

The Sixth Saying:  
“It Is Finished”– The Word of Victory!  
John 19:30

INTRO: “It is finished,” is the Greek *Tetelestai*. Near the end of the six hours on the cross, Jesus cried the triumphant cry: *Tetelestai*. “It is finished.”

It is possible that *tetelestai* is the greatest single word ever uttered. Some say it is the greatest utterance since the beginning of the world. Note what great scholars have said:

1. Philips Brooks declared that this one word contained, “a breadth and length and depth and height which will take eternity to comprehend” (Moyer 85).
2. Bishop Ryle wrote: “I am deeply conscious that there is an inexhaustible fulness in this word” (Moyer 85)
3. Panton declares: “It is the one word in all literature which summarizes the work of Calvary forever” (Moyer 85).

The Greeks of years past thought that perfection in speech was found in the giving of much in little– “to give a sea of matter in a drop of language.” What those early Greeks spoke of, that perfection, is found in the sixth saying of Christ from the cross. He uttered a sea of truth in the drop of a single word.

*Tetelestai*– this is the cry of the victor not the victim.

*Tetelestai*– the most momentous word of history.

*Tetelestai*– the most wonderful proclamation to human ears.

*Tetelestai*– heaven rejoiced as that cry rang through the streets of gold.

*Tetelestai*– hell trembled, the cells of the lost reverberated with the cry that doomed Satan.

*Tetelestai*– not a weak murmur or whisper but the cry of the Captain of our salvation. “It is finished.”

*Tetelestai*– this is the triumph of the cross, the cry of satisfaction.

The other Gospels do not record the words, “It is finished” as John does here. What they do say is that Jesus died with a great shout (Mt 27:50; Mk 15:37; Lk 23:46). The great shout recorded in Matthew, Mark, and Luke is none other than the words recorded by John here in John 19:30, “It is finished.” This is a shout of joy for He saw His spiritual seed through His death; it is the cry of victory. You and I have victory because He shouted, “It is finished.”

- I. “IT IS FINISHED” PROPHECIES WERE FULFILLED CONCERNING HIS EARTHLY WORK

- A. The fingers of the Scriptures point to Jesus Christ.
  - 1. Jesus said, "All things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the Psalms, concerning me" (Lk 23:44). "It is finished," says all things concerning His death were fulfilled.
  - 2. In John 5:39, Jesus said: "Search the scriptures.... they testify of me....."
- B. In the hour that Christ cried, "It is finished," all the prophecies concerning His life on earth WERE fulfilled.
  - 1. Gen 3:15 declares that the "seed of the woman," Jesus, would bruise the head of the serpent– Satan.
    - a. On the cross, Jesus looked down upon Mary and said: "Woman." She was the "woman," and He was the "seed."
    - b. The "seed of the woman" was fulfilling the prophecy of the bruising of the head of the serpent.
  - 2. Prophecy foretold: now accomplished.
    - a. The time of his birth– Dan 9:25.
    - b. The place of His birth– Micah 5:2– Bethlehem- Judah.
    - c. His forerunner– Mal 3:1. John the Baptist sent to prepare the way.
    - d. His miracles (Psa 107:29).
    - e. His preaching (Isa 61:1).
    - f. His entry into Jerusalem (Zech 9:9).
    - g. His rejection (Psa 41:9).
    - h. His betrayal for thirty pieces of silver (Zech 11:12).
    - i. His silence under accusation: "as a sheep before shearers is dumb, so He openeth not His mouth" (Isa 53:7).
    - j. Isa 50:6 says, "I give my back to the smiters...."
    - k. Isa 53:12 says, "He was numbered with the transgressors." Crucified between two thieves.
    - l. The Psalmist wrote, "My throat is dried....." He cried, "I thirst."
    - m. His hands and feet were nailed to the cross. Psalm 22:16 says, "they pierced my hands and my feet."
    - n. His side was pierced– Zech 12:10.
    - o. "They parted my garments among them, and for my vesture did they cast lots" (Psa 22:18).
    - p. Psalm 22:1 declares, "My God, My God why hast thou

forsaken me.”

