

***Finished!* - John 19:28-30**
Notes, Family Worship, Bible Reading

Notes from the Sermon

"It is finished!" With this declaration, Jesus bowed his head and died. Seems like a sad and solemn moment. But notice that Jesus did not say, "I am finished." In fact, Matthew lets us know that this declaration was cried out in a loud voice. As a dying man suffocating on the cross, Jesus pushed up on the nails in his feet to get a last breath so that he could cry out for all to hear, "It is finished!" This great declaration is actually a cry of victory and sums up the Gospel in one word (I know it is three in English but it is one word in the original, Greek).

The Greek word used here by John to capture Jesus' last declaration is the word *tetelestai*. The word means to make an end, accomplish, not merely to end it, but bring it to perfection or its intended goal. In this final cry Jesus was declaring that something was accomplished, something happened that brought something to its intended goal. Our text for this week begins by saying, "After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture). Yep, that word shows up two more times here. Jesus knew that all was fulfilled, and that the Scripture was fulfilled. He then cried out that he was thirsty, so he could whet his whistle for this last victorious declaration. Then Jesus did something that no other human being on this planet has ever done, He gave up His spirit. Jesus chose the moment of His death and voluntarily gave up His life. Yes, he was crucified by Roman soldiers as a result of a bogus trial by the Jewish leaders, but they did not take Jesus' life from Him, rather Jesus offered His life up for us.

"It is finished!" This cry on the cross has so many implications. At the very beginning of the Bible, in the creation narrative, we are told that after six days of creating everything, on the seventh day, "When the work of creation was finished," God then rested. This stanza of God's work was completed, all that He needed to do was accomplished in the creation of the universe, the world, and humanity. In the very next chapter, Adam and Eve sinned, rebelling against God and wrecking everything He had made here on earth. We, as humans, were cut off from our Creator and unable to remedy our condition. But starting in chapter 3, God instituted a rescue mission, and the work of redemption began. This work of redemption is the key theme of the entire Bible, as God tells the story of His love, righteousness, and justice. This story of redemption is pictured in the Old Testament through the sacrifices and worship of the Hebrew people. And the need for redemption is told over and over again through their lives as the people who have access to the One True God continually rebel and reject Him. So the story of redemption told in the Old Testament continually points forward to the promise of a coming Messiah, who will speak for God as the true and better prophet, will rule for God as the King of the Kingdom of God, and will provide the ultimate sacrifice as the true and better High Priest. The story culminates in the life of Jesus, as the agent of redemption, who lives a perfect life, and is then offered up as the sacrifice given for our redemption and atonement. As a perfect man, Jesus is able to die for the sins of others. As God, His death is sufficient to satisfy the wrath of God. As Jesus makes this bold and wonderful cry from the cross, it is a declaration that God's work of redemption brought about through the life and death of Jesus has been accomplished. Just as the work of creation is finished, now too is the work of our salvation. God in Christ has done everything!

The word in the Greek is a verb that is in a very interesting tense, the perfect tense. The perfect tense refers to a verb that has an action that was completed in the past at a specific point in time, but results in a state of being or result that comes down to the present. That will preach. In this cry, Jesus is telling us that His finished work of

redemption on the cross reaches us! This cry is an offer. As you go think about Easter this week and remember the day that Christ gave His life for us, let this be your focus. Christ freely gave up His life, and the impact reaches us. "It is finished," means that for those who believe in Christ, the debt of our sin has been paid, the plan of God is accomplished, the victory has been won, and the war is over. We have access to the very presence of God and forgiveness through the shed blood of Jesus. And the death of Jesus comes with the promise of resurrection and ultimate restoration, as God will make all things new. This is the final stanza of God's work, the final stage. Creation is complete, the work of redemption is finished, and restoration is coming! What a great God we serve, and what a cry our Savior made from the cross. May we no longer try to earn God's approval, but realize that because "It is finished," we can know we are loved and that redemption is by faith in Christ alone! So Happy Easter!

Bible Reading for the Week

Daily Bible Readings

Sun	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Sat
Proverbs 29	Proverbs 30	Proverbs 31	Colossians 1	Colossians 2	Colossians 3	Colossians 4

Reading from this past week's sermon: John 19

Reading in preparation for this coming Sunday: Judges 15:1-20

Family Worship

Song - *How Deep the Father's Love for Us*

<https://youtu.be/tZSirSqpM54?si=1m76KaPI2bxVtwe8>

Gospel Project

Unit: Jesus' Ministry Began

Story: John's Ministry Began

Big Picture Question: Is Jesus God or human?

Answer: Jesus is fully God and fully human.

Scripture: Matthew 3

New City Catechism

Question 13: Can anyone keep the Law of God perfectly?

Answer: Since the fall, no human has been able to keep the law of God perfectly.

Verse: Romans 3:10-12

John 19:28-30

- How do Jesus' dying words help us see that His death on the cross is a unique moment in human history?
- What are some of the implications of Jesus declaration that, "It is finished!". How do we know this is a shout of victory and not an expression of agony and defeat?
- How do Good Friday and Easter make Christianity different from any other religion? Why is our hope in an event and not in a set of teachings?
- What are some ways the resurrection three days later defines Jesus dying declaration from the cross?

Prayer

*Pray that we would believe in the work of Jesus that is finished for us in the Good Friday and Easter story.

*Pray that we as a church would have a passion to get this message to our city.