

We'll be looking at the NT passage from John 19

Let's pray and ask for God's help in understanding His Word.

## Intro

There are some words we hear in our lives which are monumental:

Like:

- A woman hearing the words "*will you marry me?*"
- Or a man hearing the words "*YES - I will marry you*"
- Or the person in court hearing the jury say "*Not guilty*"
- Or the interviewer saying "*Congratulations - you got the job!*"
- Or the doctor saying "*You're going to have a baby*"
- Or the doctor saying "*The cancer is all gone*"
- Or the driving examiner saying "*Congratulations - you passed your driving test*"

I'd like to argue this morning that Jesus' words on the cross - are the most important words ever spoken in all of history

In John 19:30 - Jesus' last words on the cross were "*It is finished*" - and then Jesus bowed his head and gave up his spirit - and breathed his last breath

What did Jesus mean when He said "*It is finished*"?

[PowerPoint - 1- Tetelestai]

The Greek word used for "*It is finished*" = Te-teles-tai

Te-telestai means "to bring to an end - to complete - to accomplish."

It's a **crucial word** because it signifies the successful end to a particular course of action.

- It's the word you would use when you **climb to the peak of Mt. Everest**;
- It's the word you would use when you **hand in the final copy of your uni assignment**
- It's the word you would use when you **make the final payment on your car or home loan**;
- It's the word you use when you cross the finish line of your first 10K run.

The word means more than just - "***I survived.***" It means "***I did exactly what I set out to do.***"

But there's more here than the verb itself. *Te-telestai* is in the **perfect tense** in Greek. That's significant because the **perfect tense** speaks of an action which has been **completed** in the **past** with **results continuing** into the **present**. It's **different** from the **past tense** which looks back to an event and says, "***This happened.***" The **perfect tense** adds the idea that "***This happened*** and ***it is still in effect today.***"

When **Jesus** cried out "***It is finished,***" He meant "It was **finished** in the **past**, it is still **finished** in the **present**, and it will remain **finished** in the **future**."

Notice too - **Jesus did not say, "I am finished,**" for that would imply that He died defeated and exhausted. Rather, he cried out "**I is finished,"** meaning "***I successfully completed the work I came to do.***"

*Te-telestai*, then, is the *Jesus' final cry of victory*. When He died, *He left no unfinished business behind*. When He said, "It is finished," He was **speaking the truth**.

Also - *Te-telestai* is often used in an **accounting sense** - and it means a **debt** is paid in full

### **The Debt**

So, when Jesus said "**It is finished**" - -He was saying that the **debt owed to His Father was wiped away in full** - completely and forever

This debt was not a **debt Jesus owed** His Father

**No!** - instead **Jesus wiped away the debt humankind owed to God**

That **debt** is - humankind's sin - our sin

You see the Bible in **Isa 53:6** describes **human's** as being

like sheep, gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way

And the Bible also says in **Rom 3:23** that **-all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God**

Our sin against God means we have a **huge debt** to God

Now - **God** is **holy** and **can't** look at sin

**As Hab 1:13** says - **God's eyes are too pure to look on evil** - He cannot tolerate wrong doing

**God needs to balance His desire for mercy with His desire for justice**

**Sin cannot go unpunished**

**And the punishment for sin is death (Rom 6:23)**

**There has to be a way for God's mercy and justice to be achieved.**

**And so, Jesus - God the Son - was given a rescue Mission to do - by God the Father.**

**Jesus left the comfort of Heaven and willingly came to Earth to rescue humans from the wrath of God - and in doing so - to bring glory to God the Father**

**Just prior to His arrest by the Romans, Jesus prayed His last public prayer, asking the Father to glorify Him, just as Jesus had glorified the Father on earth, by "finishing the work the Father gave Him to do" (John 17:4)**

### **The Work that Jesus finished**

**What is this work that Jesus finished?**

**[PowerPoint 2-Work Jesus Finished]**

**1. First, Jesus has finished the work of Saving People lost from God**

**Jesus' primary mission according to Luke 19:10 - was to *seek and save people lost from God* - bringing the lost sheep (lost people) back to Him (the Good Shepherd)**

**Jesus did this by dying on the cross - and taking the punishment for sins - from the sinful person - and putting it on Himself**

**This is not good for Him - but fantastic for us!**

As 2 Cor 5:21 says:

God made Jesus who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Jesus we might become right with God

**Only God** - in **flesh** form - could **finish** this **job** of **saving** - **because only God** - in **flesh** - is able to be **perfectly sinless** - and **can be** the **perfect sacrifice** on the cross

By **His death** - Jesus **satisfied God's justice** by **dying** to **pay** for **sins** of those **who believe**. These **sins** can **never** be **punished again** since that would **violate God's justice**.