- q. They broke the legs of the thieves, but not His. Centuries before it was written of the Paschal Lamb, “neither shall ye break a bone thereof” (Ex 12:46).
- 3. The prophecies of His life upon this earth all became history that day when Christ cried, “It is finished.”

## II. “IT IS FINISHED” HIS SUFFERING CONSUMMATED

### A. What words can describe the suffering of our Savior?

- 1. Pink: “O the unutterable anguish, physical, mental, and spiritual, which he endured! Appropriately was He designated ‘The man of Sorrows’.”
- 2. Jesus suffered at the hands of:
  - a. Men
  - b. Satan
  - c. God.
- 3. Pain was inflicted upon Him by friend and foe.
- 4. Jesus walked this earth in the shadow of the cross. Psalm 88:15 says, “I am afflicted and ready to die from my youth up.”
  - a. He was slain from the foundation of the world (Rev 13:8).
  - b. His death was predetermined. Jesus came to die (Acts 2:23-24).
- 5. The words “mine hour” so often spoken by Christ refer to the cross.
  - a. He carried the shadow of the cross to Gethsemane.
  - b. The shadow became substance when they nailed Him to the tree.
  - c. On the cross, He tasted deep suffering under the wrath of God. “That He by the grace fo God should taste death for every man” (Heb 2:9).
  - d. He was made an offering for sin. He suffered on the cross.

### B. When Jesus cried, “It is finished,” He proclaimed the end of His suffering and the payment for the believer’s sins.

- 1. Jesus cried, “It is finished,” yielded up His spirit, and the spear of the Roman soldier was thrust into His side.
- 2. Not a single enemy hand touched Him after that. Not one!
  - a. He shall never suffer again at others hands. “It is

- finished.”
- b. He was “smitten and afflicted of God,” but never again shall He be. “It is finished.”
- c. He was nailed to the cross once, but never shall be again. “It is finished.”
- d. No enemy hand shall ever again be laid upon Him.
- 3. Hands of love took Jesus from the cross; hands of love laid Him in the tomb. He arose and now sits at the Father’s right hand. “It is finished.”

### III. “IT IS FINISHED” SACRIFICES CEASED

- A. God could never be satisfied with the shed blood of beasts; Jesus came to be the perfect sacrifice (Heb 10:4-10).
- B. Bishop Ryle wrote, “He had at length offered up the perfect sacrifice of which every Mosaic sacrifice was a type and symbol and there remained no more need of offering for sin. The old covenant was finished” (Moyer 92-93).

### IV. “IT IS FINISHED” SALVATION IS COMPLETE

- A. Let us consider two mountains: the mountain of the law, Sinai, and the mountain of grace, Calvary.
  - 1. On Sinai, lightning stabbed and thunder rocked as God gave His holy law.
    - a. Every sin that man ever commits breaks the law.
    - b. God said, “Cursed is everyone that continueth not in all things of the book of the law to do them” (Gal 3:10).
    - c. No one has ever continued in the whole law. All the world is guilty and condemned; all are bankrupt before God. That is the message of Sinai. The message of the law, you are condemned!
  - 2. The message of the other mount, Calvary, is found in Gal 3:13: “Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us; for it is written, Cursed is everyone that hangeth on a tree.”
    - a. Christ never broke the law, but He was made a curse for us.
    - b. He suffered the just for the unjust.
    - c. The curse of the broken law belonged to me, but He took it unto Himself when He hung upon the tree.

- d. Jesus came to fulfill the law. He fulfilled all its demands. The curse of the law smote Him.
3. Burkitt says: "Woe to us if Christ had left one farthing of our debt unpaid. We must have laid in hell insolvent to all eternity" (Moyer 96).
- B. "It is finished"— Salvation is complete. Jesus paid it all!

CONCLUSION: Man can only be saved by entering into the finished work of Christ. There is no work for man to do for salvation.

1. "It is finished." Is it finished for you?
2. Have you entered into His salvation?
3. Are you resting in His finished work?