

WHY DID JESUS SAY —IT IS FINISHED?

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11.5.24

I occasionally come across YouTube videos of well-known and popular Bible preachers of all sorts.

I've come across a very popular teaching (false!) — which misuses an important statement that the Lord Jesus made. I'd like to look at it today.

Obviously we ought to know what Jesus said and meant! And be alert to false teaching wherever it comes from.

Many people look closely at Jesus' final sayings as He hung on the cross. **There were 7 final sayings of the Lord Jesus ... and all are considered very important and weighty.**

We're going to focus on one. It's commonly twisted — and for some people might lead them into dangerous territory.

John 19:25-30

25 Now there stood by the cross of Jesus His mother, and His mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene.

26 When Jesus therefore saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing by, He said to His mother, "Woman, behold your son!"

27 Then He said to the disciple, "Behold your mother!" And from that hour that disciple took her to his own home.

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.

"It is finished". So — what was finished?

Jesus is in agony ... about to breathe His last. He is not making small-talk!

One website states: “Of the last sayings of Christ on the cross, none is more important or more poignant than ‘It is finished!’”

For many born-again evangelical church-goers and preachers — **everything** was finished!

Jesus has accomplished all that was necessary for salvation. **Preachers teach the importance of relying on “The Finished Work of Jesus”.**

It’s all by faith alone in Jesus’ “Finished Work”. Anything you try to do as a believer is likely to be works ... you’re in danger of trying to achieve salvation by YOUR works — you’re trying to add to the Finished Work of Jesus. **Faith alone in Jesus alone!!**

In passing ... **they’ll often also add that the Law was also finished.** No need for the Sabbath — no need to avoid pork or lobster or catfish.

So: Did Jesus finish everything required for salvation on the cross? Or is there more required? Are you saying that Jesus’ shed blood and death not enough?

In John 19:30 the Greek word for “finished” is Teleo.

Thayer’s defines it as:

To bring to a close, to finish, to end, to perform, to complete, to fulfil”.

In John 19:28 — the same Greek word is translated as “now accomplished”.

What was finished or accomplished? You don’t really need to go outside the Book of John to see what Jesus did finish.

John 4:27-34

27 And at this point His disciples came, and they marveled that He talked with a woman; yet no one said, "What do You seek?" or, "Why are You talking with her?"

28 The woman then left her waterpot, went her way into the city, and said to the men,

29 "Come, see a Man who told me all things that I ever did. Could this be the Christ?"

30 Then they went out of the city and came to Him.

31 In the meantime His disciples urged Him, saying, "Rabbi, eat."

32 **But He said to them, "I have food to eat of which you do not know."**

33 Therefore the disciples said to one another, "Has anyone brought Him anything to eat?"

34 **Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work."**

Jesus' food ... nourishment ... reward — **His objective ... was to finish the Work of the Father.**

John 5:36

36 **"But I have a greater witness than John's; for the works which the Father has given Me to finish — the very works that I do — bear witness of Me, that the Father has sent Me."**

"The works which the Father has given Me to finish".

JESUS DID THE WORKS that His Father sent Him to do! His earthly mission — which He completed.

John 17:1-5

1 **Jesus spoke these words, lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said:**
"Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You,

2 "as You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him.

3 "And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.

4 "I have glorified You on the earth. **I have finished the work which You have given Me to do.**

5 "And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.

Without even leaving John's Gospel ... we can see what Jesus wanted to finish — The Work given to Him by the Father — His

earthly mission as a human being. Against temptation ... pulls of the flesh ... continuous opposition from godless men and satan and his demons. Up to the point of a brutal death.

Jesus had left eternal glory ... to come to earth as a man ... **to carry out the Father's mission.** Which included being sacrificed as a sin-offering. And Jesus finished that mission. He completed that phase of the Father's Work.

But **He didn't finish the Law!! And He didn't finish the Work of Salvation.**

Jesus' cry on the cross was somewhat like the Apostle Paul's?

2 Timothy 4:6-8

6 For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand.

7 I have fought the good fight, **I have finished the race,** I have kept the faith.

8 Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.

"I have finished" ... same Greek word ... Teleo. **"The race"** — KJV = **"course"**.

Paul had fulfilled his mission — the work Jesus gave him to do — he'd fought opposition ... hardship ... satan's messenger — he'd preached before the Jews ... the Gentiles and Kings. He'd finished his work.

Now he would rest till the Resurrection.

So ... Jesus had finished His earthly ministry. But ... He had not finished the plan of salvation. He has not finished bringing many sons to glory.

His earthly ministry was important. His shed blood and death were vital.

But there was much more ... yet to come!

1 Corinthians 15:1-4

1 Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand,

2 by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you — unless you believed in vain.

3 **For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,**

4 and **that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures,**

The Gospel — Jesus died and rose again.

The Gospel isn't just that Jesus died. **It's more important that He was resurrected.**

1 Corinthians 15:12-20

12 Now if Christ is preached that He has been raised from the dead, how do some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead?