2. **Second**, all the **prophecies, promises** and **symbols** of the **Old Testament** that **point to Jesus** are **finished**

- In the **OT** - from **Genesis** to **Malachi** - there are 100s (300) of **prophecies** forecasting the **coming** of **Jesus** - the **Saviour**
- Psalms like **Psalm 22**
  - Ps 22 - speaks the **words He spoke** on the **Cross** - ***My God, My God why have you forsaken me***
  - Ps 22 says Jesus will be **mocked and insulted** on the cross
  - Ps 22 says **people will tell Him to save Himself** - the **irony** is He's **dying to save people**
  - Ps 22 says his **hands** and **feet** will be **pierced**
  - Ps 22 says all his **bones** will be on **display** and **people will stare** - as they see Jesus **whipped, scourged** and now **crucified**

- Bible passages like **Isaiah 53** - speak of Jesus being the **suffering servant sent by God**
- When the **OT** talks about the **kings of God's people** - **Jesus** is the **King of Heaven and Earth**
- When the **OT** in **Deut 18** - of a **prophet like Moses** to come - **Jesus is that Prophet**
- When the **OT** ordains the **High Priest** to make the **sacrifices** for sin - it's all **pointing to Jesus** as the **ultimate High Priest** - making the **ultimate once and for all sacrifice** for sin
- All the **festivals** in the **OT** **point to Jesus** - like **Jesus** is like the **Passover Lamb** - slaughtered so people live
- In fact, **every OT book references Jesus**

### 3. Third, Jesus' obedience and suffering in doing the Father's will is finished

- It was **God's will** that **Jesus** would **finish the job** His was **given in perfect obedience**
- In **John 5:30** - **Jesus says: By myself I can do nothing; I judge only as I hear, and my judgment is just, for I seek not to please myself but him who sent me.**
- And as **Jesus says in John 6:38: For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me.**
- As we look at our **NT passage - John 19** - **see how Jesus suffers and obeys:**
  - He was **flogged** - a **crown of thorns** was **twisted** on His Head [Show Thorn]

- They put a **purple robe** on Him and **mocked** Him as **King of the Jews** - **ironically, He's King of kings**
- His **own people** called for Him to be **crucified** - even though He only ever **told the truth**
- They **said** He was **blaspheming** - even though He **really is** the **Son of God**
- **Pilate** said he had the **power to crucify Jesus** - but **Jesus** told Him - you **only have power** because **God** gave you it - it's all part of **God's plan for Jesus to die on the cross**
- The **Jewish leaders** lie that they **only have one king** - that is the Roman Emperor - **Caesar** - **deliberately forgetting** them have **God** as **their King**
- **Jesus** was **crucified** on a **cruel cross** - a Roman **torturing device**
- The **soldiers** took his **clothes** and **gambled** for His **main garment**
- And **Jesus** in **complete obedience** - still had time to be **compassionate** and make sure His **mother - Mary** - was **taken care of** by His **disciple John**
- Then **Jesus** died the most **excruciating death** - and he was **dead before** the Roman **soldiers** came to **break His legs**
- His **obedience** and **suffering** - **finished!**

#### 4. Fourth, the power of sin and Satan's power is finished

As 1 John 3:8b

<sup>8</sup>The reason the **Son of God** appeared was **to destroy the devil's work.**

And so, we have the shield of faith - our faith in Jesus - **which can extinguish** the flaming **arrows of Satan's attacks on us** (Eph 6:16)

### Response

Jesus' finished work on that 1<sup>st</sup> Good Friday - demands a response from us.

This is how the Apostle Paul describes our response in 2 Cor 5:17-19:

[PowerPoint 3-Response]

<sup>17</sup> Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the **new creation** has come: The old has gone, the new is here! <sup>18</sup> All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the **ministry of reconciliation**: <sup>19</sup> that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. <sup>20</sup> We are therefore **Christ's ambassadors**, as though God were making his appeal through us.

So, because of **Jesus' death** we are **now** be **reconciled** to **God**

We are **new creation** - and we have been **given** a **job** to do - as **ambassadors** of Jesus

Our job - is called a **ministry of reconciliation**

And our **job** is to **help reconcile others to God** - by **telling** them about how **faith in Jesus** takes away the **punishment** for our **sins** - **gives us forgiveness** - and **gives us eternal life**.

**Easter** is the **perfect time** to share the **Good News** of **1<sup>st</sup> Good Friday** and **1<sup>st</sup> Easter Sunday**

It's my prayer that the **Good News of Jesus spreads around this world** - faster than this virus is spreading.

Just because we're isolated at home - doesn't stop this **Good News** - it's a unique opportunity - you can share these Bible talks - invite unbelieving family and friends - to listen to services on **Congregation Connect** - or invite them to listen to the talk on **FB**.

You can share Bible verses and devotions - and of course pray for them.

### Conclusion

To finish up then:

Let's leave here this morning knowing Jesus' finished work on **Good Friday** - gives us these **two promises** - which you can share with all your family and friends:

[PowerPoint 4-Conclusion]

1<sup>st</sup> from **Romans 8:1-2 (CEV)** says:

If you belong to Christ Jesus, you won't be punished. <sup>2</sup>The Holy Spirit will give you life that comes from Christ Jesus and will **set you free from sin and death**.

And 2<sup>nd</sup> from **John 5:24** - Jesus says:

**24** I tell you for certain that everyone who hears my message and has faith in the one who sent me **has eternal life** and **will never be condemned**. They have already **gone from death to life**.

**It's not just Good Friday - it's the Best Friday**

**Jesus' job of fixing the broken relationship between humans and God is finished**

Let's pray...