

December 3rd, 2017

THE DAMNATION OF JESUS CHRIST

John 19:16-30

Every world view, every belief system, every human being has to wrestle with three basic questions.

Creation: Where did we come from? What is our purpose?

Fall: What went gone wrong? Why is there evil and suffering?

Redemption: How can we and the world be set right again?

The Scripture gives us the answers to these questions.

(C) Where did we come from? God made us *ex nihilo*—out of nothing. He spoke in the beginning “Let there be...” and His word has shaped everything that you have ever seen, heard, smelled, tasted or touched. Why? He didn’t need us. He made us for His own glory. **Isaiah 43:6-7** “I will say to the north, Give up, and to the south, Do not withhold, bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the end of the earth, everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory,” God created us to worship Him—to enter into that cosmic enjoyment of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—the highest happiness that can or ever will be conceived. To worship the Living God is life itself. The Psalmist says “Because your steadfast love is *better than life*, my lips will praise you” (**Psalm 63:3**)

(F) What went wrong? Adam and Eve—the first humans—didn’t believe God. They thought that happiness was somewhere else—in human autonomy, in going their own way, in making their own rules. What does God know? When tempted by that ancient serpent,¹ the devil—they disobeyed God and ate the forbidden fruit—the sign of God’s authority and dominion over them. In doing so, they sinned. And Adam being representative of the entire human race

¹ Revelation 20:2

brought spiritual death into the world. **Romans 5:12** “Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned.” The penalty for this sin is not merely death. But damnation.

Jesus Christ came into the world because *that indictment* was laid at everyone’s feet. Matt Lauer. Mother Teresa. Billy Graham. The Apostle Paul. Everybody that you see on t.v., everybody that you see at the grocery store, every ethnic people group, all nations from the remotest village to the largest city are under the indictment of everlasting damnation. And God speaks through the prophet Ezekiel to all peoples: “Can your courage endure, or can your hands be strong, in the days that I shall deal with you? I the LORD have spoken, and I will do it.” **Ezekiel 22:14**

Those two questions that the Lord asks are terrifying. “Can your courage endure, or can your hands be strong, in the days that I shall deal with you?” These are rhetorical questions. The answer is no. No one is brave enough, no one is strong enough to endure God’s dealings. Man’s bravery and man’s strength cannot endure God’s wrath. Why? Two reasons. Final damnation has no relief, and it has no remedy. **1) Final damnation has no relief.** “*Can your courage endure?*” How can one’s courage endure? Hell has no interruptions, no intermissions, no possibility of finding rest. Damnation is intolerable. When the jet fuel burned the buildings at temperatures that melted steel, during the 9/11 attacks on 9/11 happened, there was a tragic horror that followed. Scores of trapped people began plunging out the windows to escape the flames. They didn’t wake up that morning with the plan to kill themselves. But suicide was a better option than being burned alive. And they found relief for a few brief seconds before they hit the ground. But when God judges sin, there will be no escape, no suicide. **Revelation 9:6** “And in those days people will seek death and will not find it. They will long to die, but death will flee from them.”

2) Final damnation has no remedy. “*Can your hands be strong?*” How can one’s hands be strong when there is no possible remedy? Hell is an unchangeably fixed state. “And the smoke of their torment goes up forever and

ever, and they have no rest, day or night,” (Rev. 14:11) There is no divisions in hell. No mid point. No point where one can say “My torment is halfway accomplished.” There is no such thing as halfway in eternity. This is the smallest possible portrait of damnation.

What’s wrong with the world? You. You are what’s wrong with the world. Sin is what is wrong with the world. And sin is here because of sinners like you.

(R) How can you and the world be set right again? Only through the damnation of Christ. That is what your redemption cost. That is why Father sent His Son Jesus Christ into the world. Jesus didn’t come into the world to establish a physical kingdom *now*, or to destroy the Romans, or to give you health and wealth. Jesus said “For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many” (Mark 10:45) He came into the world to be damned so that His people could be delivered. ‘Because Adam’s sin, and your sin was committed against an infinite and eternal God, therefore an infinite and eternal satisfaction must be made. This satisfaction can only be found in **either** eternal damnation itself, **or** in a temporal punishment which is equivalent to eternal damnation.’² Dear believer, this is what Jesus accomplished on calvary. “It is finished,” means ‘I have been damned for you, therefore you can never come into condemnation (Romans 8:1³)’ “It is finished” means that all of your sins — past, present, future — have been cast into the sea of forgetfulness. “It is finished” means that where Adam failed in obeying God’s law, where you have failed in obeying God’s law — Jesus fulfilled it perfectly. ‘It is finished Father, I have earned the righteousness they need.’ “It is finished” means that death and all the powers of Satan have been destroyed. **1 Corinthians 15:55** “Death is swallowed up in victory.” “O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?” Those words “It is finished” marks the single greatest accomplished that has or ever will be done. They mark the most

