

The Word of Victory

Jn 19:28-30

28 After this, Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the scripture might be fulfilled, saith, I thirst. 29 Now there was set a vessel full of vinegar: and they filled a sponge with vinegar, and put *it* upon hyssop, and put *it* to his mouth. 30 When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, **It is finished**: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.

Introduction:

1. On March 4, 1841, William Henry Harrison, the 9th President of the United States, delivered the longest inaugural speech on record. It contained over 9,000 words. Now, President Harrison must have been VERY impressed with his prepared comments that day because, in spite of the fact that it was raining and unseasonably cold, he still refused to shorten his inaugural address. He would not step down from the lectern and instead stood there for two solid hours delivering his lengthy speech. Well, because of his stubborn long-windedness that bitterly cold day, President Harrison got pneumonia and then died one short month later on April 4, 1841. You could accurately say “No president has ever said MORE and DONE less.

Now, if we were to contrast Harrison’s presidency Jesus’ death on the cross and the words He spoke there-those few but critically important words and phrases we’ve been studying, wouldn’t you agree that this comparison would lead us to say the opposite? In regards to Jesus we could accurately say, No man has ever said LESS and done MORE!

2. Last week in our study we saw the anguish of the cross - “My God, my God, why has thou forsaken me?” Today we see the triumph of the cross - “It is finished.”
3. These are the words of a victory and this cry from the cross is the cry of victory
4. “It is finished!” is not the cry of a helpless martyr but instead it was the cry of satisfaction - He did all that he came to earth to do.
5. He did not cry out “I am finished”
 - a. The scribes and Pharisees smugly thought that they were done with Christ - he was finished
 - b. The demons of hell no doubt howled with glee as they said, “He is finished.”
6. “It is finished”
 - a. The word of a servant - The servant was given a task and when he completed that task he returned to the master and said, “It is finished.” In a sense, Jesus as God’s servant, completed the task that he was assigned and said “It is finished.”
 - b. The word of an artist - When the artist finished his masterpiece he said, “It is finished.”
 - c. The word of the merchant - In business transactions, when someone paid his bill off then they wrote one word on the bill - tetelestai - Paid in full
 - d. The word of the judge - when someone was imprisoned and served his time and paid his debt to society he was released and on the paperwork was - tetelestai - paid in full
 - e. The word of the soldier - When the victorious army returned and the triumphant general stood before the emperor and said - tetelestai - it is finished.

I. THE PROPHECIES OF REDEMPTION WERE FINISHED

1. Gen 3:15 said that he would be the “woman’s seed” and eventually Jesus was “born of woman” - Gal 4:4
2. Isa 7:14 said that Jesus would be born of a virgin and it was literally fulfilled - Matt 1:18
3. Prophecy proclaimed that Jesus would be of the “seed of Abraham” - Gen 22:18 and it was fulfilled - Matt 1:1
4. Prophecy said that Jesus would be a descendent of David - 2Sam 7:12-13 and he was - Rom 1:3
5. Prophecy said that Jesus would be born in Bethlehem - Mic 5:2 and this village became his birthplace.
6. Prophecy said that Jesus would be despised and rejected by the Jews and he was
7. Prophecy said that he would be crucified and he was
8. Prophecy said that not a bone of his body would be broken and it was fulfilled
9. Prophecy said that Jesus would be crucified between two criminals and he was
10. Prophecy said that soldiers would gamble for his robe and they did.
11. In our text we see how careful Jesus was to fulfill prophecy

28 After this, Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the scripture might be fulfilled, saith, I thirst. 29 Now there was set a vessel full of vinegar: and they filled a sponge with vinegar, and put *it* upon hyssop, and put *it* to his mouth. 30 When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, **It is finished**: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.

a) *He was getting ready to say, “It is finished” but then Jesus realized that one minor thing had not yet been fulfilled*

b) *Ps 69:21 prophesied that Jesus would thirst and be given vinegar*

to drink.

c) That had to be fulfilled before he could say “It is finished”

