

Lord's victory on the cross

What did Jesus mean when He said, 'It is finished' on the cross? What was the mission that was finished? Jesus died on the cross for our sins so that we might be forgiven when we trust in what Christ has done there. When we by faith receive the sacrifice He offered, we can then have eternal life and escape the righteous judgment of God the Father. On the cross is where we are redeemed, and He sacrificed Himself and demonstrated the greatest love of all. *Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends.*(JOH15:13) He laid his life down for us,(JOH10:11),

We read about his commission to "preach the Gospel to the poor"(LUK4:18, 43), "to bring life"(JOH10:10), "to testify to the truth"(JOH18:37) "to destroy the devil's work"(1JO3:8) But each of these means of the ultimate purpose, to save us from our sins. "*Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!*" (JOH1:29) "*For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost*" (LUK19:10) "*Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners*"(1TH1:15) Reconciled to God through Christ.(ROM5:10) God promised that through the Seed (descendant) of a woman (Eve) would come one who would crush the head of Satan.(GEN3:15) This is the promise of a Savior and Promised Seed, Christ bruised the serpent's head on Calvary, where He has nailed the law of sin and death, triumphantly leading to Heaven.(COL2:14-15) "It is finished" is a translation of Greek word *tetelestai* is a sense of finality, the perfect tense of the word *telos*, which means *to end; to bring to completion; to bring to a conclusion; to complete; to accomplish; to fulfill; or to finish.*

First, Jesus' exclamation that He had finished the work the Father had sent Him to do from heaven. Jesus had a clear view of what lay ahead of him. He used two metaphors: "To drink the cup" to partake of an event, and "to be baptized," to be immersed fully in the event, the baptism of suffering.(LUK12:50) The sufferings of our Savior were a prophetic necessity. That includes anguish (ISA51:17) While praying in the garden, Jesus had referred to His upcoming suffering (MAT26:39) Jesus commanded Peter, "*Put your sword away! Shall I not drink the cup the Father has given me?*"(JOH18:11) His struggle in the Garden of Gethsemane, point at which he surrendered ultimately to do the Father's will. Jesus came as the light of the world, giving fallen mankind the opportunity to move from utter darkness into His marvelous light. Jesus came to make reconciliation between God and man. "*For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.*"(ROM5:10) Jesus came to die for His Bride, the Church. Jesus came to glorify His Father through His life, death, and resurrection. When Jesus finished the work, He bowed His head and died. When Jesus cried out to the Father, He was exclaiming to entire universe that He had faithfully fulfilled Father's will and the mission now accomplished. For this was greatest victory in the history of human race! He had been faithful to His assignment even in the face of challenges, suffering on the cross. It is finished announces He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death--even death on a cross!

Second, Jesus presented a sacrificial lamb without spot or blemish. In OT, annually the high priest entered the Holy of Holies, where he poured the blood of that sacrificial spotless lamb on the mercy seat of the Ark of the Covenant. The atonement was made for the people's sins -- when the high priest would enter beyond the veil of that sacred room to offer blood. This was done year after year to obtain the temporary forgiveness of sin. But when Jesus hung on the Cross, He was both Lamb and High Priest. In that holy, Jesus offered His own blood for the permanent removal of sin. He offered up the perfect sacrifice once and for all, finished forever!(HEB10:1-18) Every sacrifice was a type and symbol, Jesus entered into the Holy Place and offered His own blood -- a sacrifice so complete that God never again required the blood of lambs for forgiveness. *but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption.*(HEB9:12) Atonement for sin was completed, perfected, and fully accomplished.

Third, to signify of our sin debt had been paid in full. "*having canceled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.*"(COL2:14) This means that once a person calls Jesus the Lord of His life and personally accepts His sacrifice, no debt of sin exists for that person any longer. The debt is wiped out because Jesus paid the price for sin that no sinner could ever pay. Jesus took our place. He paid the debt of sin we owed. And when we by faith repent and receive Him as Lord, we are set free! "*In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins*"(COL1:14) We can be forgiven and cleansed from every sin by the blood of Jesus. It was far-reaching, all-embracing for all of us who put our faith in Him.

