

LENT SERIES

7 Sayings of Jesus (6 or 7)

"IT IS FINISHED."

John 19:30

Clearwater Bay International Baptist Church

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Illustration:

Have you ever had anyone pay off one of your debts? I think I may have told some of you before that the nicest thing that anyone has ever done for me, was when a man paid off my student loans for me. I was a pretty poor single guy who needed to immediately pay off some student loans after returning from studying in China. I arrived back and the first week had to find a job, find a car, find a place to live and start paying off loans. Tough.

I went to lunch with my best friend's father and he said that my loans were paid off. He had written the check. Handed me the receipt.

Gone.

Forever.

We come today to probably the most beautiful word in the Bible. Jesus' 6th saying from the cross. One word- **FINISHED!**

I've struggled all week to fully appreciate or comprehend the impact of this word from the cross.

Charles Simeon said,

*“Every word indeed that proceeded from our Saviour’s lips deserves the most attentive consideration: but **TETELESTAI** eclipses all. To do justice to it, is beyond the ability of men or angels: its height, and depth, and length, and breadth, are absolutely unsearchable.”*

This word, [many of you may know] is the word, Tetelestai.

It means ‘completed’ or ‘finished’. Sometimes it means “Paid in full”. There have been tax documents in Greek discovered in Egypt that contained Tetelestai on the receipts of merchants.

The word means that something is finished and finished forever....It is PAID.

For example: We could go out to eat and when you ask me if the bill has been settled, I could answer a few different ways.

I could say, “It’s finished.”

I could say, “I paid it.”

I could say, “I took care of it.”

Why did Jesus say this word?

What’s its significance?

WHAT is finished? What is the IT?

I think that we need to see 4 things in order to really grasp the meaning of this word from the cross.

1. We need to understand WHAT it is that is finished.
2. We need to understand how horrible it is IF it's **not** finished.
3. We need to understand the value of the person who is finishing it.
4. We need to understand the benefits of it being finished

So, let's get right to it.

1. WHAT IS IT THAT IS FINISHED?

The work that Jesus has been sent to do by his Father. Jesus is **“the lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.” John 1:29**

John 3:17, says that God sent his Son into the world **“in order that the world might be saved through him.”**

Matthew 20:28 says that Jesus came **“to give his life as a ransom for many.”**

1 Peter 2:24 says, **“He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.”**

From all eternity, the plan of God for Jesus to take the sins of people onto himself is finished. He has completed it.

It is paid. It is completed. The way to salvation is open.

2. WHAT IF IT WASN'T FINISHED? WHAT IF JESUS DIDN'T DIE FOR SINNERS?

Horrible.

Then we would be guilty before God.

We would be subject to his wrath for our sinfulness.

We would sin on and on till we die here on Earth and then we would be in Hell forever. Everyone.

SOME BELOVED PASSAGES TURNED UPSIDE DOWN (If Jesus didn't complete his work)

John 3:16, "God so hated the world that he refused to give his only begotten Son for them, so that they would perish for their sins in an eternity in hell.

John 10:10, "The thief comes to steal, kill and destroy but I didn't come to deliver you from him."

Romans 3:23-24, "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are left there.

Romans 5:8, "God demonstrated his love for us in that while we were still sinners, he did absolutely nothing to help us."

Romans 6:23, "For the wages of sin is death and there is no one to pay it for you."

Romans 8:28, "There remains condemnation for all people because they are all unable to keep the law."

Romans 10:9-10, “If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you’re wasting your time, cause you’re still going to perish.

Ephesians 2:8-9, “For by justice you have been rejected through unbelief. And this is your own fault; it’s what you deserve, due to your own actions.”

Philippians 1:21, “For me to live is about ME, and to die will be worse.

Hebrews 10:14, “For by not offering himself, all remain imperfect and unholy.

2 Corinthians 5:17, “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, it means nothing. The old self is still there; there is no new.”

2 Corinthians 5:21, “He did not make him to be sin for us, who knew no sin, so we are still unrighteous.”

Matthew 7:7, “Ask, and you’ll be denied; Seek and find nothing; knock, and get the door shut in your face.”

So, Christ's task, his work that he was sent by the Father God to do....was completed/ finished. And thank God it was or we would have no hope in this life or the next.

3. WE NEED TO UNDERSTAND THE VALUE OF JESUS, THE ONE WHO DID THIS WORK.

Who is he? Do you ever think about that?

There's never been a time that he didn't exist.
Existence was made by him.

Colossians 1:15-16

15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. 16 For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him.

Hebrews 1:1-3

Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, 2 but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. 3 He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,

Matthew 28:18, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me."

Do you believe that?

That's who died on the cross.
That's who was slain in your place.

4. WE NEED TO UNDERSTAND THE BENEFITS OF THE FINISHED WORK / WE NEED TO UNDERSTAND THE BENEFITS OF THE PAID DEBT.

What do we get now?
What did Christ accomplish for us?

Forgiveness.
Removal of guilt.
Love.
Abundant life.
Eternal life.
Meaning.
Joy.
Peace.
etc

Now as a closing application, I would like us to look at one of the most beautiful verses in the Bible. If you have a Bible, turn to Hebrews chapter 10.

4 For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins. 5 Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, "Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body have you prepared for me; 6 in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. 7 Then I said, 'Behold, I have come to do your

will, O God, as it is written of me in the scroll of the book.” 8 When he said above, “You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings” (these are offered according to the law), 9 then he added, “Behold, I have come to do your will.” He does away with the first in order to establish the second. **10 And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.** 11 And every priest stands daily at his service, offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. 12 But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, 13 waiting from that time until his enemies should be made a footstool for his feet. **14 For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.**

That’s what.....“It is finished”.....means.

The work is done.

You cannot add anything to the work of Jesus without taking away from it.

Illustration: Amber fixing a nice meal and me changing it.

He has declared you right with God and he’s making you into the likeness of Jesus everyday.

It’s finished.