II. THE PAIN OF REDEMPTION WAS FINISHED

1. During his life, the cross was ever before Him
 - a) At the marriage in Cana of Galilee Jesus said that his hour had not yet come”*
 - b) When he was speaking to Nicodemus, Jesus said that he would be lifted up.*
 - c) James and John wanted the seats of honor on Jesus’ right and left hand and Jesus made mention of the “cup” that he must face and the “baptism” with which he must be baptized with*
 - d) When Peter confessed that Jesus was the Christ, the Son of the living God, Jesus began to show his disciples how he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes and be killed and be raised the third day.*
 - e) When Moses and Elijah showed up on the mount of transfiguration they spoke of Jesus’ decease which he should accomplish at Jerusalem*
2. Who could adequately describe the suffering that our Savior endured to purchase our salvation?
3. The “Man of sorrows” suffered unutterable anguish, physical, mental and spiritual.
4. Sufferings from the hand of man, sufferings from the hand of Satan and sufferings from the hand of God the Father
5. At last the closing hours have come.
 - a) The sorrow and agony of Gethsemane are over*
 - b) The appearances before Caiaphas, Pilate, and Herod are over*
 - c) The scourging and mocking by the brutal soldiers; the journey to*

Calvary; the fastening of his hands and feet to the cruel tree are over

- d) The reviling of the priests, the crowd, and the two thieves crucified with him is over*
 - e) The separation from the heavenly Father is over and the fellowship between Father and Son was reinstated*
6. Never again will Jesus face pain
 7. Never again shall he endure the contradiction of sinners against himself
 8. Jesus shall never again be in the hands of Satan
 9. Never again shall the face of God be hidden from him

III. THE PLAN OF REDEMPTION WAS FINISHED

1Ti 1:15 *This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.*

Ga 4:4 *But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law,*

1Jo 3:5 *And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin.*

A. Jesus Fulfilled the Law

Ro 7:12 *Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good.*

Ro 8:3 *For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: 4 That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.*

1. There is nothing wrong with the law for God gave it
2. The problem lay in man, depraved and sinful, he could not keep that law.

3. Yet the law must be kept so that it might be honored and magnified
4. So Jesus was born under the law so that he might keep the law perfectly in thought, word and deed
5. Not only did the Savior keep the precepts of the law, but he also suffered its penalty and endured its curse

Ga 3:13 Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed *is* every one that hangeth on a tree:

Ro 10:4 For Christ *is* the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth.

Ro 6:14 For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.

B. Justice Was Met on the Cross

1. For sinners to be saved the demands of God's justice must be met and the requirements of God's holiness must be satisfied
2. Sinners could only be saved when a perfect substitute took their place and died for them
3. Our sins could only be blotted out of the blood of Christ shed on the cross of Calvary
4. The OT types pictured the atonement of the Savior on the cross
 - a) *Those coats of skins that God provided Adam and Eve pictured the covering that we needed for our sins*
 - b) *The ark of Noah sheltered from the wrath of God and this pictured the atonement of our Savior which shelters us from God's wrath on sin*
 - c) *The blood applied to the doors of the houses during the passover pictured the blood of Christ that would be shed for believers*
 - d) *The serpent of brass on the pole, the cure for the deadly snakebite pictured the Savior on the cross who provided the cure for sin*

5. God furnished at least four proofs that Christ did finish the work which was given Him to do
 - a) *The rending of the veil in the temple which showed that the way to God was now open*
 - b) *The raising of Christ from the dead which was the Father's stamp of approval on the work of Christ*
 - c) *The exaltation of Christ to God's right hand showed the delight of the Father in the Son*
 - d) *The sending to earth of the Holy Spirit to apply the benefits of Christ's atoning death*
6. There is good news for sinners today
 - a) *All that a holy God requires has been done*
 - b) *Nothing is left for the sinner to add*
 - c) *All that is necessary is that a sinner rest in faith on the finished work of Christ*

IV. THE PAYMENT OF REDEMPTION WAS FINISHED

Joh 5:36 But I have greater witness than *that* of John: for the works which the Father hath given me to finish, the same works that I do, bear witness of me, that the Father hath sent me.

Joh 17:4 I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do.