Fourth, brought in the New Covenant, *And for this reason He is the Mediator of the new covenant, by means of death,* (HEB9:15-16) By His blood which was shed on the Cross marked the beginning of the New Covenant by which we are now under grace. "*we have such a high priest, one who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven.*"(HEB8:1-13) The death of Christ opens the gateway to Heaven that God can now freely express His love and grace towards us, transform us, that we may be conformed to the image of His Son. The justice of God had been fully met, satisfied by the Lamb of God. The sacrifices of Old Testament ceased, for perfect Sacrifice had laid down His life for salvation of mankind. *For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace.*(ROM6:14)

When Jesus exclaimed, It is finished, was a turning point in the entire history of mankind. All of this was done for us and for our salvation. Truly, He was pierced through for our transgressions and crushed for our iniquities. We were the ones who should have received God's wrath, yet the Lord caused the iniquity of us all to fall on Him.(ISA53:5-6)

Where is the wise? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? *but we preach Christ crucified*, (1CO1:23) is central to the Christian faith. The cross reveals to us the character of God: His love for lost sinners and His perfect justice meet at cross. If we want to grow in our love for God, then we must be growing to understand cross which shows us His great love. If we want to grow in godliness, we must grow in understanding significance of the cross, which confronts prevalent of all sins. The cross is the place where all wounds of sin are healed. If you suffer from emotional problems--guilt, anxiety, depression, anger, there is healing in the cross of Christ. If you are going through suffering, pain, there is comfort in abundance as you consider sufferings of Savior on your behalf. But there is foolishness of the gospel in the world's eyes. Both Jews and Greeks rejected the idea of Christ crucified. Jews demand miraculous signs as verification God is at work. Greeks seek human wisdom by means of logic and skillful speech. Gospel message of Christ's death on the cross is weak, foolish to the world, but God has given faith in Christ by grace to those who believe it and find God's power and wisdom. There is no other way of salvation, and no more glorious truth to contemplate.

All of our problems stem from sin--or from the fallen world in which we live. In GEN3:17-19, God pronounced a curse on them that we who sin like them have inherited. Death entered the human experience with it all sorts of affliction and trouble. Thus the solutions to our problems center in the cross of Christ. God's law through Moses establishes the cursedness of sin—and the basis of the atonement of the sinner through Christ. *“He Himself bore our sins in His body on the tree.”* (1PE2:24) In Deuteronomy 21:22-23, where it proposes the penalty for a condemned deserving of death, that his body be hanged on a tree and there was a curse placed on a hanged person. *“If a man has committed a sin deserving of death, and he is put to death, and you hang him on a tree.”* This referred to the law was a foreshadowing of the redemption of man in relationship to Jesus and His death on the cross, although He had done no wrong/sin. In 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’”* Jesus was cursed for us, hanging on the cross to illustrate Christ's substitutionary atonement for us. *They put him to death by hanging him on a tree.* (ACT10:39) Jesus' dead body was removed from the cross on the same day of His death and was buried. Jesus took the curse of sin upon Himself to redeem us from sin.

On the cross Jesus said *“My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?”* (MAR15:34b). Jesus felt abandoned, forsaken, because He really was abandoned in fulfillment of the Scriptures. (PSA22:1) As Jesus died accursed upon the tree (GAL 3:13), He was abandoned and forsaken by God's goodness, kindness, love, etc. Just before Jesus breathed his last, he prayed, *“Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing”* (LUK23:34) In John 19:30 gives us content of His loud cry: *“After this, knowing that all was now completed, and so that the Scripture would be fulfilled Jesus said, ‘I am thirsty’ ... When he had received the drink, Jesus said ‘It is finished’ and he bowed his head, and gave up his spirit.* The victory shout of Jesus echoed across the hill of Calvary or Golgotha to the world beyond. The Cross of Jesus Christ is the most precious sign to those of us who call Jesus the Lord of our lives, who paid the price when He died for our sins. The Cross represents our forgiveness, freedom, redemption. When the Lamb of God hung on Cross we deem so precious - naked, beaten, bleeding before a watching world -- it was the awful moment in human history

Our worries about sickness reveal a deeper fear that every human shares: the fear of death. Death is one of the worst consequences of humanity's original sin. Bible teaches that Jesus has released us from the fear of death. Christ has triumphed over Satan through his death and resurrection, he has ‘destroyed’ the one who holds the power of death, that is, the devil. (HEB2:14-15) Because sin is the ‘sting’ of death, the primary reason why death is painful and unpleasant, which continues to cause humanity to face divine judgement after death. Jesus dealt with death by dealing with sin, died for our sins. His death is our victory over sin, therefore over death itself. Now that we have been forgiven through death on the cross, death cannot harm us: through our Lord Jesus Christ, God has given us victory over fear of death.

Purpose of Jesus was to destroy the works of devil including sin, sickness, bondage: (UO3:8) The Son of Man be lifted up in John 3:14 was referring to crucifixion of Jesus on the cross was necessary to atone for our sins. Those who turn to Him are delivered from both the penalty and the power of sin. *by His stripes, we are healed.* (ISA53:5) refers to the punishment Jesus Christ suffered, were sufficient to bring healing. Our healing has been fully secured on the cross by Christ 2,000 years ago. Have you looked to the crucified, risen, exalted Lord Jesus to save you from the curse of sin? In Mat.8:16-17, Jesus healed all that were sick, and took our infirmities and bore our sickness! Therefore, being healed is speaking of saved, spiritually and physically healed. Final salvation of body will take place at the time of rapture.