² adapted from Edward Fisher’s *The Marrow of Modern Divinity*, (Scotland, UK.: Christian Focus Publications, 2009), pg. 58-59

³ “There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus”

terrible and wonderful event in the universe: the damnation of Jesus Christ and the deliverance of all His people.

The Big Idea...

The most terrible and most wonderful event happened on the cross: Jesus Christ was **damned** *so that* all His people would be **delivered** from death to life

- ☆ The Decree of Jesus' Damnation
- ☆ The Devotion of Jesus' Damnation
- ☆ The Defeat of Jesus' Damnation

I. The Decree of Jesus' Damnation (v.16-24)

Where have we been?

The last place that Jesus Christ had rest in this gospel was when He was comforting His disciples in the upper room. Immediately following the upper room, he was betrayed by one of His own disciples—Judas in the garden of Gethsemane. He was brought before Annas—the high priest in an illegal court proceeding. Then to Pontius Pilate the Roman governor over Jerusalem. Pilate, knowing he was innocent tried to release Him. The Jewish leaders blackmailed him to get their way. **John 19:12** “If you release this man, you are not Caesar's friend. Everyone who makes himself a king opposes Caesar.” Pilate loved his power and his Caesar more than truth, and so he reluctantly hands Jesus over to be crucified.

“There they crucified him”

What I want us to see in this section is that everything is happening because God eternally decreed it. Jesus not only was born according to the law (**Gal. 4:4⁴**), but He died according to the law. Picking up in **v.16** “So he delivered him over to them to be crucified. So they took Jesus, [17] and he went out, bearing his own cross, to the place called The Place of a Skull, which in Aramaic is called Golgotha.” At the beginning of **v.17** we read “*he went out.*” That is, Jesus was led outside the city. This the the first fulfillment of Scripture we see. **Leviticus 16:27** tells us that the sin offering “shall be carried *outside the camp.*”⁵ From the very beginning John wants us to see that thousands of years of Scripture is being fulfilled in Christ in these last hours of His life.

John then says in **v.18** “There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, and Jesus between them.” Thus two more OT prophecies are fulfilled. **Psalms 22:16** “For dogs encompass me; a company of evildoers encircles me; they have pierced my hands and feet.” And **Isaiah 53:12**, he “was numbered with the transgressors.”

Crucifixion was the worst form of death conceivable. Jesus was forced to carry the vertical beam of the cross to the site where the vertical beam ominously waited for Him. Upon arrival, all those who were crucified would be forced to lie flat on the ground. They were offered wine mixed with gall. Gall was chemical agent that would numb the prisoner’s senses so they wouldn’t struggle as much when they were be nailed to the wood. Jesus refused this gall (**Matthew 27:33-34**), He must experience every drop of the cup of God’s wrath. On the vertical beam there was a small platform below where the nails went through their feet. R.C. Sproul says here “That small platform was provided so that the prisoner could push his body up, raising his diaphragm so that he could

⁴ “But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law,”

⁵ Hebrews 13:12 “So Jesus also suffered outside the gate in order to sanctify the people through his own blood.”

breathe during the agony of crucifixion.”⁶ But this wasn’t for mercy, it was to extend their torture. If the platform wasn’t there, they would die much quicker through asphyxiation. John MacArthur notes that “most hung on their crosses for days, before succumbing to exhaustion, dehydration, shock, or suffocation.”⁷

Now as horrible as crucifixion sounds, the physical sufferings of Christ were but a veil to what was happening in the spiritual world. **Deuteronomy 21:23** tells us that those who are hung on a tree—in this case a tree shaped into a cross—are *cursed*. Cursed—the Greek means “exposed to Divine vengeance.”⁸ There’s a very misleading scene in Mel Gibson’s *The Passion* movie where, when Christ is on the cross, a single tear drop falls from heaven—as if to say “Look at what they are doing to my Son.” No. That’s not the right idea. Jesus was being cursed by God. By His own Father. There are only two ways that God can be satisfied for sin. **Either** by eternally punishing it, **or** by punishing it in such a way that is equivalent to eternal damnation.’ On the cross, Jesus suffered the equivalent of eternal damnation. Because He is both fully man and fully God, He could swallow up the eternal punishment that is due to sinners. His soul suffered the infinite curse of God. **Galatians 3:13** Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree” Crucifixion was horrible *in order* to point to the infinitely worse cursing that Jesus endured.