Php 2:5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: 6 Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: 7 But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: 8 And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

A. Jesus Made the Payment for Our Salvation

1. Each member of the trinity had a special work
 - a) *God the Father is concerned with the govt of the world; He rules over the works of his hands*
 - b) *God the Holy Spirit is concerned with the Scriptures; for He inspired the men of old to deliver God's message and now He gives believers understanding and guides us into truth*
 - c) *God the Son is concerned with the work of redemption for He is the one who came here to die for sinners*
2. Even when Jesus was 12 yrs old he was “about his Father’s business”
3. And on the cross, Jesus was finishing the work which He came to earth to do
4. He would soon breathe his last breath and the task will be finished
5. Jesus laid aside the robes of glory and left heaven
 - a) *He became a man*
 - b) *He became a servant*
 - c) *He humbled himself and went to the cross*
 - d) *He finished the work that he came to do*

B. This is the End of Our Sins

Ro 8:1 *There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. All my sins were transferred to the Savior*

1Pe 2:24 *Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.*

1. If God laid your sins on Christ, then they are no longer on you
2. The condemnation of God that was upon us has been lifted and placed on the Savior
3. Thank God that the guilt, the condemnation, the penalty for our sins

has been laid on Christ and He paid the debt

4. If you have never trusted Christ as your Savior then you are still under God's condemnation and your sins are still on you

5. Look at the Day of Atonement in the OT - Lev 16
 - a) *Two goats were presented before the Lord at the door of the tabernacle*
 - b) *The high priest laid his hands on one goat and confessed his sins onto that goat which was then taken out into the wilderness where it died*
 - c) *The other goat was killed and its blood was sprinkled on the mercy seat atoning for the sins of the nation*
 - d) *What a great picture of the atonement of our Savior*

c. This is the End of Satan's Power

Heb 2:14 Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil;

1. On the Cross, Jesus Destroyed the Devil's Power
 - a) *While the Savior was hanging on the cross he did not look like a victor over the devil. It appeared that the devil had won*
 - b) *It is true that Satan has not yet been chained and cast into the bottomless pit, nevertheless the sentence has been passed*
 - c) *His doom is certain and his power is already broken as far as believers are concerned*

2. For the Christian, the Devil is a Vanquished Foe
 - a) *He was defeated by Christ on the cross*
 - b) *Believers have already been delivered from the power of darkness and we are translated into the kingdom of God's dear Son*
 - c) *Once we were Satan's captives, his servants but Christ has freed us*

- d) *Once we walked "according to the prince and the power of the air" but now we are God's child through Christ*
- e) *Once Satan worked in us, but now God works in us both to will and to do of his good pleasure.*
- f) *When Jesus says "It is finished" then we dare not question it*
- g) *All was completed just as God would have it, just as the prophets had foretold, just as the OT ceremonies had foreshadowed, just as divine holiness demanded, just as sinners needed.*

Conclusion:

1. It is finished - Do you believe it or are you trying to add something of your own to the finished work of to obtain the favor of God?
2. Accept the pardon which has been provided for sinners
3. God is satisfied with the finished work of Christ, why aren't you?
4. Wouldn't you like to have all your sins forgiven? Wouldn't you like to stand accepted by God?
5. There is only one way of finding peace and that is through the shed blood of God's lamb
6. Some years ago a Christian farmer was deeply concerned over an unsaved carpenter. The farmer witnessed to his neighbour and explained how that the finished work of Christ was *sufficient* for him. But the carpenter persisted in the belief that he must do something himself. One day the farmer asked the carpenter to make for him a gate, and when the gate was ready he carried it away to his wagon. He arranged for the carpenter to visit him the next morning and see the gate as it hung in the field. The carpenter arrived and was surprised to find the farmer standing by with a sharp axe in his hand. "What are you going to do?" he asked. "I am going to add a few cuts and strokes to your work," was the response. "But there is no need for it," replied the carpenter, "the gate is all right as it is. I did all that was necessary to it." The farmer took no notice, but

lifting his axe he slashed and hacked at the gate until it was completely ruined. "Look what you have done!" cried the carpenter. "You have *ruined my work!*" "Yes," said the farmer, "and that is exactly what you are trying to do. You are seeking to ruin the finished work of Christ by your own miserable additions to it!"