

“God’s Word, Alive!”

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A Biblical Teaching Ministry Dedicated to “Holding Forth the Word of Life”
by Velma Sanders

INDEED . . .

“IT IS FINISHED!”

When Jesus, therefore, had received the vinegar, He said, “**It is finished,**” and

He bowed His head, and gave up the ghost.

(John 19:30, King James Version)

“Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of Me), to do Thy will, O God.” (Hebrews 10:7) With these words of departure, Jesus Christ leaves Heaven and takes upon Himself flesh and blood to become The Servant of The Lord (Isaiah 42:1). Although, The Mighty God, He lays aside His outward glory, as well as the glories of Heaven, and the praises of multitudes of angels to become a lowly man. The Philippian writer, Paul, says it this way, “But made Himself of no reputation, and took upon Him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men.” (Philippians 2:7)

The Lord Jesus Christ, as The Servant of The Lord, was most willing and faithful to obey and to execute the will of His Father completely. He was, and is, The Servant which each of His true disciples seek to emulate.

From everlasting to everlasting, God, The Father; God, The Son; and God, The Holy Spirit had determined that Jesus Christ, The Second Person of The Godhead, The Son of God, Our Lord and Our Savior would accomplish the great, awesome task of redeeming man. Throughout the portals of eternity, the will of God had been decreed. Jesus Christ would take upon Himself the likeness of man. He would be born of the woman’s seed (Genesis 3:15), born of a virgin (Isaiah 7:14), and yet be born of Abraham’s seed (Genesis 12:3). It was determined by The Godhead that Jesus would come from the tribe of Judah (Genesis 49:10) and be born in a little town called Bethlehem (Micah 5:2). It was also foreordained that He would be announced to the world by John the Baptist (Isaiah 40:3) and that He would be anointed fully by The Holy Spirit for public attestation and ministry (Isaiah 61:1-3). From everlasting, it was decreed that The Father would lay upon Him our sins and that He would, through crucifixion, pay redemption’s price in full (Isaiah 53). These and many other prophecies were foretold thousands of years before they were fulfilled. But fulfilled they were, in total, by Jesus, The Servant of The Lord.

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Throughout the entirety of Jesus' earthly pilgrimage, He faithfully did the will of God, His Father. When Jesus was twelve years old, He said to Joseph and Mary, "How is it that ye sought Me? Knew ye not that **I must be about My Father's business?**" (Luke 2:49) Some years later, He says to His disciples, "My meat is to do the will of Him that sent Me, and **to finish His work.**" (John 4:34) Upon the completion of His public ministry, we hear Him as He speaks to His Father in prayer, with eyes lifted up, face-to-face, "I have glorified Thee on the earth; **I have finished** the work which Thou gavest Me to do." (John 17:4) And finally, as our main text reveals, while Jesus was upon the cross, having fulfilled all, "He said, **It is finished.**" (John 19:30)

Upon careful examination, one notices that Jesus said, "It is finished" twice. Is this a contradiction? Can what has been "finished" once be "finished" again? No, of course not! The first, "I have finished" of Jesus refers to Him having fulfilled all that He was assigned to do regarding His public ministry of preaching, teaching and healing to the masses, as well as His private ministry to the disciples. The second, "It is finished" refers to His peculiar work of redemptive suffering which commences in the Garden of Gethsemane and continues through His arrest by the soldiers and concludes at His death on the cross (Matthew 26:36-38; 26:57; 27:33-35). So, there is no contradiction. To both assignments given to The Son, by The Father, Jesus completed them and upon the completion of each task He proclaimed, "It is finished."

