

It is Finished!

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John 19:28–30 (NKJV) *“After this, Jesus, knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the Scripture might be fulfilled, said, ‘I thirst!’²⁹ Now a vessel full of sour wine was sitting there; and they filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on hyssop, and put it to His mouth.³⁰ So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, ‘It is finished!’ And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.”*

Luke 23:46 (NKJV) *“And when Jesus had cried out with a loud voice, He said, ‘Father, “into Your hands I commit My spirit.” ’ Having said this, He breathed His last.”*

Jesus was not murdered on the Cross. No one took His life from Him. No one could. Jesus laid down His life willingly as a substitutionary sacrifice for sin. Jesus said, *“No one takes 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 command I have received from My Father.”*¹ Jesus did not die from asphyxiation as others who were crucified. Jesus died with a shout of “It is finished!” His words were not a whimper of relief or the whine of defeat but a shout of victory! What did Jesus mean when He said, “It is finished!”?

First “It is finished!” means that Jesus finished the work that the Father sent Him to do.² Jesus was sent to be a ransom for many.³ Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.⁴ The words spoken by the prophets for the past four thousand years pointed forward to this exact moment on the Cross. The divine plan of redemption from eternity past was now fulfilled!⁵

Second “It is finished!” means that the love of God has been fully displayed. On the Cross God put His love on full display. John the apostle declared, *“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”*⁶ Again he said, *“By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us....”*⁷ There is no greater love than this that God gave His Son and the Son gave His life! Friend, do you know how much God loves you? Look at the Cross and understand!

Third “It is finished!” means that the final sacrifice for sin has been made; the Lamb of God was slain! The millions of past sacrifices pointed to this one final Sacrifice. From the lamb slain by God to clothe Adam and Eve in the Garden to the Passover lambs being slain the moment Jesus died on the Cross. Jesus Christ became God’s substitutionary sacrifice for our sins. Through the one Sacrifice of Christ the entire sacrificial system of the Old Testament was fulfilled and rendered obsolete.⁸

The substitutionary sacrifice of Christ was foreshadowed in Genesis 22:7–8 (NKJV): *“But Isaac spoke to Abraham his father and said, ‘My father!’ And he said, ‘Here I am, my son.’ Then he said, ‘Look, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?’⁸ And Abraham said, ‘My son, God will provide for Himself the lamb...’”* The sacrifice of Christ was not an after-thought for sin. In His foreknowledge, God had already provided for Himself in eternity past a Lamb, His own Son.⁹ The Lamb of God left the realm of eternity to enter the realm of time, space, and history in the Person of Jesus Christ: *“The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, ‘Behold! The Lamb of God*

¹ John 10:18 (NKJV)

² John 17:4

³ Mark 10:45

⁴ John 1:29

⁵ Revelation 13:8

⁶ John 3:16 (NKJV)

⁷ 1 John 3:16 (NKJV)

⁸ Hebrews 9:24-28

⁹ Revelation 13:8

*who takes away the sin of the world!”*¹⁰ Jesus Christ became our final Passover Lamb to deliver us from the wrath to come.¹¹ The sacrifice of Christ was acceptable and pleasing to God: *“And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.”*¹² In the realm of eternity, the sacrifice of Christ will always be a NOW reality.¹³ His sacrificial blood even now pleads mercy and forgiveness toward those who believe.¹⁴

Fourth “It is finished!” means that the debt of our sin is paid! Through His substitutionary sacrifice Jesus paid a debt He did not owe to deliver us from a debt we could not pay. What was the payment price for our debt? It was His own blood shed on the Cross in our place. On the night before He was crucified, He took the cup and said, *“For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.”*¹⁵ Paul declared, *“In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace.”*¹⁶

Fifth, “It is finished!” means that the justice of God is satisfied! Because of sin we deserve judgment and wrath. At the Cross Jesus absorbed the wrath of God intended for us: *“Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted.”*⁵ *But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed.*⁶ *All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way; and the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.”*¹⁷ God’s justice demanded that His Son suffer and die. His love made Him willing that His Son suffer and die. His love made Him willing to meet the demands of His justice.

Sixth “It is finished!” means that the guilt of sin is cleansed! Hebrews 9:14 (NKJV) declares, *“how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?”* 1 John 1:9 (NKJV) is clear, *“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”* Many allow a guilty conscience to torment them long after their sin has been forgiven by God. Friend, don’t run from God when you sin. You can be forgiven and your conscience cleansed through faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ on your behalf!

Seventh, “It is finished!” means that the power of sin is broken! Through His Cross, Jesus has not only forgiven us our sinful acts but has broken the power of the sin nature. The sin nature has no more dominion over those who believe: *“knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin.”*⁷ *For he who has died has been freed from sin. Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him,*⁹ *knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him.*¹⁰ *For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God.*¹¹ *Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.*¹² *Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts.*¹³ *And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.*¹⁴ *For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace.”*¹⁸ Through the Cross we have been redeemed from the old taskmaster of sin. We are no longer a slave to the old sin nature. We are free! By faith in the finished work of Christ and His Cross we must live out our liberty! We must

¹⁰ John 1:29 (NKJV)

¹¹ 1 Corinthians 5:7; 1 Thessalonians 1:10

¹² Ephesians 5:2 (NKJV)

¹³ Revelation 5:6-7

¹⁴ Hebrews 12:24

¹⁵ Matthew 26:28 (NKJV)

¹⁶ Ephesians 1:7 (NKJV)

¹⁷ Isaiah 53:4-6 (NKJV)

¹⁸ Romans 6:6-14 (NKJV)

renew our minds to the reality of our forgiveness and deliverance in Christ and start thinking like a free man rather than a slave. Don't let sin and the devil tell you that you "have to sin" anymore!

