

Words play such an important part in our everyday lives... as well as punctuation within word groupings. Sometimes the use of one little comma or adding one little letter to another to form a different word can totally change the meaning of a sentence. Take for instance following sentence presented with and without a comma... 'Let's eat Grandma.' And 'Let's eat, Grandma.' In the use of a comma we just saved a life!

During our recent Resurrection weekend, I noticed the photograph at the end of this Musing on one of my social media sites I frequent. And much like the previous statement I used in my illustration, the addition or subtraction of one simple character can make a world of difference... let's look at a statement that would have changed the lives of humanity if it had excluded one small letter... In John 19:30 we see Jesus speak His last words... "It is finished" He did not say "I am finished" ... He said "It". The addition of that one small letter 't' changed our lives forever as well as the lives of our ancestors and future generations. That little letter... which just happens to be in the shape of the cross, made all the difference.

"It is finished," which is one of Jesus' most important statements, is translated from the single Greek word *tetelestai*. The grammatical structure of the Greek word, perfect passive indicative, is very important. The perfect tense indicates that the progress of an action has been completed and the result of that action is ongoing and with full effect. The passive voice indicates that the subject of the sentence is being acted upon, and the indicative mood indicates a statement of fact or an actual occurrence from the writer's or speaker's perspective.

The implications of Jesus' words on the cross are eternally positive for those who repent and receive Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior--by the grace of God alone, through faith alone, in Jesus Christ alone. The addition of the 't' ... the cross ... let's us know that Jesus fulfilled His purpose in His earthly form ... and is still at work in our lives in the present moment.

Jesus came as the perfect fulfillment of the Law of God... He came in the name of the One True God... to perfectly do the work of His Father as the light of the world giving fallen man the opportunity to move from utter darkness into His marvelous light. He came as fully God and fully man... incarnation... He came as our propitiation for sin into which we have fallen... He came as reconciliation between God and man. Jesus came to glorify His Father through His life, death and resurrection.

Jesus came to make a way... the only way... for people to find mercy, grace, and help in their time of need... Jesus... the sympathetic Savior... finished the work given to Him by His Father for our sake... and for the sake of those who came before us... and those who will come after us.

And as a slight rabbit trail... Many places in Scripture we find emphasized the importance of our words... the tongue can be our worst enemy at times... 1 Peter 3:10 " **For, "Whoever would love life and see good days must keep their tongue from evil and their lips from deceitful speech."**. We can also find the tongue mentioned in Ephesians 4:29, Colossians 4:6, and Proverbs 10:19 " **Sin is not ended by multiplying words, but the prudent hold their tongues."** ... and Proverbs 15:4 " **The soothing tongue is a tree of life, but a perverse tongue crushes the spirit**" just to name a few...

I am reminded of a saying by an unknown author I keep up on my desk... "Watch your thoughts, they become words. Watch your words, they become actions. Watch your actions, they become

habits. Watch your habits, they become your character. Watch your character, it becomes your destiny."

Before you open your mouth to speak...take a minute... ask yourself "is it what He would say? ... as you remember that 'It' was finished ... but Jesus was not! So, as we travel through our week... let us lift our hearts and minds to God our Father in thankful praise that through Jesus the Son... it is finished... but we are not.

As we go to the Lord in prayer this week let's remember to lift our government leaders... missionaries all over the world... as well as our military who stand firm for our freedom. Our deacons and worship leaders as they serve us and others... also Millie Fraser, Frances Morgan, Selma Simpson, Jeanne Williams, Mary Jane Pettigrew, Harvey Sharpe, Donna Freeman. And friends: Jeanette Hudson—mother of Connie Collins, Elizabeth Woodlief—mother of Peggy Johnson, Family of Dolly Watson, Denise Wilson—Sister of Mike Smith.

