

It Is Finished John 19:30

The angel announced to Mary that she was to have a Son and that His name was to be Jesus, which is Greek for Savior. At His birth the angels announced to the shepherds that unto them was born in the City of David a Savior. Jesus Himself announced, according to Luke 19:10, that the Son of Man came to seek and to save those who were lost. Later the Apostle Paul, writing to Timothy, made it crystal clear that Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners (I Timothy 1:5). And on the Cross, after taking upon Himself our sins, Jesus cried for all to hear, **“It is finished.”** The great transaction was complete. Paul wrote in Ephesians 1:4 that the whole plan of salvation was conceived before the foundation of the world, while creation was still in the planning stages. It was announced to Adam and Eve immediately upon their sin as recorded in Genesis 3 and then slowly but surely it was illustrated in the ceremonies of the Old Testament and explained by the Old Testament prophets. At just the right time in history, Jesus was born and then, 33 years later, on the Cross He declared, **“It is finished.”** What exactly was finished? **First**, all the prophecies concerning His life and death were completed or finished. **Second**, the redemptive plan was completed or finished.

It is finished. All of the prophetic passages that predicted not only His coming but dozens of details about His life were now completed or fulfilled. I know that seems of minor significance to many but to Jesus it was tremendously important. Recall the hours following Jesus’ last meal with the disciples, after He had spent time in prayer, and as He was about to be arrested. Peter was there and took out his sword and began to defend Jesus and to prevent His arrest. Read in Matthew 26:52-54 what Jesus said lovingly but firmly to Peter. Three days later, after Jesus had been raised from the dead, He joined some of His followers on the road to Emmaus. Read Luke 22: 27. Later Jesus appeared to His disciples. Read Luke 22: 44.

If the words **“it is finished”** spoke of the completion of the predictions of Scripture and, therefore, completion of the testimony to the truth of who He was and what He had come to do, they also spoke of the completion of our redemption. The promise of the Old Testament was for a Savior on whom the sacrifice for our sins could be laid. In the words prior to this Jesus referred to Himself as **“I”** as in **I thirst**. Next, He turned to the task in **“it”** is finished. **“It is finished or completed”** is used on 3 very special occasions in Scripture. It is used in Genesis 2:1 where we read the heavens and earth were completed or finished. **Creation was finished**. Secondly, in Revelation 16:17 we read that the 7th and final judgment comes with these words, **“It is done”** or **“it is finished.”** Between creation and the end of the ages sin entered into the world and sought to destroy that which God had created and eliminate the possibility of heaven for all those He created in His image. But on the Cross, between the finished creation and the finished judgment on sin, we hear, **“It is finished,”** or **“It is done.”** The provision for salvation had been completed and thus creation could be redeemed. Judgement could be avoided, and heaven was made possible.

It is important to note that in the Greek it is clear that the word is **“it”** is done and not **“I”** am done. This word spoken from the Cross was not the cry of one about to die but of one who has

completed His task. It is true that with this cry the suffering of the Cross and the horrors associated with our redemption were complete, but the primary focus was on the task for which He had come into the world. In Isaiah 53:6 we read that **“all we like sheep have gone astray but the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.”** And Jesus declared, **“It is finished.”** II Corinthians 5:21 declares, **“He made Him to be sin for us who knew no sin that we might be made righteous in Him.”** Jesus declared, **“It is finished.”** John wrote in Revelation 5:9 that **“He was slain and has redeemed us out of every nation, tribe and language to be a people unto himself.”** Jesus declared, **“It is finished.”** The work He had come to do was finished.

He had been born for just that purpose and now **“It is finished.”** Scripture tells us that it is appointed unto man once to die but we were not created to die. We were created to live forever in fellowship with our creator. Jesus was not born to live. He alone was born to die. When Jesus left the glories of heaven to be born of a woman it was for one purpose only, to die, to die in the place of the otherwise condemned mankind. When He was dedicated in the temple it was announced that a sword would pierce His side. And as the time was accomplished that He should be delivered up unto death He willingly traveled to Jerusalem and the death for which He had come. So, on the Cross He could say **“It is finished.”** The mission for which He had entered the world was now complete. All that remained was the final breath that would come moments later as He committed Himself into the hands of His Father.

If we had the time we could explore for hours the salvation that was accomplished on the Cross that day when Jesus took upon Himself our sin and paid fully the price of it. Those He came to ransom were now able to be set free. The lost that He came **“to seek and to save”** could now be saved. Those who had been in darkness could now see a bright light. Pick any of the terms used to describe our salvation, ransomed, redeemed, atonement, saved, justified and you discover that all are now possible because of, and I might add only because of, the Cross and the words, **“It is finished.”**

“It is finished” also means that Satan has been defeated. It is true that as of now Satan has not been put into chains and cast into the bottomless pit called hell that was specifically prepared for him and all his followers. But his sentence has been passed and his doom is certain. His power has been broken. Hebrews 2:16 tells us that through the death of Christ the power of Satan has been destroyed. Paul expressed it in Colossians 1:13 this way, **“we have been delivered from the power of darkness.”** **“It is finished”** and forever more Satan can be treated as a defeated enemy who no longer has the right to any claim upon those who have appropriated the finished work of Christ on the Cross. James wrote in 4:7 that now all we need to do is **“resist the devil and he will have to flee from us.”** It is finished, and Satan is finished.

Let me note something that is very important. **“It is finished”** means **“It is finished.”** **“It is finished”** means there is nothing else that needs to be done. **“It is finished”** means it is completed. There is nothing that we will ever need to do to add to it. Jesus did not say “It is almost finished” or “I have done my part. Now you do your part.” He said **“It is finished”**

period. So, Paul can declare that we are saved by faith and faith alone. It only needs to be appropriated.

Not only was it completed, it never needs to be repeated. Hebrews records for us that, unlike the Old Testament sacrifices that had to regularly be repeated, Jesus's death was different. Read Hebrews 10:12

What does this mean to us? First, it means that all which must yet be done is that it be appropriated. **"It is finished"** is sufficient for all men but it is efficient only to those who have accepted it. You and I have to appropriate by faith that which Jesus finished on the Cross.

Second, because **"It is finished,"** access to the Father is now possible. Minutes after Jesus spoke those words the veil of the temple in Jerusalem that stood for the separation of God and man was split in two. Fellowship with God is now possible. **"It is finished"** is the victory cry of our Lord and victories are to be celebrated. Paul wrote that death was swallowed up in victory and that thought led him to declare **"thanks be to God who gives us that victory."** While **"It is finished"** praise for it should continually flow from our lips.

Finally, the message **"It is finished"** needs to be shared with all. That truth is too good to be kept a secret. The battle has been won. **"It is finished."** Yet 2000 years later there are still those who have never heard that the victory has been won. They are still fighting their war because no one has ever gone to tell them, **"It is finished."** They are still trying to earn salvation some other way, still living in fear, still living in sin. It is a crime to think that in our neighborhood and among the people we interact with all the time there are still those who have never heard that **"It is finished."** Those words are a call to praise His Name, and they are also a call to share our faith in Jesus whose work was complete when He secured our redemption on the Cross.

"It is finished." Praise the Lord for that victorious declaration.