

The Gospel of John

John 19:28-30

9.17.2023



THE JOURNEY
CHURCH

SCRIPTURE:

John 19:28-30

SERMON NOTES:

In the Spring of 2003, the U.S. launched an invasion into Iraq. Six weeks later, President George W. Bush delivered a televised speech from the aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln declaring, “Major combat operations in Iraq have ended. In the battle of Iraq, the US and our allies have prevailed.” Behind the President was a giant banner that read, “Mission Accomplished.” This led the American people to believe the war was over. What they didn’t realize was that it had only just begun. The vast majority of US casualties occurred after Bush’s Mission Accomplished speech. The truth was the mission was nowhere near over.

But when Jesus Christ hung upon the cross at Calvary, and uttered these most important words, “It is finished”, we can be certain that His mission was accomplished. God sent His Son into the world on an assignment. He came with a job to complete. And in our passage today, Jesus declares to His Father and the whole world, I have finished my work. Salvation has been accomplished.

And because salvation has been achieved through the finished work of Christ, believers can rest with confidence in Christ. Nothing more needs to be done. You don’t need to add anything to it. All you must do is trust in God’s Son and receive what He accomplished on your behalf.

Jesus has been arraigned, condemned, tortured, and crucified. The Jews wrongly charged Him with blasphemy, and out of fear, Pilate ordered that He be killed. At this point, Jesus has been hanging on the cross for six hours. His body has been torn to pieces. His open wounds have been rubbing against the rugged wooden cross as He’s gasped for every breath. But now, Jesus’ suffering has come to its final moments. He’s completed His work. He just has one last thing to do. That brings us to our passage.

Passage

VS28 -- After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), "I thirst."

When it says, Jesus knew "all was now finished", John means up to this point. There is still more to do. He still must rise from the dead. He still must pour out the Spirit, establish His Church through the ages and return to reign. More is to be done after this event, but all has now been accomplished up to this point in His life.

But this is significant, because in terms of the Messiah's earthly life and ministry, everything predicted of Him in the OT has been completed; every prophecy has been fulfilled; except this one last thing—drinking wine from the cross.

It says, "to fulfill the Scripture" Jesus said, "I thirst." What Scripture is John referring to? Most commentators believe this is a reference to Psalm 69:21. Let me read to you starting in verse 19. Listen to these words as if Jesus Himself is speaking them from the cross.

*"You know my reproach,
and my shame and my dishonor;
my foes are all known to you.
Reproaches have broken my heart,
so that I am in despair.
I looked for pity, but there was none,
and for comforters, but I found none."*

Here is the prophecy,

*"They gave me poison for food,
and for my thirst they gave me sour wine to drink."*

(Psalm 69:19-21)

In this Messianic Psalm, it was predicted and fulfilled that Jesus would drink sour wine. This may seem like a small and insignificant prophecy to fulfill, especially at such a crucial moment. But it reminds me that Jesus fulfilled every command from His Father and every prophecy ever made about Him.

Remember when He asked John to baptize Him. John objected at first, but Jesus said, we must do this "to fulfill all righteousness." Jesus said He didn't come to abolish the law but to fulfill it. He is the second Adam. The first man was placed in the Garden and

commanded to obey God's law, but He failed. Jesus was sent to Earth and was obedient in every way.

By the way, you are either in Adam or in Christ this morning. You either belong to the man from Heaven or you belong to the man from the earth.

Jesus isn't just fulfilling prophecy. Practically speaking, He's truly thirsty. He wants something to drink. Hanging on the cross under the eastern sun, He would have been dehydrated. That's why some people think this is a reference to Psalm 22. Verse 15 says, "my strength is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to my jaws." Have you ever been so hot and thirsty that your tongue actually sticks to your mouth? That's how Jesus feels now.

So, He asks for a drink. And they give it to Him.

VS29 -- "A jar full of sour wine stood there, so they put a sponge full of the sour wine on a hyssop branch and held it to his mouth."

The drink offered here is not the same drink He was offered earlier. If you read Mark's gospel, right before Jesus was nailed to the cross, people nearby offered Him wine mixed with myrrh. That cocktail was a sedative designed to ease the pain of the one crucified. Jesus refused that drink because He wanted to experience the fullness of His suffering.

The drink offered to Him in verse 29 would have prolonged His life and, consequently, His pain. This was a cheap, sour wine usually consumed by the Roman soldiers and "low ranks of society."

VS30 -- "When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, "It is finished," and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit".

Jesus drinks the wine from the sponge and says, the mission has been accomplished. It is finished. Salvation achieved. We'll come back to that in a moment.

