

It Is Finished

John 19:28-30

I. The Cross

John 19:28 *“After this, Jesus, knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the Scripture might be fulfilled, said, ‘I thirst!’”*

A. The Apostle John brought us to the cross. When we arrive at **verse 28**, a note of fulfillment is in the air. Twice in **verse 28**, we find a verb, which declared everything is accomplished. The word John usually employed to describe the fulfillment of scripture is a word meaning *“filled full.”* Yet, this time John used a different word which meant *“completed,”* or *“accomplished.”*

B. When John wrote **verse 28**, he wrote about what Jesus did. What was accomplished? Our Lord’s purpose is stated two places in this Gospel.

1. First, in **John 13:1**. This is the anteroom to *“the upper room discourse.”*

“Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that His hour had come that He should depart from this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end.”

As we pass through the door to the words Jesus spoke to His disciples just before He was betrayed and crucified, John told us what Our Lord Jesus was doing. The Lord Jesus Christ was not a helpless victim. (1) Jesus knew He would die *“Jesus knew that His hour had come that He should depart from this world to the Father”* (2) Jesus loved His own and determined He would love them *“to the completion.”* Here again, we find our word from **John 19:28**. He did not just love them until He went to the cross. He loved us all the way to the completion of God the Father’s plan for the ages. When we see Jesus hanging on that cross of judgment and shame, we see the Lord Jesus Christ loving us to the accomplishment of God’s eternal plan.

2. Second, in the Savior’s prayer in **John 17:1-4** we read:

“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, as You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him. And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do.’”

The work Jesus came to do was to finish (our word again) the work the Father gave Him to do. That work was to give eternal life to everyone the Father gave to Him. When we see Christ enduring the incredible physical and spiritual suffering at the cross, we see our Lord accomplishing (finishing) the work the Father sent Him to do.

C. If we had been there at the cross that day, we would have seen both kinds of suffering Jesus endured as reflected in what is commonly called “the seven words of the cross.” I want to point to only two.

In **Matthew** and **Mark**, we read of the cry of spiritual torment –***“My God, My God why have You forsaken Me?”*** This cry is clothed in mystery. We readily grasp when Jesus became ***“sin for us,”*** the Father turned His face away because He is too holy to look upon sin. What did this mean to the Son? We do not know nor can we understand what it meant to be momentarily abandoned by God. We do not know what it meant for the sinless one to have sin imputed to Him.

2. Here in **John 19:28** we read the second word. The cry of human torment:

“I thirst.”

II. What was accomplished?

John 19:30 ***“So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, ‘It is finished!’ And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.”***

A. Listen to the victory call from Calvary. It is one Greek verb, ***tetelestai***. ***“It is accomplished!”*** Praise God the work is completed.

B. We tend to want to ask what was completed.

1. The Scripture was fulfilled. The promise of a suffering Messiah was fulfilled. All the prophecies tied to Messiah's first coming were accomplished.

2. The sacrifices were complete. All the offerings were completed in the single sacrifice of the divine Lamb of God who took away our sin. The separation between the thrice holy God and sinful humanity was bridged. As the song writer penned, ***"Because the sinless Savior died / my sinful soul is counted free / for God the just is satisfied / to look on Him and pardon me."***

3. The Mission that brought the Son of God to take on humanity in order to redeem us was accomplished. ***Tetelestai***, mission accomplished. The writer to the Hebrews put it this way.

Hebrews 9:26 ***"Now, once at the end of the ages, [Christ] has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself."***

Nothing more could be done to save us. We cannot add anything to what Christ did. It is finished. All we can do is believe.

Have you believed?