“What I have written I have written.”

Picking up in v.19 “Pilate also wrote an inscription and put it on the cross. It read, “Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.” [20] Many of the Jews read this inscription, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and it was written in Aramaic, in Latin, and in Greek. [21] So the chief priests of the

⁶ R.C. Sproul, *St. Andrew’s Expository Commentary: John*, (Orlando, FL.,: Reformation Trust Publishing, 2009), pg. 365

⁷ John MacArthur, *The MacArthur New Testament Commentary: John 12-21*, (Chicago, IL.,: Moody Publishers, 2008), pg. 349

⁸ Source: <https://www.blueletterbible.org/lang/lexicon/lexicon.cfm?Strongs=G1944&t=KJV> accessed December 2, 2017

Jews said to Pilate, “Do not write, ‘The King of the Jews,’ but rather, ‘This man said, I am King of the Jews.’” It was a custom to have signs written that declared what the prisoner was guilty of, thus warning all citizens that ‘crucifixion awaits you if you commit this crime.’ There was no crime to list on Jesus’ sign. In one last slap in the face against the Jews leaders, Pilate writes “The King of the Jews” on Jesus’ sign in all the main languages of Jerusalem. And this infuriated the Jews. But this declaration of Pilate’s was guided by the secret decree of God. Why was He crucified? Because this King would die for His people. Pilate was held by a Divine power, refusing to take it down, he said in v.22 “What I have written I have written.”

Jesus was stripped...this was to fulfill the Scripture

Let’s look at v.23 “When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, *they took his garments...*” Stop. “Prisoners were crucified naked.”⁹ This punishment was to humiliate them as much as possible. Oh consider the wonderful wisdom of God in these actions. What happened after Adam sinned? He was ashamed of his nakedness. He sought to be clothed. And now Jesus takes on that nakedness. And His robe, that robe that only experienced the perfect righteousness of Christ—was taken from Him and given to sinners. v.23 “...they took his garments and divided them into four parts, one part for each soldier; also his tunic. But the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom, [24] so they said to one another, “Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see whose it shall be.” [This robe is not torn—full righteousness given to sinners!!] This was to *fulfill* the Scripture which says, “They divided my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots.” The Scripture John says is *fulfilled* here is **Psalm 22:18** “they divide my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots.”

⁹ R.C. Sproul, *St. Andrew’s Expository Commentary: John*, (Orlando, FL.,: Reformation Trust Publishing, 2009), pg. 366

Jesus' Damnation was determined by God

Why is pointing out all these fulfilled Scriptures in Jesus' death so important? When I was initially reading this, I was asking why does John and the other gospel writers so often point out "this was to fulfill what was said..." Why does this matter? Especially here. It seems like an anti-climatic footnote in the middle of this horrifying narrative. And it's not as if these Roman soldiers or Pilate or the Jewish leaders are consciously fulfilling these prophecies. Look at the end of v.24. It says "So the soldiers did these things," So—οὕτως—in Greek, it means "therefore." *Therefore* the soldiers did these things. Why did they do these things? Because this is what God had planned in His Word. Beloved, don't you see? All 39 books of the OT point to this moment. Father carefully planned the damnation of His Son for you. **Acts 4:27-28** "for truly in this city there were gathered together against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, to do whatever your hand and *your plan* had *predestined* to take place." And it begs the question: if the Father was so meticulous in bringing about every detail in Christ's first advent, will He not then do the same in Christ' second advent? Will the Father not now fulfill every other promise since He has already fulfilled the most terrible promise of killing His only Son? The decree of Jesus' damnation guarantees every other promise of God. **Romans 8:32** He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?"