Now everyone knows what the word "finish" means. When something is "finished" it is complete; done; brought to an end; with nothing remaining to do. This is what Jesus, as Servant of The Lord, did. Of course, Christ Jesus accomplished more than mortal man can tell, but we know from the Scriptures that He finished the following tasks:

- **He finished drinking of the cup** of which He took as He entered into His sufferings in Gethsemane's Garden. "And He went a little further, and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, O My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as Thou wilt." (Matthew 26:39) "Then said Jesus unto Peter, Put up thy sword into the sheath; the cup which My Father hath given Me, shall I not drink it?" (John 18:11)
- **He finished and made an end of what the Old Testament could not do in its order of sacrifices, priesthood, laws, etc.** "And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering often the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins; But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down on the right hand of God." (Hebrews 10:11, 12)
- **He made complete Satan's defeat.** "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." (Hebrews 2:14)

- **He finished the work of our salvation.** “For by one offering He hath perfected forever them that are sanctified.” (Hebrews 10:14)

Here we are, in the dawning of this 21st century, looking back and praising Jesus for the work that He finished on the cross. He did what we could not do, hundreds upon thousands, upon hundreds of thousands, upon millions, upon billions and trillions of men, and NOT ONE could do what Jesus did! “AMEN! HE IS THE SERVANT OF THE LORD!”

It could be possible that someone would ask the question, “How do you know that ‘It is, indeed, finished?’” And to that question, there is an answer. We know because:

- **Jesus Said So!** The Son of God, who is “Truth” personified, and He who cannot lie declared, “It is finished.” We dare not call Him a “Liar.”
- **The Father Received His Spirit!** Luke 23:46. “And when Jesus had cried with a loud voice, He said, Father, into Thy hands I commend My spirit, and having said this, He gave up the ghost.”
- **God Raised Him from the Dead!** Acts 2:23-24. “Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain; Whom God hath raised up having loosed the pains of death, because it was not possible that He be held by it.”
- **God Received Him into Glory!** 1 Timothy 3:16. “And without controversy, great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the nations, believed on in the world, received up into glory.”
- **God Exalted Him!** Philippians 2:9-11. “Wherefore, God also hath highly exalted Him, and given Him a Name which is above every name, That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth, And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God, the Father.”
- **God Seated Him at His Own Right Hand!** Hebrews 1:13. “But to which of the angels said He at any time, Sit on My right hand, until I make Thine enemies Thy footstool?”
- **The Holy Ghost Has Come!** Acts 2:33. “Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, He hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear.”

Jesus Christ has excellently done what we could not do. There is no need for anyone to add to, revise or edit the work that He has most assuredly completed. It is impossible for anyone to take away from, deduct or delete this eternal work of God, accomplished by His Son. Our work begins with simply believing on the work that Christ Jesus has done.

“Jesus answered, and said unto them, this is the work of God, that ye believe on Him whom He hath sent.” (John 6:29)

Just as The Servant of The Lord, Christ Jesus, completed His divinely assigned task, so it is possible for each one of us to fulfill ours. When the apostle Paul had come to the end of his journey and it was time for him to physically die, he said, “For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith.” (2 Timothy 4:6, 7). May this, too, be our testimony.

Each one of us, no doubt, has experienced the pleasure that a completed work brings. Whether it was a simple work or a more complex one. There is both peace and joy attached to a completed task, even though the actual task may have been somewhat difficult or maybe even painful. It is especially fulfilling to have completed a work when we must give an account to someone else, whoever they may be. We, too, have experienced the nagging feeling and the weight of not having completed a work. Regardless of whether it's a work unfinished or finished, we all will one day have to give an account to God of the deeds we have done. “And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment.” (Hebrews 9:27)

“Wherefore, we labor that, whether present or absent, we may be accepted of Him, For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that everyone may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.” (2 Corinthians 5:9,10) As God's dear children, we must continue to follow the path that Jesus, as The Servant of The Lord marked out for us.

Just as Jesus had a two-fold “It is finished,” may we also have a two-fold “It is finished.” The first work is to turn from sin, and then turn to God, through repentance and faith. Trusting in the work that has been done on our behalf by His Son, Christ Jesus. The second task is to live the balance of your life pleasing Him.

ROMANS 10:8-10

“But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart; that is, the word of faith, which we preach; That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”

*Jesus paid it all,
All to Him I owe.
Sin had left a crimson stain,
He washed it white as snow.*

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