last attempt to turn Christ aside from the work that God had given Him to do. All through His ministry He had to deal with Satan. The three temptations in the wilderness; when Jesus' rebukes Peter when he tells the disciples of His coming passion; and, now the offering of wine to drink to turn Jesus aside from that great work which God had given Him to do for our redemption. If Jesus had taking a drink, it would have been impossible for Him to make atonement for our sins. Christ refuses the temptation that this drink represented, thereby securing for us our salvation.