II. The Devotion of Jesus' Damnation (v.25-29)

Jesus word of affection

A.W. Pink wrote a book entitled "The Seven Sayings of the Savior on the Cross." In it, he unpacks the seven different statements that Jesus utters while

hanging at calvary. Each one a treasure chest of theology and glory.¹⁰ John leaves out many of the things that the other gospels give us, but he does give us three precious sayings that Jesus uttered while on the cross. Let's look at Jesus' third word here—His word of affection. **v.25** “but standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. [26] When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, “Woman, behold, your son!” [27] Then he said to the disciple, “Behold, your mother!” And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home.

There are a few things for us to see here. **First**, as Mary stood by and watched her Son die, God would have us consider how the first mother Eve stood at the grave of her murdered son Abel who made the right sacrifice to God while his evil brother Cain did not. **Second**, consider the unworldly affection and care of the Son of God. Here His body hangs as a bloody mutilated mess, He is actively being damned by God and yet “He never loses sight of His children for a moment.”¹¹ There is scarcely anything more comforting than this. There is never a second “when the eye of His love will not rest upon every individual whom the Father has given Him.”¹² It was individuals, you—*beloved*, that Jesus had in mind when He hung on that cross. **Isaiah 53:10** “*when his soul makes an offering for guilt, he shall see¹³ his offspring;*” **Thirdly**, let's narrow our focus to John and Jesus' mother. John calls himself “the disciple whom he loved” in **v.26**. Could there be a more lucid moment when these words reveal

¹⁰ 1.The Word of Forgiveness (Luke 23:34); 2.The Word of Salvation (Luke 23:42-43); 3.The Word of Affection (John 19:25-27); 4.The Word of Anguish (Matthew 27:46); 5.The Word of Suffering (John 19:28); 6.The Word of Victory (John 19:30); 7.The Word of Contentment (Luke 23:46). A.W. Pink, *The Seven Sayings of the Savior on the Cross*, (Grand Rapids, MI., BakerBooks, 2005), pg. 5

¹¹ F.W. Krummacher, *The Suffering Savior*, (Carlisle, PA.,: The Banner of Truth Trust, 2004), pg. 370

¹² *ibid*

¹³ The Hebrew here includes a more comprehensive meaning than simply visual sight. It means to “consider, give attention to, regard”. Jesus literally had his mind and heart on us “his offspring” when He gave His soul as an offering for sin.

themselves as true? I don't believe that John wasn't saying this because He thought He was *more* loved than other disciples. He was saying this because this is the banner of every true believer, and he owned it. I am the disciple whom Jesus loves. If you have been born again, that is true of you. **Fourthly**, Jesus places the physical care of His earthly mother into the hands of John. Joseph was dead. His brothers were still unbelievers up to this point. She had no one to take care of her. Jesus saw this, and as He suffered death, He wanted to provide for her a place. Dear congregation, the Lord sees everything you need. But it's not just that He sees your need. He wants to take care of you. Hope in Him. He's not callous. It's not as if He only cares for our souls and doesn't care for our bodies. This word of affection from Jesus displays the truth of **John 13:1** "having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end."

Jesus word of suffering

We also Jesus' fifth word on the cross—His word of suffering. Look at v. **28** "After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), "I thirst." [29] 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." There are five things that are implied by these two little words. **First**, it implies His care over God's Word. v. **28** says "knowing that *all* was now finished, said (to *fulfill* the Scripture)"—meaning everything in His suffering has been accomplished save this one thing. **Psalms 69:21** "...and for my thirst they gave me sour wine to drink." Jesus would not let one Scripture go unfulfilled. As Pink says "How completely possessed the Savior was! He had hung on that cross for six hours and had passed through unparalleled suffering, yet is His mind clear and His memory unimpaired...He remembers there is one prophetic Scripture unaccomplished. He overlooked nothing."¹⁴

Secondly, "I thirst" implies His bodily torment. Jesus was fully human. Fully God and fully man. God doesn't thirst. But as man, Jesus thirsted and

¹⁴ A.W. Pink, *The Seven Sayings of the Savior on the Cross*, (Grand Rapids, MI., BakerBooks, 2005), pg. 100

suffered like no other man.¹⁵ Jesus knows what true suffering is. There is some people in this assembly who are suffering horribly right now. Oh take heart. “For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, (**Hebrews 4:15**)¹⁶ Cling to the Savior who suffered for you. You will find grace to help in time of need (**Hebrews 4:16**).