And then He gave up His spirit. This is not the Holy Spirit. This is His human spirit—His soul. Remember, Jesus is human. He has a body and a spirit, and when the body dies, the spirit goes to be with the Lord (if you're a believer). That's what is happening with Jesus. His spirit is departing to be with God and His body is dead.

I was by my mother's side when she died. For several minutes she struggled to breath, and then she slowly slipped out of this world. She didn't want to die. Her life was taken from her because of her cancer.

No one took Jesus' life. He "gave up His Spirit." They didn't kill Him. He laid down His life. Remember what Jesus said in John 10? **17 For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. 18 No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father.**" In Luke's gospel, Jesus said, **"Father, in your hands I commit my spirit."** Jesus gave up His life voluntarily. And it is at this moment, Jesus not only gave up His life but offered His sacrifice to God, which was gladly accepted on our behalf.

I want to draw your attention to the heart beat of this text, and it's Jesus' three words.

It. Is. Finished.

We need to ask the question: what is finished? Let me share with you four things.

1. The Law has been Fulfilled.

I won't spend long here, because I already touched on this briefly, but Jesus' work of fulfilling the law of God is done. Every command of Moses. Every order from His Father has been fulfilled.

2. Satan has been defeated.

In John 12:31, Jesus said, **"Now is the judgment of this world; now will the ruler of this world be cast out."** The ruler of this world is Satan and He was cast out at the cross. Jesus defeated the Devil at Calvary because He took from him his only weapon—the power of accusation. He's called the accuser of the brothers (Rev 12:10).

Satan is a liar and the father of lies, but one thing he is honest about is our sin. And he lives to enter the courtroom of God to hurl accusations at God's people. "How can she be right with you when you know the sins she's committed? Why would you let him into heaven after what he's done?"

But Jesus has shut the mouth of the Devil because He paid for our sins. Satan can hurl any accusation he wants, but the verdict from Heaven has been handed down once and for all—forgiven, righteous, not guilty. This is why Paul says in Colossians 2:15, at the

cross, “[God] *disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.*” God triumphed over the devil at the cross.

3. The New Covenant Has Been Authorized.

The Old Covenant didn’t have the power to save. Nor did it have the power to transform lives. Which is why God promised a New Covenant—a covenant in which sins would be forgiven. Every member of the Covenant would know God and receive a new heart that desires to obey Him. That covenant wasn’t free. It cost God the blood and death of Jesus.

At the first Lord’s Supper, Jesus said this is the blood of the Covenant which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. His spilled blood sealed this covenant and all who belong to it. And when Jesus said it is finished, He purchased all the benefits of the New Covenant for you.

Consider what Jesus paid for:

1. Pardon for sin.
2. Reconciliation with God.
3. Eternal life.
4. The filling and power of the Holy Spirit.
5. A new heart.
6. Your calling to ministry.
7. An abundant life.
8. Knowledge of God and His word.
9. Peace, hope and joy in Christ.
10. Victory over sin, death and Satan.
11. Every blessing you enjoy in this life.

The list is endless. Every grace and blessing we receive now and into eternity was packaged in the New Covenant and purchased by the blood of Christ.

4. God’s Wrath and Justice Have Been Satisfied.

Jesus hung upon the cross for 6 hours—from 9 am to 3 pm in the afternoon. But starting at noon, darkness covered the land for three hours. Luke’s gospel says the sun failed. This is when the wrath of God towards sin was poured out on Jesus.

Christ's death was a propitiation. Propitiation is an offering that appeases the offended party. Jesus propitiated the wrath of God in full. He satisfied God's anger towards us for the sins we committed.

But He didn't just satisfy God's wrath. He satisfied God's justice. Justice demands that sins be paid for. We owed a debt to God. This is why Jesus' words, "It is finished" are so significant. Though it is three words in English, it is only one word in Greek—tetelestai.

Tetelestai was a word used to speak of one who completed a task. It could also be used for someone who completed a religious duty. Servants would use this term when they completed a job. Artists used it when they finished a project. Warriors used it when they prevailed in battle.

But I think the most significant place it was used in the ancient world was the marketplace. Archeologists found evidence that it was common practice for commercial businesses to write tetelestai on their receipts to indicate that a debt had been paid in full.

Romans 6:23 says, ***"For the wages (payment owed) of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."*** We had a bill we could not pay. We had a debt we could never satisfy. But Jesus paid it all. He rendered our accounts paid! This is why we sing, Jesus paid it all. All to Him we owe. Sin had left a crimson stain. He washed it white as snow.

Now, I want to take you in a little deeper as we consider the death of Christ.

Salvation is a Work of God Alone

In his prayer, from the belly of the fish, Jonah said, ***"Salvation belongs to the LORD"*** (2:9). Salvation belongs COMPLETELY to the LORD. Unfortunately, today, not everyone believes that.

