**HIS CRUCIFIXION - OUR VICTORY!**

**JOHN 19:28-30**

***So when Jesus had received the sour wine (vinegar), He said, “It is finished!” And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit. - John 19:30***

Today is Good Friday – the day we commemorate the crucifixion and death of Jesus Christ. God who kept us by his mercies, deserve all the praises and thanksgiving. It is clear that it certainly wasn’t a good day for Jesus considering the pains he had to endure pain, the soul-agonizing agony, the monstrous nails that held him hanging on the cross for hours, his death on a rough wooden cross – all for our sake. For us however, it was a Good Friday because of what his death accomplished for us.

The three-hour darkness was already past and the awful cup drained. The precious blood had already been shed and the wrath of God endured by Jesus on the cross. Jesus cried out – calling for water. But instead of water or at most, wine in a cup, the soldiers soaked a sponge in vinegar, put it on a spear and held it up to his lips. It was terribly bitter but what else could he do? Jesus realized that scripture had to be fulfilled. After this, he strained to raise his head and look up to heaven – and cried, "It is finished!" Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

**IT IS FINISHED!**

The phrase "It is finished" or tetelestai (Greek) was well known to the people then as a part of everyday language. Whenever a trader sold some goods and the money was handed over, he would say, "tetelestai – the deal is finished, complete. The price has been paid in full. I am satisfied". Whenever any servant completes a job given by his master, he would say to the master – tetelestai - "I have overcome all the obstacles and difficulties and have done the job to the best of my ability. It is finished".

**WHAT IS IT THAT JESUS SAY, IS “FINISHED?”**

“It is finished” was not a cry of despair or of a helpless person. It was not an expression of satisfaction that his suffering has finally come to

an end as he died.

Rather it was a declaration that all for which he came from heaven to earth was now done. Jesus is saying that his job of saving the world has been completed. The great purpose of God in the history of man was now accomplished. His sacrificial work is now finished and nothing is to be added or subtracted to what has been done. Jesus paid the price in full – cancelling all debts. God had accepted his sacrifice as a perfect one. Looking down on his Son hanging lifelessly from the cross, said, the Father said, "Well done, this is my dear Son with whom I am well pleased". Tetelestai – it is finished. Everything is complete! Praise the Lord!

It is finished – Jesus himself said on the cross. This statement is a statement of victory and has a lot of significance and implications:

1. a. Our sins were paid for fully and he won forgiveness for all people. No longer are we objects of God’s wrath but of his praise and glory! Our sins were transferred to the Savior (Isa 53:6). His cross became the grave of our sins. He fulfilled the law’s requirements on our behalf.

Having won the victory over sin for you by paying fully for your sins, you have no business going back to sin. Remember that there remains no more sacrifice for sins if after being saved, you go back to sin willfully (Heb. 10:26; Rom. 6:1-2).

1. b. The plan of God had been fully carried out and no works from us are demanded as the price for our salvation. All that is required from us now is to rest by faith upon what Christ did – the salvation he purchased for us by his death on the cross. The gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. Jesus died on the cross to get rid of the power of sin, which condemned us before. Nothing else needs to be done. Salvation is complete. It is finished.

It is important that you examine yourself on a day like this whether you have been saved and are still standing! There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus (Rom 8:1).

1. c. Atonement for our sins has been accomplished. Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. He was manifested to take away our sins (1John 3:5). All that a holy God requires has been done; nothing is to be added to this finished work of Christ to secure God’s favor.

In order that you will be a beneficiary of this atonement, all you have to do is accept the pardon, which he purchased. If God himself is satisfied with the work of Christ, why should you not be satisfied with it? You’ll only be trying (but in vain) to nullify the finished works of Christ by your miserable additions to it.

1. d. Satan’s power has been destroyed! The moment Jesus died was like a moment of his defeat and Satan’s triumph, but in reality, it was the hour of Jesus’ ultimate victory and Satan’s defeat. By saying “it is finished,” Jesus secured victory over sin, death and the devil. And this victory is ours today!

As a Christian (if you are), the devil is a vanquished foe. Christ defeated him at the cross. You do not have to be afraid of the devil and his agents anymore. As a child of God, you have been delivered from the power of darkness and translated into the kingdom of the Son of God. Treat Satan then as a defeated enemy henceforth because he no longer has any legitimate claim on you. Once you were Satan’s captive but now Christ has freed you. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. It is finished! If the Son of God says, It is finished, who will dare question him? It is true Satan has not yet been chained or cast into the bottomless pit, nevertheless, a sentence has been passed and his doom is certain. His power is completely destroyed over your life as far as believers are concerned. Therefore, by faith in Christ Jesus, receive your victory today! Yes, believed that the sickness, wondering, endless search or waiting, sickness, disappointment, disgrace, crises, fear, failure, spiritual drought or famine which has bedeviled you all the while, is finished because Jesus says so! Believe that Jesus died and that by his death, all such problems were also put to death. Go on and live a victorious new life at work, family, business and church in the name of Jesus.

1. e. The restoration of the friendship between God and humanity has been accomplished. Reconciliation with God is finished. A terrible gap came between God and all mankind because of sin and evil. We destroyed our relationship with God by the hurts we caused him through our disobedience. His death bridged the deep gulf between God and us. We are no longer enemies of God but children of God because Christ has reconciled us to God by his death on the cross.

You are a friend of God. Do not live any longer as an enemy by continuing in sin! Sin is enmity between a man and God.

**CONCLUSION**

“It is finished” contains the ground of the believer’s assurance; in it we have the sum of all joy and the very spirit of all divine consolation.

Jesus' cry: "It is finished" is clear and simple. He has completed his task. The reason why he came as a human has been fulfilled. He came so that you and I can have forgiveness and salvation. He came to give us the victory. He came to ensure that we enter his kingdom and live forever after our life on earth. His finished work is the ground of all our hopes and it is our victory – a victory that belongs only to those who believe in his atoning and redemptive works, and who have received him as Lord and Savior. In such hearts he now reigns to give them victory. But those who are still in sin are condemned already and susceptible to defeats and failures. If they repent however, their stories will be changed from that of victims to victors, sinners to saints, failure to success, etc. And today is a good opportunity.

Are you still in sin and yet to come to Jesus to be saved? There is good news for you on this Good Friday: the moment you believe God’s testimony concerning his Son Jesus Christ, that moment every sin of yours will be blotted out and you will stand accepted in Christ Jesus. You will become a citizen of heaven, friend of God and co-heirs with Jesus. Believe the Lord to do so, for he is the one who says, It is finished!

Many blessings this Good Friday and beyond!

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