Eighth "It is finished!" means our marriage to the law is ended and our marriage to Christ has begun! Israel was married to the Law of Moses at Mt. Sinai. Through the Cross of Christ, the believer dies to the law so that they might be married to Christ: *"Or do you not know, brethren (for I speak to those who know the law), that the law has dominion over a man as long as he lives? ² For the woman who has a husband is bound by the law to her husband as long as he lives. But if the husband dies, she is released from the law of her husband. ³ So then if, while her husband lives, she marries another man, she will be called an adulteress; but if her husband dies, she is free from that law, so that she is no adulteress, though she has married another man. ⁴ Therefore, my brethren, you also have become dead to the law through the body of Christ, that you may be married to another—to Him who was raised from the dead, that we should bear fruit to God."* ¹⁹ Because of the finished work of Christ on the Cross, we are no longer obligated to keep the law to earn righteousness before God. We are now married to Christ and are under the law of Christ which is love.²⁰

Ninth "It is finished!" means that God's free gift of righteousness is now available to sinners! Through the Cross Jesus carried our sin so that we might receive His righteousness.²¹ God now offers to all sinners the free gift of His own righteousness simply through faith in His Son, Jesus Christ and what He did on the Cross. Faith in Christ and His Cross now supersedes the law as the basis of right standing before God: *"For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes... But the righteousness of faith speaks in this way, 'Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?' ' (that is, to bring Christ down from above) ⁷ or, 'Who will descend into the abyss?' ' (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). ⁸ But what does it say? 'The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart' (that is, the word of faith which we preach): ⁹ that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."* ²²

Tenth, "It is finished!" means that the sentence of death is reversed! Jesus tasted death for sin in our place: *"But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone."* ²³ Although these physical bodies will one day die, those who believe will continue to live in His presence. One day, death will suffer its final defeat at the resurrection when Christ returns: *"So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: 'Death is swallowed up in victory.' ⁵⁵ 'O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?' ⁵⁶ The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. ⁵⁷ But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."* ²⁴ As believers, we belong to Christ and have already received the gift of eternal life. Even though we die, yet shall we live!²⁵ Through the Cross the power of death is broken!

Eleventh, "It is finished!" means that the grip of Satan is loosed! Satan's legal accusations against us because of sin are nullified: *"And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses, ¹⁴ having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. ¹⁵ Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a*

¹⁹ Romans 7:1-4 (NKJV)

²⁰ 1 Corinthians 9:21

²¹ 2 Corinthians 5:21

²² Romans 10:4, 6-10 (NKJV)

²³ Hebrews 2:9 (NKJV)

²⁴ 1 Corinthians 15:54-57 (NKJV)

²⁵ John 11:25-26 (NKJV)

*public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.”*²⁶ Believers can now overcome the guilt of sin and the accusations of Satan by virtue of placing our faith in the blood of the Lamb.²⁷ Through faith in the finished work of Christ on the Cross there is no longer any accusation of sin that can stick to us! Satan’s legal access because of sin has been nullified. The voice of Christ’s blood declares, “Forgiven! Case closed!”

Twelfth “It is finished! Means that the way into God’s presence is secured for those who believe! Colossians 1:20 (NKJV) declares, *“and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross.”* After Christ yielded up His Spirit to the Father in death, the veil of the temple was torn from top to bottom signifying that the way into the Holy of Holies was now open. We now have access to God apart from a High Priest, a human priesthood, or heavenly saint. Our access to the Father is through Jesus Christ alone: *“Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.* ¹⁵ *For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.* ¹⁶ *Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”*²⁸ God sent Jesus to restore us in a relationship with Him. Don’t allow the guilt and condemnation of sin to deny Him of the reward of His sacrifice! He wants us to come to Him with confidence in the finished work of His Son!

Finally “It is finished!” means that the day of salvation has come to all who will believe! The work of redemption is complete. There is nothing you and I can add to it. There is no other person or church who can do more than what Christ has already done. Faith in Christ alone is the only Way to the Father.²⁹ It would be blatant unbelief and an utter insult to the blood of Christ to try! The Way has been made for those who will believe in the finished work of Christ on the Cross.

Have you believed in the finished work of Jesus on the Cross to save you? Have you allowed the blood of Christ to cleanse your conscience from the guilt and condemnation? Have you accepted your freedom from sin’s power? Have you found rest in Christ realizing that you no longer have to work for God’s favor and forgiveness? You can by faith in knowing that “It is finished!”

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²⁶ Colossians 2:13-15 (NKJV)

²⁷ Revelation 12:10-11

²⁸ Hebrews 4:14–16 (NKJV)

²⁹ John 14:6