Thirdly, “I thirst” implies that His spiritual torment. Jesus experienced what the rich man in the parable experienced. In Luke 16 we read of the wicked rich man who had no regard for man or for God while he lived. He dies and goes to the place of torment. In **v.24**, he calls out to Abraham “Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the end of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in anguish in this flame.” The rich man was “agonized by a nameless inward thirst.”¹⁷ That what Jesus felt here—“the moan of the damned.”¹⁸ He experienced all the rich man experienced. Dear believer, Jesus thirsted like those who are cursed—like the rich man, so we—like Lazarus would never thirst again.¹⁹

Fourthly, Jesus thirsted for His Father. Matthew records Jesus crying out “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”(**Matthew 27:46**) Jesus was in the presence of God’s wrath but completely separated from the presence of God’s love and favor. This is what the damned will suffer. **2 Thessalonians 1:9** says “They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the

¹⁵ Jesus thirsted because nearly of His blood was now drained from His body. Psalm 22:15 “my strength is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to my jaws; you lay me in the dust of death.”

¹⁶ “He had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest” (Hebrews 2:17)

¹⁷ F.W. Krummacher, *The Suffering Savior*, (Carlisle, PA.,: The Banner of Truth Trust, 2004), pg. 370

¹⁸ A.W. Pink, *The Seven Sayings of the Savior on the Cross*, (Grand Rapids, MI., BakerBooks, 2005), pg. 105

¹⁹ Reminiscent of what Jesus said to the Samaritan woman “Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again.[b] The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”

presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might,” Jesus, better than anyone in the universe, knows what it feels like to be separated from God. He knows what it feels like to have God’s face hidden from Him.

Fifthly, Jesus thirsted for your salvation. What kept Jesus on the cross? Do you think nails could hold the God who parted the Red Sea? Beloved, He stayed on that cross because He thirsted for your salvation. But He wanted *you*. In a very real sense we could say that Christ wasn’t complete until He had you. Turn with me over to **Ephesians 1:22-23**. Here we are going to see the apostle make the argument that the church *completes* Christ, just as a body and a head together are complete. **v.22** “And he [the Father] put all things under his feet [Christ’s feet] and gave him as head over all things to the church, which is his body, **the fullness of him** who fills all in all.” Who does the “fullness of him” refer to? The church! The church is the *fullness of Christ*. What does this mean? Listen to what Calvin says. “...not until we are along with him, does he possess all his parts, or wish to be regarded as complete!”²⁰ Listen to Edwards “...the church is said to be the [fullness] of Christ...*as if* Christ were not complete without the church...man is incomplete without the woman, she is himself; so Christ is not complete without his spouse.”²¹ That’s the sense in which Jesus thirsted. Since the Father gave Him the mission of uniting Himself to His bride He was incomplete until this happened. So He thirsted for you on the cross.²² And He thirsted for you so passionately that He was willing to die. “Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.” (**John 15:13**) This is the devotion of Jesus’ damnation.

²⁰ John Calvin, *Calvin’s Commentaries Vol. XXI*, (Grand Rapids, MI.,: BakerBooks, 2009), pg. 218

²¹ <http://edwards.yale.edu/archive?path=aHR0cDovL2Vkd2FyZHMueWFsZS5lZHUvY2dpLWJpbi9uZXdwaGlzby9nZXRvYmpIY3QucGw/cC4xMjoyNz Mud2plbw==>

²² F.W. Krummacher said “That for which [Jesus] chiefly thirsts is that He may gain us over to Himself. The principle object of His desire and longing is that transgressors may be freed from sin; they that are under the curse, absolved; those that are bound, liberated; and the prisoners set free.” F.W. Krummacher, *The Suffering Savior*, (Carlisle, PA.,: The Banner of Truth Trust, 2004), pg. 401

III. The Defeat of Jesus' Damnation (v.30)

Jesus' word of victory

We saw Jesus word of affection to His mother and the disciple whom he loved. We saw His word of suffering "I thirst." Now we see His word of victory. Look with me at **v.30** "When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, "It is finished," and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit." Why did Jesus drink that sour wine? So that his parched throat could utter these words will full force:²³ "It is finished." F.W. Krummacher has said "These are the greatest and most momentous words that were ever spoken upon earth since the beginning of the world."²⁴