You say, "Who wouldn't agree with that?" Most Christians. Most Christians believe that Jesus died for the whole world's sins in a nonspecific, general way, and it's our job to convince people to believe and receive His death so they can be saved. And those who believe go to Heaven and those who don't will die and go to Hell.

You've heard the evangelist say to the unbeliever, "God loves you so much. Jesus died for your sins. If you believe in Jesus, you will be saved." You say, "What's wrong with that?" Nothing necessarily, but you need to think about the assumption that's being made here.

The assumption behind such statements is this: Jesus died on the cross for everyone's sins in a general way, but their salvation isn't secured until they believe. It's only when the sinner exercises his will in believing does Christ's death become effective and salvific. In other words, God has done 99% of the work, but it's up to you to complete the last 1%. But if that's the case, then Jesus can't really say His work of atonement is finished until man finishes the work by believing.

It makes Christ's death a potential salvation, not an actual salvation. If you take the view that Jesus died for the whole world in general, but for no one specifically, and now it's our job to get as many people as possible to believe, then you take the view that Jesus' death could have potentially saved no one. Because the church could have gone forth proclaiming a gospel no one believed, and Christ's death could have been in vain. I don't think that view honors Christ.

What honors Christ, and biblical faithfulness, is to say that when Christ died, and declared it is finished, He secured the salvation of His bride. He made atonement for His chosen people; thus, securing everything they need for salvation. He secured their regeneration, their conversion, their repentance, their faith, their sanctification, and their glorification. The death of Christ guaranteed the salvation of those whom God predestined to be in His Son.

Penal Substitutionary Atonement

The church is in desperate need to understand the death of Christ rightly. Christ's death upon the cross is what's called an atonement. More specifically, it was a penal substitutionary atonement.

1. Penal

Penal means that Christ received our penalty. The wages of sin is death. Christ died the death we deserve.

2. Substitutionary

It was also substitutionary. Meaning, Jesus substituted Himself and died for everyone who ever has and ever will believe. Jesus did not substitute Himself and die in the place of people who will never believe. If you take the view that Jesus died for people who will never believe in Him, then you must believe that Hell is full of people for whom Jesus died. Which would mean that God punished their sin once on Christ at the cross and then a second time in Hell, which would make God unjust and the death of Christ in vain.

Unless you're a universalist. If you take the view that Christ died for everyone's sins, regardless if they believe or not, then you must take the view that everyone will be in Heaven because everyone's sins are paid for. God doesn't send people to Hell if their sins are paid for at the cross.

Some will say, "they're in Hell because of unbelief. He died for their sins, but they go to Hell because they don't believe." But is not unbelief the primary sin for which Christ died? And isn't unbelief that which He overcomes through the work of His Spirit, whose power He purchased at the cross? Furthermore, the Bible doesn't teach that men go to Hell merely for unbelief but for sin. And if Christ died for everyone's sins, then everyone will go to Heaven.

3. Atonement

Finally, Christ's death was an atonement. Meaning, it was a voluntary sacrifice of Himself to pay for the sins of His people. This is rooted deeply in the OT.

Christ died on the Day of Atonement. Every year, Israel's high priest was to offer a sacrifice for the sins of the people. Before doing so, he would first make sacrifices for himself and his family. Then he would take two goats. One goat would be slaughtered for the sins of the people. The other goat would be cast into wilderness to symbolize God casting out their sin.

What's important about this sacrifice is that it was for specific people and their specific sins. Namely, it was for the people of Israel. Not the world. And it wasn't for sins in some general or theoretical sense. The sins that the animal died for were the sins the people committed that year. The sacrifice was made for a definite group of people and their exact sins. God knew the exact number of people and their exact number of sins.

When Christ came, He was both the high priest and the sacrifice. And just like Israel's high priest, Jesus made an offering to God; except it wasn't an animal. He offered Himself. Christ, the lamb of God, offered Himself as a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of His bride. The difference is that Israel had to repeat this sacrifice. Christ offered Himself once for all time. This is why Jesus said, "It is Finished." He died for all those who will believe and every sin they will ever commit and not one more.

Application

1. Understand that Salvation belongs to the Lord.

Perhaps the most important takeaway from this message is the realization and acknowledgement that Christ achieved our salvation at the cross. That God didn't do all He could do and now it's up to you to complete the task. He secured your salvation in its entirety when He declared it is finished.

I know what some of you may be thinking. "What about faith? We aren't saved until we believe. We're responsible to place our faith in Jesus. So, yes, Jesus died in our place, but we still have to believe before we actually receive salvation."

