Please turn with me in your Bibles to the Gospel of John, chapter nineteen.

**JOHN 19:28-30 (NKJV)**

28 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.

**PRAYER**

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**INTRODUCTION**

“**It is finished!”**

Just three simple words. But they are more than words. They are perhaps **THE GREATEST WORDS EVER SPOKEN, BY THE GREATEST MAN WHO EVER LIVED.**

This is the **SIXTH of the SEVEN statements** Jesus uttered from the cross. When Jesus said, **“It is Finished”** He didn’t speak in a whispered tone of a defeated martyr, **he SHOUTED A VICTORY CRY…….”IT IS FINISHED!”**

For just a few minutes this morning, let’s think about **WHAT THE WORDS “IT IS FINISHED” MEANT TO JESUS.........and WHAT THOSE THREE WORDS MEAN TO US.**
I. What “It Is Finished” Meant To Jesus

1. The words “It Is Finished” comes from one Greek word, TETELESTAI (tet-uh-les-ee)

2. That word “tetelestai” was a term used quite often in the Greco-Roman world of Jesus’ day. And when you examine the various uses of the word, you can easily see that all of them were illustrative of JESUS’ “finished work” on the cross.

   (A) AN ARTIST might have used the word “tetelestai” when he finished a painting to indicate the final brush stroke has been taken, “IT IS FINISHED!”

       JESUS, THE MASTER ARTISAN declared from the cross that the picture of salvation which was begun in eternity past, was NOW COMPLETE! The final brush stroke has been taken! IT IS FINISHED!!!

   (B) A SERVANT might have used the word “tetelestai” when he completed a task his master had assigned him to do. The servant would say, “Master, it is finished! I have completed the work you sent me to do.”

       JESUS, THE SUFFERING SERVANT completed the work His heavenly Father sent Him to do. “For the Son of Man came to seek and to save that which was lost.” “Master, IT IS FINISHED!” I have completed the work You sent me to do.”

   (C) A JUDGE might have used the word tetelestai when issuing a ruling that a sentence had been completed. The judge would say, “Justice has been served, the requirements of the Law have been met, TETELESTAI, “IT IS FINISHED.”

       There is only one Lawgiver and Judge—only one who is able to save or destroy, and that is GOD. When Christ died on the cross He appeased the wrath of His Heavenly Father by paying the penalty for the sins of the whole world.
Jesus cried, “The death sentence has now been carried out, the sentence for man’s sin has been completed. TETELESTAI........."IT IS FINISHED!"

(D) A HIGH PRIEST might have used the word tetelestai when he found the perfect, unblemished lamb for sacrifice. The priest would say to the person who brought the lamb, that it was an acceptable sacrifice, TETELESTAI, “It is finished!”

JESUS CHRIST was the “perfect lamb of God” slain for the sins of the world.

I Peter 1:18,19 says, knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.

As Jesus was about to draw His final breath on the cross He shouted, “IT IS FINISHED!” The sacrifice of the perfect Lamb of God is now complete!

(E) A MERCHANT might have said TETELESTAI after stamping a bill as “paid in full.”

When JESUS cried “IT IS FINISHED” from the cross, He was saying, “THE DEBT OF SIN has been PAID IN FULL!

(F) AND A SOLDIER might have said TETELESTAI as a “battle cry” over a defeated foe! The soldier would shout “YOU ARE FINISHED!” “YOU HAVE BEEN DEFEATED.”

When Jesus cried, “IT IS FINISHED” from the cross, it was NOT a cry of despair or defeat! It was His “battle cry of victory!”

“SATAN, you are FINISHED! You have been defeated!”
“DEATH, you are FINISHED! You have been defeated!”
“SIN, you are FINISHED! You have been defeated!”
TETELESTAI!

I HAVE COMPLETED THE PICTURE OF SALVATION!

I HAVE COMPLETED THE WORK MY MASTER SENT ME TO DO!

I HAVE MET ALL THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE LAW!

I HAVE COMPLETED THE PERFECT SACRIFICE!

I HAVE “PAID THE DEBT OF SIN” IN FULL!

I HAVE CONQUERED THE ENEMY!

IT IS FINISHED! IT IS FINISHED!

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Secondly, let’s consider………..

II. What Those Three Words, “It Is Finished” Means To Us

(A) For one thing, those three words, “It Is Finished” means CHRIST
ACCOMPLISHED WHAT WE Ourselves COULD NEVER
ACCOMPLISH!

You could be the nicest, most moral and decent human being
on the face of the earth......you could do more good works than
any human being who ever lived......and still not save your soul.

Brothers and sisters, don’t ever believe for one solitary moment
that God could have ever forgiven us of our sins apart from the
cross of Christ. “For without the shedding of blood there is no
forgiveness.” (Hebrews 9:22)

Yes, it is true that GOD CREATED US. And yes, it is true that
GOD LOVES US, but make no mistake about it, if JESUS CHRIST
had NOT gone to the cross of Calvary, GOD would never have
forgiven you and me of our sins in a thousand lifetimes.

Christ “FINISHED” the work we could NOT do!
Christ “WON THE BATTLE” we could NOT win!
Christ “PAID THE DEBT” we couldn’t possibly pay!
(B) Something else those three words, “It Is Finished” means to us is that WE CAN LIVE IN VICTORY INSTEAD OF DEFEAT!

You and I can “rest” in the truth that we have a Savior who had done all......paid all......and accomplished all that is necessary for our salvation!

We do not need to live in the fear that SIN, SATAN or the LAW will defeat us when we stand before Jesus Christ.

ROMANS 8:1 (NKJV)

8 There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.

ROMANS 8:31-34 (NKJV)

31 What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?

32 He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?

33 Who shall bring a charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies.

34 Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.

Many Christians live in defeat every day. They beat themselves up and punish themselves for sins in their life as though some of their sins remain unforgiving.

If you are one of those brothers or sisters who is living in defeat, let me ask you something. When Christ died on the cross, how many of your sins did He pay for? Some of them? Half of them? The sins of your past, but not the sins of your present and future? HE PAID THE DEBT ALL YOUR SINS! The sins of your PAST.....FORGIVEN! The sins of your PRESENT.....FORGIVEN! The sins of your FUTURE.....FORGIVEN!
CONCLUSION

JESUS finished the work on the cross, but the cross didn’t finish JESUS. All four gospel writers tell us that on the third day after His crucifixion that Jesus Christ arose victorious over the grave.

And so today we celebrate the glorious DEATH, BURIAL and RESURRECTION of Christ our Savior.

Later on in our worship service we are going to be offering the LORD’S INVITATION. Until then let me give you something to think about.

The Bible teaches us that one day your life here on earth will come to an end. And when your life is over you will either go to heaven to live with God forever, or you will go to hell and be eternally separated from God.

Where you spend your eternity is entirely up to you and it all depends on WHAT YOU DO WITH JESUS CHRIST! It doesn’t depend on HOW NICE YOU ARE…..HOW MORAL YOU ARE…….HOW GOOD YOU ARE……or HOW MANY GOOD DEEDS YOU DO…….IT ALL DEPENDS ON WHAT YOU CHOOSE TO DO WITH JESUS CHRIST!

JESUS “chose” to die for you while you were yet a sinner!
JESUS “chose” to lay down His own life for you!
JESUS “chose” to pay the penalty for your sins!

And so today, YOU MUST CHOOSE WHAT YOU WILL DO WITH JESUS!
When the invitation is offered, HE WILL BE WAITING FOR YOU WITH OPEN ARMS to come “JUST AS YOU ARE!”