The first question is: what does Jesus mean by *finished*? "It is finished"—one word in the Greek: τελέω teleō. Teleō is translated differently in several NT verses. **Matthew 17:24** "When they came to Capernaum, the collectors of the two-drachma tax went up to Peter and said, "Does your teacher not **pay** (teleō) the tax?" **Luke 2:39** "And when they had **performed** (teleō) everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth." **Luke 18:31** "And taking the twelve, he said to them, "See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and everything that is written about the Son of Man by the prophets will be **accomplished** (teleō)." Revelation 20:2-3 "he seized the dragon...who is the devil...and threw him into the pit, and shut it and sealed it over him...until the thousand years were **ended** (teleō)." So teleō—"It is finished" means "It is paid, it is performed, it is accomplished, it is ended."

Our second question then becomes: what *is* paid, what *is* performed, what *is* accomplished, what *is* ended? Five things.

First, "It is finished" means that all of Jesus sufferings had come to an end. The oldest promise in the Bible that the serpent would bruise His heel (**Genesis 3:15**) has finally come to pass. All the universe had conspired against the man of sorrows (**Isaiah 53:3**) and the cup of wrath was finally empty. Pilate

²³ *ibid*, pg. 404

²⁴ *ibid*, pg. 403

had did his worse. The Jews and Gentiles did their worse. The demons did their worse. We did our worse. God the Father held nothing back. As A.W. Pink said “Never again shall he experience pain...Never again shall He be in the hands of Satan. Never again shall the light of God’s countenance be hidden from Him.”²⁵ “It is finished.”

Secondly, “It is finished” means the atonement is accomplished. “It is finished” means “paid in full.” Jesus didn’t purchase a lottery ticket hoping to win some people who happen to pick the right numbers. Jesus purchased actual people. His people. **John 10:11** “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. [15] I lay down my life for the sheep.” If you belong to Christ, the reason you believe is because Jesus paid for your unbelief. Jesus paid for your justification. Jesus paid for your sanctification. Jesus paid for your glorification. That is what “It is finished” means.

Thirdly, If you are a believer, “It is finished” means that all your sins have all been put away forever. **Romans 8:33** asks “Who shall bring any charge against God's elect?” If you have been born of His spirit and washed in His blood, nobody can ever bring any charge against you that will disqualify you from heaven. Think about all those former vile sinners who are now in heaven. The unnamed demoniac in Mark 5. David that murderer and adulterer. Paul that Pharisaical Christian killer. Solomon and Samson those womanizers. Mary Magdalene the woman with seven demons. All of these filthy sinners had all of their charges completely absolved, so that nobody could bring a charge against them. Think of your worst sin beloved. The one sin, the one sin you wish you could take back. That charge means nothing because Jesus said “It is finished.”

Fourthly, “It is finished” means that Jesus obeyed all of God’s laws perfectly. Our redemption depended on Jesus obeying God’s laws perfectly. And think how easily it would have been for Jesus to turn away from God’s law in these last six agonizing hours of His life. We often complain when the smallest thing goes wrong in our lives—but here Jesus was nailed to a piece of

²⁵ A.W. Pink, *The Seven Sayings of the Savior on the Cross*, (Grand Rapids, MI., BakerBooks, 2005), pg. 116

wood for six hours and during that time of being spit on and mocked, He obeyed God perfectly and lovingly and earnestly. “It is finished” means that Jesus earned all the righteousness that we will ever need to stand before the Living God.

Fifthly, “It is finished” means that all of the devil’s work has been destroyed. When Jesus spoke of His impending doom, He said in **John 12:31** “Now is the judgment of this world; now will the ruler of this world be cast out.” That is Satan, Jesus is talking about. Satan has no claim on you. Nor do any of the powers of darkness. “It is finished” means you will never hear the words: “Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.” (**Matthew 25:41**) You will never hear the words “Bind him hand and foot and cast him into the outer darkness.” (**Matthew 22:13**) You will only hear the words: “Enter into the joy of your master.” (**Matthew 25:23**)

“It is finished” means the war is over between you and God. Jesus was damned for you—which means you cannot be. This is the defeat of Jesus’ damnation. Believer, when His heart stopped beating and He gave up His spirit, you were effectively passed from death to life. He died so that you would be invincible and eternally live.

Application

We have a short application for this morning.

