

Easter Series: The Crucifixion of Jesus: It is Finished!

John 19:16-30



John 19:16-30 So he then delivered Him over to them to be crucified. 17 They took Jesus, therefore, and He went out, bearing His own cross, to the place called the Place of a Skull, which is called in Hebrew, Golgotha. 18 There they crucified Him, and with Him two other men, one on either side, and Jesus in between. 19 And Pilate also wrote an inscription and put it on the cross. It was written, "Jesus the Nazarene, The King of the Jews." 20 Therefore many of the Jews read this inscription, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, Latin, and in Greek. 21 So the chief priests of the Jews were saying to Pilate, 'Do not write, "The King of the Jews;" but that He said, 'I am King of the Jews.'" 22 Pilate answered, "What I have written I have written." 23 Then the soldiers, when they had crucified Jesus, took His garments and made four parts, a part to each soldier and also His tunic; now that tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from the top. 24 So they said to one another, "Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it, to decide whose it shall be;" this was in order that the Scripture would be fulfilled; "They divided my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots." 25 Therefore the soldiers did these things. But standing by the cross of Jesus were His mother, and His mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. 26 When Jesus then saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing nearby, He said to His mother, "Woman, behold, your son!" 27 Then He said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother!" From that hour the disciple took her into his home. 28 After this, Jesus, knowing that all things had already been finished, in order to finish the Scripture, said, "I am thirsty." 29 A jar full of sour wine was standing there; so they put a sponge full of the sour wine upon a branch of hyssop and brought it up to His mouth. 30 Therefore when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!" And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.

The Apostle John records the last words of Jesus, "It is finished!" It is in Christ's final declaration from the cross that one discovers the rich meaning of what exactly Jesus has brought to a full end in His death.

1) Christ's Suffering For Our Sin is Finished. Prior to His death, Matthew 27 records that for three hours darkness fell over the whole land, and Jesus cries out "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?" This forsaking of Jesus on the cross is a result of God placing all of our sin onto Christ; past, present, and future. In His suffering, our sins are removed and placed on Jesus's account as God poured out His judgement on Christ. In His suffering, Jesus finished everything required to remove your sins.

2) Christ's Payment for Our Sin is Finished. The Greek form for Jesus's final words is, "Tetelesti", "paid in full". There is no payment due to all who believe for the penalty of sin. Paul tells us that the "...wages of sin is death..." (Rom 6:23) and the author of Hebrews tells us "...without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness." (Heb 9:22). In His death, Jesus shed His blood and paid in full the penalty for sin so that whosoever believes can have eternal life in His name.

3) Christ's Fulfillment of Righteousness is Finished. Jesus tells us in Matthew 5 that He did not come to abolish the Law but to fulfill it. Earlier at His baptism, Jesus demonstrates that by doing the Law perfectly, He was to "fulfill all righteousness." When Jesus declares, "tetelesti", He is declaring that His work of righteousness is finished, and He will die having lived a perfect and sinless life before God. In His life, Jesus finished everything required to accrue for all who believe a perfect righteousness before God.

It is in the final words of Jesus that the Christian finds the fullness of their hope in faith that Jesus has done everything required to save all who believe in His name.