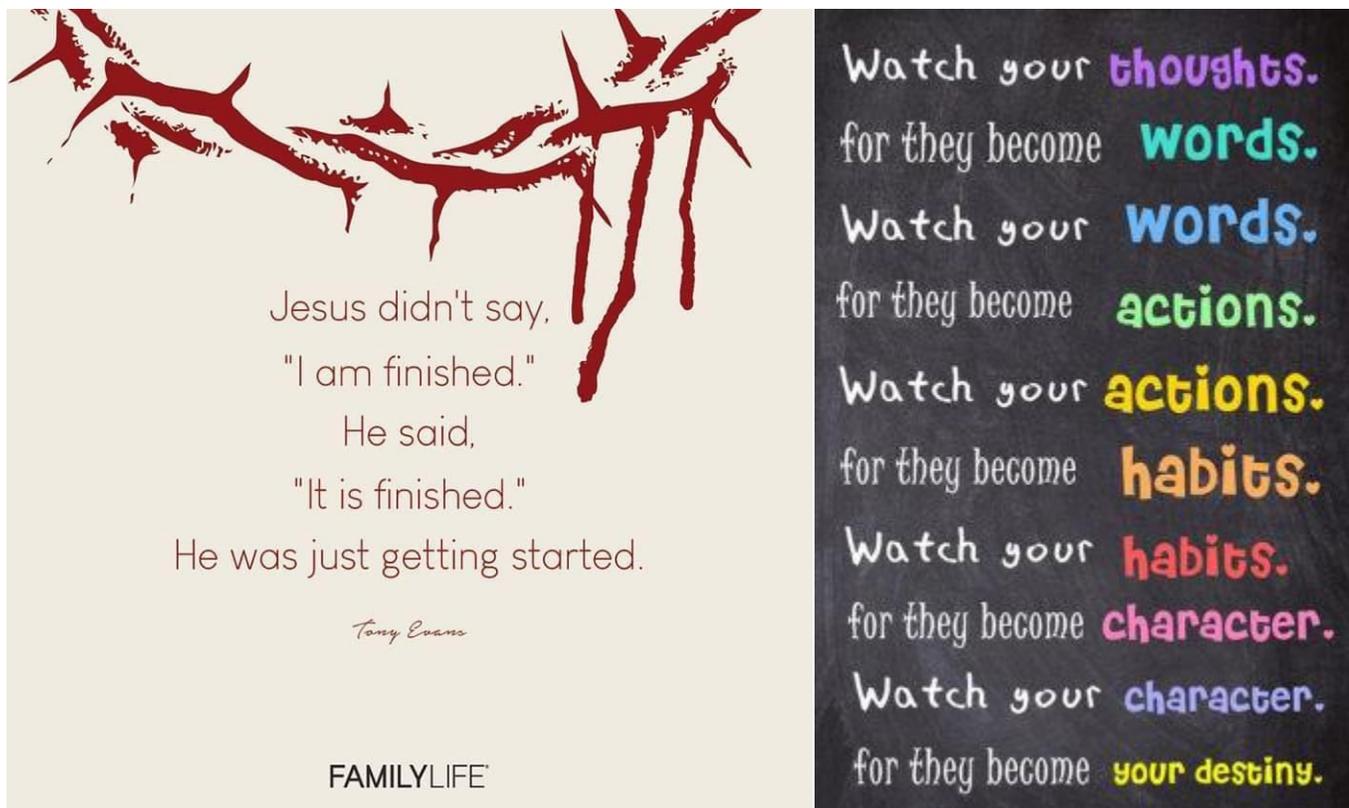
Happening around the church...

- Supper Club will meet May 7th - at Kimber's in Gibsonville at 5:45pm.
- Spaghetti Supper - May 10th - 5pm - 7pm, with music by The Cornpickers

This week's sermon title is "The Glorified Face of Jesus" and the Scripture will be from John 20:19-30 and 1 Corinthians 15:35-50.

Grace and peace to you from God the Father...

Joan ☺



Jesus didn't say,
"I am finished."
He said,
"It is finished."
He was just getting started.

Tony Evans

FAMILYLIFE

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