

"It Is Finished"

Introduction. There is always a sense of satisfaction when a job is done. When we can add the word "finished" to a task at work or home, it is a great relief! When anything productive is done, it is nice to say, "Finished!" When an unpleasant chapter in life is over, it is good to say, "Finished!" "It is finished" were words uttered by our Lord on the cross (John 19:30). The other three gospels do not tell us that Jesus said, "It is finished," but they do tell us that He died with a great shout on His lips (Matthew 27:50; Mark 15:37; Luke 23:46). On the other hand, John does not speak of the great cry, but does say that Jesus' last words were, "It is finished." The explanation is that the great shout and the words in John 19:30 were one and the same.

In one Greek word, He summed up all of His work. "Finished" means "to perform the last act which completes a process" (2 Timothy 4:7). In the word "finished" was all that prophecy had foretold and type foreshadowed (Luke 18:31). "Finished" was the work that His Father had given Him to do. There was nothing overlooked. Every detail was attended to. Truly the words, "It is finished," can be placed over every part of Jesus' life, as we will briefly see in this lesson.

I. ***Every Appointment Was Kept***

- A. Christ was better than any doctor, preacher, or salesman at keeping every appointment. Although He spoke to the multitudes many times, He was excellent at teaching individuals, as a few examples will show.
 - 1. Nicodemus (John 3:1-21).
 - 2. The Samaritan woman (John 4:1-43).
 - 3. The rich young ruler (Mark 10:17-22).
 - 4. Zacchaeus (Luke 19:1-10).
- B. Of course, His greatest appointment was when He hung on the cross as the sacrifice for our sins (Isaiah 53:10). Not only was our Lord intimately concerned for the spiritual well-being of the individual, but for the whole world as well (Matthew 20:28; John 1:29).

II. ***Every Miracle Was Performed***

- A. Miracles were crucial in the testimony of Jesus (Matthew 11:2-5; John 2:11; 6:14; Acts 2:22; Hebrews 2:3-4). Miracles should be enough to convince anyone that He who worked such could be believed. The words "signs" and "wonders" are also used for miraculous manifestations.
 - 1. Signs.
 - a) "Sign" puts the focus on what the miracle signified rather than upon the supernatural act itself (Luke 2:12, 34; 11:29-30).

- b) God also gave "signs" that attested to the apostles' preaching (Acts 2:43; 14:3; Romans 15:19; 2 Corinthians 12:12).
 - 2. Wonders.
 - a) This word emphasizes the awe and astonishment the miracle produced. They were of such magnitude that no mere person could produce them, nor were they explicable on a natural level.
 - b) His miracles produced amazement, astonishment, and ultimately, belief (Matthew 8:27; Mark 7:37; Luke 9:43; John 11:45).
- B. Various facets of miracles are mentioned, and it shows that Jesus had power over everything.
 - 1. Power over sickness: the blind regained their sight (Luke 18:35-43).
 - 2. Power over the demonic realm: two demon-possessed men were healed in Gadara (Matthew 8:28-34).
 - 3. Power over nature: the sea was calmed during the storm (Luke 8:22-26).
 - 4. Power over death: Lazarus was raised (John 11:1-45).
- C. Most of the time, miracles occurred immediately (Matthew 8:3; Mark 2:12), and sometimes the miracles did not occur immediately (Mark 8:22-25; John 9:6-7). Furthermore, with miracles, sometimes faith on the part of the recipient is mentioned (Matthew 9:27-31), and sometimes faith is not mentioned (Mark 1:29-31). Sometimes the miracle was contingent upon the faith of someone else (John 4:46-54).
- D. The gospels record the occurrence of 35 miracles with the assertion that there were many more (John 20:30-31; 21:25).

III. ***Every Lesson Was Taught***

- A. Man was not left in want for more information regarding redemption and salvation. Several of these discourses are priceless to us.
 - 1. The sermon on the mount (Matthew 5-7).
 - 2. The "bread of life" (John 6:32-58).
 - 3. The "light of the world" (John 8:12).
 - 4. The "good shepherd" (John 10:1-18).
 - 5. The Olivet discourse (Matthew 24-25).
 - 6. The upper room and Gethsemane discourse (John 13-16).
- B. One can surely perceive the extraordinary nature of His teachings from the responses He received (Matthew 7:28-29; John 7:46).

IV. ***Every Prophecy Was Fulfilled***

- A. Fulfilled prophecy is our greatest evidence of the reliability of the Bible. In all, there are hundreds of prophecies about Jesus in the Old

Testament. These prophecies cover every minute part of His life. A few of the many prophecies of Jesus are worthy of mention.

1. He would be a prophet like unto Moses (Deuteronomy 18:15, 19; cf. John 1:45).
 2. He would be born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2; cf. Matthew 2:1).
 3. He would perform miracles (Isaiah 35:5-6; cf. Matthew 11:3-6).
 4. He would enter Jerusalem on a donkey (Zechariah 9:9; cf. Matthew 21:1-10).
 5. He would be pierced at death (Psalm 22:16; cf. John 19:34, 37).
- B. Peter Stoner, a science professor at Westmont College, had several classes figure the odds of one individual fulfilling just eight of these prophecies and the chance was one in 10^{17} . The chances of fulfilling 48 of these prophecies was one in 10^{157} ! Emile Borel stated that once the odds go past one in 10^{50} , the probability is so small that the event is certain.

V. ***Every Sin Was Satisfied***

- A. When Jesus died on the cross for our sins, not one sin was missed and nothing was left out, even for those who lived under the Old Covenant (Hebrews 9:15).
- B. Two terms are used in regard to curing sin.
 1. Deliverance and release from the enslavement of sin is called redemption. The word includes both the idea of deliverance and the price of that deliverance (Romans 3:24; Galatians 3:13; 1 Peter 1:18-19).
 2. Forgiveness means pardon for a fault or offense (Acts 5:31; 13:38; 26:18). The term "blotted out" is synonymous with forgiveness (Nehemiah 4:5; Psalm 51:1, 9; Isaiah 43:25; 44:22; Jeremiah 18:23; Acts 3:19).
- C. How much more encouragement do we need than the knowledge that Jesus has taken care of every sin as far as time is concerned and taken care of every sin as far as type is concerned (1 John 1:6-10)?

Conclusion. The work of Christ is complete (Romans 6:8-10). Jesus did not die in a weary defeat, but He made that great statement as One who shouts for joy because the victory is won. The hardships, persecutions, mockeries, and pangs in the garden and the cross were over, and the doors to the kingdom of God were opened for all those who believe in Christ.

This penultimate saying of Jesus (cf. Luke 23:46) could be called the bridge that unites man and God, for it is the saying that announces the fulfillment of the divine sacrifice which makes possible the reconciliation between a loving God and a sinful, penitent man. William Clubertson said,

“It is important to start right, but it is imperative to end well.” Jesus finished well. Will you?