



# ***'It is Finished'!*** (John 19 v30)

( December, 2021 )

Introduction:

Two places where Christ says it is '*finished*' or '*done*' - first at his death; 2nd at end of Revelation of time (Revelation 21:6). Both were heard by John.

The first '*it is finished*' is the greatest proclamation ever in history. Yet spoken by a bleeding, God forsaken, mocked, wounded, dying man who had few friends and many enemies. His own disciples deserted him and one of them handed him over to his enemies. Then he was dragged through the streets of Jerusalem to be slaughtered.

He was declared innocent, yet killed as though he was guilty.

Isaiah 53:3 *'He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not'*

## **1. '*It Is Finished*' - The Meaning**

The word '*Tetēlestai*' (**tetelestai**) - (from the root '*teleo*' - perfect, complete, maturity, coming to end goal). (Translated vs.28 '*accomplished*'; vs.30 '*finished*')

[Greek *Perfect Indicative Passive* (not common in NT) - Something done in the past but with continuing results into the present time ('perfect' tense); Unrepeatable ('Indicative mood'); 'Passive voice' - Jesus laying his life down willingly; in submission; receiving or subjected to an action without responding or initiating a response]

The *same* tense is in Ephesians 2:8,9 *'For by grace are you saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: 9 Not of works, lest any man should boast'*. '*saved*' is a Perfect Passive also.

(There is some scant historical/Archaeological evidence that point to the word '*Tetēlestai*' being used for receipts for goods paid; and prisoners of Rome with release papers stamped with this word)

Jesus said '*It is Finished*' - something was paid, accomplished, done, coming to the end goal...

## 2. *What Was Finished?*

*What was finished?* - Sufferings (physical, mental anguish)

*What is the 'it'?* - the work the Father had for Him to do (John 17:4).

*What was finished?* - the incarnation

*What was finished?* All the promises, prophecies, types fulfilled in Him (vs.28).

*What was finished?* The wages of sin for those who would believe. The price paid for sin...

## 3. *How Was It Finished?*

There was a work done to satisfy the Father. His Father forsook him...Jesus cried out '*My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?*' God could not look upon sin. Heaven could not be a part of this. God had him drink the last dregs of the cup of suffering and sin.

*Only a human* could suffer so (Isaiah 53:2)

*Only a divine* person could suffer so - one without sin as a perfect sacrifice to a holy righteous, sinless, perfect God. A lamb without blemish to satisfy God for the iniquities of us all.

*Only when every* last sin of those who will believe; *only when every* dart, *only when every* satanic thing could be thrown at him in those hours; *only when every* last drop of the cup he had to drink; *only when every* penalty and wage of sin is paid for *to the satisfaction of the Father's perfect justice* - could he finally cry '*it is finished*'!...

...He then went into the Holy of Holies in Heaven and offered His own blood to the Father as high priest for his people (Hebrews 4:14).

#### 4. *The Application*

*'It is finished'* is for you if you will believe. Your debt of sin has been paid. The atonement has been made for you. The ransom paid; propitiation achieved for you (Isaiah 53:10); reconciliation finished for you (2 Corinthians 5:19)

In the words *'It is finished!'* - a Great Exchange took place; a double imputation (2 Corinthians 5:21; Isaiah 53:4,5)

He has *exchanged* your inability *for* His ability; your death *for* His life; your filthy rags *for* His robes of righteousness!...All in that pregnant phrase *'It is Finished!'*

*God the Father looked upon His perfect Son as if He had lived the filthy, detestable, sin-stained lives of fallen mankind. And, for those who repent and receive Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior, God the Father looks upon them as if they had lived His Son's perfect life.*

It is not *'finished'* for those who will not believe and be in Hell.

Religion does not agree *'It is finished!'*. (E.g. Catholicism has *'continuing sacrifices'* to no avail - Hebrews 10:10-12; 12:2)

Spurgeon: *'go next to the ignorant adherents of Rome, when you see the priests... offering every day the pretended 'sacrifice of the mass', and lifting up the 'host on high' - a sacrifice, they say - 'an unbloody sacrifice for the quick and the dead'. Cry to them, 'Cease, false priest, cease; for 'It is finished!' Cease, false worshipper, cease to bow, for 'It is finished!''* God neither asks nor accepts any other sacrifice than that which Christ offered once for all upon the cross! Go next to the foolish among your own countrymen who call themselves Protestants, but who are really Papists after all, who think by their gifts and their gold, by their prayers and their vows, by their church, and their chapel [church] attendance, by their baptisms and their confirmations, to make themselves fit for God! And say to them, "Stop, 'it is finished.' God needs not this of

*you! He has received enough. Why will you pin your rags to the fine linen of Christ's righteousness? Why will you add your counterfeit farthing to the costly ransom which Christ has paid into the treasure-house of God? Cease from your pains, your works, your performances, for 'It is finished!' Christ has done it all."*

*This one text is enough to blow the Vatican to the four winds! Lay but this beneath Popery, and like a train of gunpowder beneath a rock, it shall blast it into the air! This is a thunderclap against all human righteousness! Only let this come like a two-edged sword, and your good works and your fine performances are soon cast away. "It is finished." Why improve on what is finished? Why add to that which is complete? The Bible is finished; he that adds to it never had his name in the Book of Life, and will never see the holy city - Christ's atonement is finished, and he who adds to that must expect the same doom!...Tell them, "It is finished... Come, you, vilest of the vile; you, who hate yourselves today, come! Jesus bids you! Oh, will you tarry? Oh, Spirit of God, repeat the invitation, and make it an effectual call to many hearts, for Jesus' sake!"*

Every man made religion adds to the words of Jesus '*It is finished!*'.

But is modern evangelicism little better? - taking sin and repentance out of the Gospel... with it's 'easy believism'... a gospel more palatable to the world... adding wealth/health... signs and wonders...

*Go and tell people what could be 'finished' for them if they will believe!*

*Come with me now to the cross - See the darkness and the thunder as God speaks and turns his back as His Christ is punished for your sin; See the blood shed; Hear the thunder; see the darkness...*

*See the Saviour on the cross dying for you, taking upon him all your sins; Stand beneath him and hear the words*

***'IT IS FINISHED!'***