Our doctrine was already seen in the exposition of the text.

There is no **duty** in our passage today, because Jesus said “It is finished.”

That leaves us with our delight.

Our Delight: Simply believe “It is finished”

Last month the new Mormon temple opened up in Meridian. For three weeks it was opened to the public, and during that time an estimated 200,000 people walked through it for a tour. That is nearly half of the population of

Boise. However, many of visitors were themselves Mormon. Why is that news worthy? Because the reason why many Mormons visited is because once the temple is dedicated then only “temple worthy” Mormons can enter. Those who have tithed enough, those who have done enough rituals, those who have taken enough classes, those who have served enough hours, those who have scrubbed enough on the outside so that they appear clean.

. For Mormons “It is not finished.” I’m not picking on the LDS. This is the way of all humanity. This is the way of the church. First I want to address non-believers. Dear unbeliever, this church is full of formerly damned people. They did not become redeemed because they cleaned themselves up. They became redeemed because their souls were washed in the blood of Jesus Christ. That’s what you need. You will never clean yourself up. God’s law requires that you obey every part of it perfectly. In thought, in word, in deed. And you have never done that. You know that something is deeply wrong with you. It’s called sin. And your soul is thirsty for forgiveness. Jesus offers that forgiveness to you this morning. He says “If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink... whoever believes in me shall never thirst...” (**John 7:37, 6:35**) “These things are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.” (John 20:31)

Secondly, I want to address you dear believer. Are you living like “It is finished?” Or are you trying to make yourself worthy? Do you want to please the Lord? Then believe that God is already satisfied with Christ on your behalf. Don’t try and secure the favor of God by your efforts. A.W. Pink tells the story of a Christian farmer who was witnessing to an unsaved friend. The farmer told his friend that Christ’s work on the cross was enough for His soul to rest upon without the addition of anything else. But his friend, who happened to be carpenter, just couldn’t believe it. So the farmer asked his friend to build him a door for his house. The carpenter agreed and made this beautiful custom door for his friend. The farmer when receiving the door, took out his axe and hammer and started slashing and banging. The shocked carpenter exclaimed “What are you doing?” The farmer said “I’m adding a few finishing touches.” The

carpenter objected: “But there is no need, the door is perfect the way it is, I did everything necessary already.” The farmer paid no attention and slashed and banged until the door was spoiled. The carpenter cried “You ruined my work!” “Yes” said the farmer, “and that is exactly what you are trying to do. You are seeking to nullify the finished work of Christ by your own miserable additions to it!”²⁶

Oh believer, the work of Christ for you is already perfect. Rest in it. Don't add to the cross. Jesus said “It is finished.” He doesn't lie. He wants you to rest in Him, and know that all has been accomplished, all has been paid, all has been performed. All that is necessary for you is to simply believe that Christ is enough.

²⁶ A.W. Pink, *The Seven Sayings of the Savior on the Cross*, (Grand Rapids, MI., BakerBooks, 2005), pg. 116

Communion

Text: John 6:51-58

“How can this man give us his flesh to eat?” **John 6:52**

The table is not for unbelievers or those under formal church discipline.

The apostle tells us to examine ourselves when we come to drink the cup and eat the bread. **1 Corinthians 11:27-28** “Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord. Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup.” What this implies is that there are times when believers abstain because they know that they are currently rebelling against the Lord. They are living in active rebellion, and unrepentance. Insisting and persisting in sin. If that is you, you should not eat or drink. Please come talk to one of the pastors after service so we can pray with you. Or repent right now, and receive the means of grace.

This doesn't mean that only those who are well, or those who are righteous can drink and eat. No. The truth is, only sick people come to the table. Even if you think you have ordered your life rightly this week, Jesus says “So you also, when you have done all that you were commanded, say, ‘We are unworthy servants; we have only done what was our duty.’” (**Luke 17:10**). There is no believer alive or who has ever lived who is worthy to eat the table in the sense that they are righteous enough or well enough. The table is a sign that no one is righteous enough. That is why this table is the best meal on the planet, because it reminds us that Christ died for the ungodly. “In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.” (1 John 4:10). Lord's table is a celebration of that fact. That God loved us while we were still enemies. And now that we are His friends and His beloved children through the blood of His Son, we are invited into the meal of all meals to celebrate our eternal adoption and union with Jesus Christ.