That's completely true. You must repent and believe the gospel before you will be saved. But let me ask you this, where do you think you get the ability to repent and believe? What most people don't understand is repentance and faith—which are necessary for salvation—are gifts that Christ purchased for you when He died upon the cross. Remember, I said Christ's death authorized the new covenant. Part of the new covenant benefits is the gift of faith.

Faith is a gift, not something you naturally possess and are born with. Ephesians 2:8-9, ***"For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, 9 not a result of works, so that no one may boast."*** Being saved by grace through faith in Christ is a gift from God. Faith is not natural. It is supernatural. It's a gift Christ gives to those for whom He died. And when He gives it to you, He also gives you a new heart. And with these new gifts you willingly believe in Jesus.

So, if you believe today, and if you repented from a lifestyle of sin, it is because Christ purchased you on the cross and has given you everything you need for salvation. Again, your new heart, conversion, repentance, faith, sanctification, and glorification are all gifts from God that Christ purchased upon the cross.

2. Rest in the finished work of Christ.

Never forget, Jesus paid it all. He declared “it is finished”. You can rest in His perfect and finished work.

The moment you stop believing that Christ’s work is all you need to be right with God is the moment you will start trying to work to earn your salvation. You will wonder what religious duty or good deed you need to perform to make God happy.

When you sin, despair will fill your heart because you will think that God doesn’t love you anymore or you need to get your salvation back. When trials come, you will think it is because of your sin and shortcomings.

Friends, your standing with God is not based on your performance. It is based on Christ’s performance. You are made right with God based on works, but it’s not your works. It’s Christ’s works.

Enjoy the work of your Savior. When you wake up and when you go to bed, remind yourself that you are forever right with God through Christ, and nothing can change that. When you sin, confess your sins but go to God with confidence that He will receive you every time because Jesus qualifies you to enter into the presence of the Father.

The other night my daughter wanted to look at my wife’s and I’s wedding pictures. I got out the box and pulled out the album. I had never noticed before, but in the box was a bill for the pictures. \$1900. For pictures! I couldn’t believe it. But then I looked underneath that bill. There was another piece of paper. It was a receipt. It had a stamp on it. PAID; tetelestai.

Let me ask you, what sin is keeping you from God today? Let me give you some good news. It is finished. The debt has been paid.

1. Did you have an abortion? Your sin has been paid.
2. Did you commit adultery? Your sin has been paid.
3. Did you wrongly divorce your spouse? Your sin has been paid.
4. Are you prideful? Your sin has been paid.
5. Have you been sexually impure or looked at pornography? Your sin has been paid.

If your sin was left out, bring it to the register, scan it in, and then look at your receipt.
“tetelestai” Paid in full.

REVIEW:

- ❖ Read John 19:28-30
- ❖ What does it mean that Jesus knew that all was now finished?
- ❖ Why is it significant that Jesus said “I thirst” in verse 28?
- ❖ What did Jesus mean when he said “It is finished” in verse 30?

REFLECT:

- ❖ What is penal substitutionary atonement?

RESPOND:

- ❖ Are you truly resting in the finished work of Christ? What are some ways you try to earn the gift He gave to you?

MEDITATE:

- ❖ John 19:30 -- *When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, “It is finished,” and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.*

MEMORIZE:

- ❖ Romans 5:18 -- *Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men.*

PRAYER FOCUS:

- ❖ Director of For the City Ministries - **Phil Cudd**
- ❖ Ministry - **Deacons**
- ❖ **Pray for our long-term families:**
 - The Wilsons
 - The Grays
 - The Starks (departing in October)
- ❖ **Pray for our mid-term sent ones:**
 - Kaesi
- ❖ **Pray for our short-term teams:**
 - Central Asia Team departs in September 29
- ❖ **Pray for the lost - Unreached People Group (UPG):** Kapali in Bangladesh
 - **Population in country:** 171,000
 - **Global population:** 529,000
 - **Christian Adherent:** 0.00%
 - **Evangelical:** 0.00%
 - **Primary Religion:** Hinduism
 - **Primary Language:** Bengali

- **Summary:** Kapali people are one of the smallest ethnic groups in Bangladesh, and they are settled near different tea gardens. They believe that their ancestors originated from the forehead (Kapal) of Lord Shiva. Therefore, they are known as Kapali.
- **Prayer Focus:** Pray that Kapali people in Bangladesh would see that their old system of ethics and beliefs is not working and that their only hope is in Jesus Christ. Pray that intercessors worldwide would regularly pray for God's salvation of the Kapali people. Ask God to transform entire Kapali families and communities for his glory.
- Want to keep up with other Unreached People Groups? Download the Unreached of the Day App
<https://joshuaproject.net/pray/unreachedoftheday/app>