13 But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ is not risen.

14 And **if Christ is not risen, then our preaching is empty and your faith is also empty.**

15 Yes, and we are found false witnesses of God, because we have testified of God that He raised up Christ, whom He did not raise up — if in fact the dead do not rise.

16 For if the dead do not rise, then Christ is not risen.

17 **And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins!**

18 **Then also those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished.**

19 If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable.

20 **But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.**

If “all” we have is Jesus' death — then we're doomed!!

So when Jesus said: “It is finished” — He couldn't mean the entirety of His ministry and Work. There was much more yet to come.

Romans 5:8-11

8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

9 Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.

10 **For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.** (*Jesus death was not sufficient*)

11 And **not only that, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.**

We shall be saved by Jesus' life — not His death!

Romans 10:8-10

8 But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith which we preach):

9 that **if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.** (*Jesus resurrection is key important!!*)

10 **For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.**

Believe in your heart that God raised Jesus from the dead —> salvation.

Believing in Jesus' resurrection is vital. Perhaps the most important part? Though we can think of it as a "package".

1 Thessalonians 4:13-14

13 But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope.

14 For **if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.**

We believe that Jesus died and rose again.

1 Thessalonians 4:15-18

15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep.

16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.

18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.

So when popular preachers tell millions to rely on Jesus' finished Work on the cross ... they're misleading people. **Jesus didn't finish His Work on the cross. He had to be resurrected IF we're to be saved.**

I think that this was generally understood better in the past?

The Apostles' Creed:

"I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. On the third day He rose again; He ascended into heaven, He is seated at the right hand of the Father, and He will come to judge the living and the dead".

Even traditionally ... for centuries ... people would know there was more than "just" Jesus' death. It is also His resurrection ... ascension ... coming judgment.

Jesus most certainly has not finished everything. He's still our High Priest today — interceding for us. He is still serving us. He is still busy.

Romans 8:31-34

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 (now) at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.**

Hebrews 7:23-27

23 Also there were many priests, because they were prevented by death from continuing.

24 **But He, because He continues forever, has an unchangeable priesthood.**

25 **Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost (completely) those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.** *(Like yesterday ... today ... and tomorrow)*

26 For such a High Priest was fitting for us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens;

27 who does not need daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the people's, for this He did once for all when He offered up Himself.

Clearly it wasn't "All" finished on the cross. Jesus is still active today on our behalf!

It is ridiculous to imply the Plan of Redemption was finished on the cross.

Jesus died and shed His blood. That's important ... but after He died ... Jesus then had to do something with His blood. He didn't do that whilst hanging on the cross.

He had to take His blood and sprinkle it on the Heavenly Mercy Seat.

Something He did after He was resurrected.

Hebrews 9:11-14

11 But **Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation.**

12 **Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption.**

13 For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh,

14 **how much more shall the blood of Christ**, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, **cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?**

Jesus entered the Most Holy Place WITH HIS BLOOD.

Hebrews 9:22-26

22 And according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission.

23 Therefore it was necessary that the copies of the things in the heavens should be purified with these, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these.

24 **For Christ has not entered the holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us;**

25 **not that He should offer Himself often**, as the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood of another--

26 He then would have had to suffer often since the foundation of the world; **but now, once at the end of the ages, He has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself.**

We can probably think of the Wave Sheaf Offering Day? It pictures Jesus ascending on the Sunday after His crucifixion and resurrection to BRING HIS BLOOD into the MOST HOLY PLACE and be accepted by The Father.

WE ARE SAVED BY JESUS' LIFE.

If "everything" was finished on the cross ... how would we have received the Holy Spirit?

John 7:37-39

37 On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, **"If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink.**

38 **"He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water."**

39 **But this He spoke concerning the Spirit,** which those believing in Him would receive; **for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.**

Jesus wasn't going to send the Promise of the Spirit until after He ascended back to the Father.

Luke 24:49

49 **"Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you;** but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high."

This is after Jesus' resurrection. **"Tarry" ... till Pentecost ... till I send the Promise.**

Something else that Jesus hadn't finished on the cross!

We could go on — but perhaps **one more example.**

John 14:1-4

1 "Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me.

2 **"In My Father's house are many mansions;** if it were not so, I would have told you. **I go to prepare a place for you.**

3 **"And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.**

4 "And where I go you know, and the way you know."

Jesus has gone on to prepare a place for us.

Unfortunately ... millions believe that Jesus did it all on the cross. Preachers proclaim that we can rely on Jesus' "Finished Work" on the cross.

There is nothing more for us to do. In fact ... even trying to do something good ... may mean you're relying on works for your salvation ... you're nullifying God's Grace — because Jesus did it all for you on the cross. He cried out: "It is finished"!!

But hopefully we can see that **Jesus** thankfully — and with great relief and satisfaction — **finished His Father's Work and Mission for His earthly ministry.**

But after the cross: Vitally important ... the resurrection and the sprinkling of His blood on the mercy Seat and frequent intercession and preparing a place for the saints.

And yet to come — His return to rule as King in the World Tomorrow ... to judge the living and the dead.

So ... No ... it's not all finished!

We have a great High Priest who has a very busy ongoing ministry!