May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, (GAL6:14) The death of Christ on the cross marked His victory over sin, death and Satan. Because of the hope we have in Christ, we should no longer fear sickness and death. We have access to the same power that raised Jesus from the dead. *It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me.* (GAL2:20) Jesus is our conquering King—we are victorious conquerors. May we never take our eyes away from the cross of Christ. At the cross Jesus crushed the head of Satan and delivered us from under his rule to restore our dominion and enable us live the abundant life. It was shout of a victor Jesus who had successfully completed his mission. God disarmed evil rulers and authorities. He shamed them publicly by his victory over them on the cross of Christ. (COL2:15)

"The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil" 1 John 3:8 gives us the reason for Jesus' coming into the world. What exactly are the works of the devil? Jesus gives a clear and concise answer in John 8:44. Some of the works of the devil are murder and lying. These two sins summarize the character of the devil and his goals. He works to see people destroyed and go to hell, and he desires to deceive them into that destruction. The works of the devil show up in the Garden of Eden, where Satan deceived Eve and led her into disobedience.(GEN3:1-6) As a result, Adam also sinned and threw the whole of humanity into the bondage of sin.(ROM5:12) The works of the devil affect humanity morally, physically, intellectually and spiritually. Morally, the devil entices people to sin, making evil seem appealing so that people choose evil over obedience to God.(JAM1:14) Physically, the devil can inflict disease, and he seeks to use physical trials to cause people to curse God.(JOB2:4-5;LUK13:11) Intellectually, the devil seduces people into error, teaching false doctrines.(1TI4:1) He casts doubt and keeps unbelievers blinded to spiritual truth and the gospel.(2CO4:3-4) He arranges distractions and promotes confusion that cause people to act hastily, irrationally, and foolishly. Spiritually, he takes every opportunity to snatch away the Word of God sown in a person's heart.(MAT13:19)

Genesis 3:15 is the first glimpse of the gospel, the first foreshadowing of the cross, and it points specifically to the victory of our salvation: *From now on, you and the woman will be enemies, and your offspring and her offspring will be enemies. He will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.* This passage points to the promise of Jesus' birth. The woman's offspring is Jesus. Being virgin-born, He is literally seed of a woman.(MAT1:25;GAL4:4;ISA7:14) This "seed" a prophetic about Jesus, being the Son of Man, the Messiah, the Christ or 'Anointed One', who would establish God's righteous rule and eradicate evil. The devil's seed were the evil men, enemies of the cross of Christ, lay in wait for the Savior and struck at Him. The striking of Messiah's heel was a picture of the wounding and death of Jesus on the cross. Jesus rose the third day, breaking the power of death and winning ultimate victory. With the cross, Jesus crushed the devil's head, defeating him forever. Defeated Satan hates the cross and message of the cross to seeks blind people from gospel, because it sealed his destiny and he is relentless in his attacks to undermine and prevent the cross.

The implications of God's covenant with Abraham are far reaching. The promise of seed is the focal point of God's promise to Abraham. The promise of a righteous seed is the thread running through every covenant promise. First, Abraham's seed was physical. God promised that Abraham would be a father of many nations.(GEN17:5). Nations arose from his offspring but the seed of promise was Isaac, the son of Sarah. From Isaac came Jacob and then the nation of Israel. The development of this physical seed was essential to the coming of Christ, it was from Israel that Christ came "according to the flesh"(ROM9:4-5) Abraham's line was chosen for the physical identity of the Messiah. Second, the seed was and is spiritual.(JOH8:39) The true children of Abraham are those who have faith.(GAL3:7) *And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.*(GAL3:29) Third, the ultimate or ideal seed is Christ Himself. New Testament begins identifying Jesus both as the son of David and the son of Abraham.(MAT1:1)

Our Gracious God has offered salvation to sinners on the basis of faith in the promised "seed," *Jesus Christ*. For the Old Testament sinner, the good news of the gospel was this: Salvation is available to sinners who trust in the "seed" whom God will provide:(GEN22:6-14) Adam and Eve were given the promise of deliverance through their "seed" and they believed.(GEN4:25-26) The good news is this; God has provided the promised "seed," Jesus Christ. By faith in Him, sinners are saved and become the children (the "seed") of God. After Abraham had shown he was willing to trust God with the life of his son intended to sacrifice Isaac, God said, *In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice.*"(GEN22:18) Now to Abraham and his Seed were the promises made. *He does not say, "And to seeds," as of many, but as of one, "And to your Seed," who is Christ.*"(GAL3:16) God had given Abraham physical promises of land and a multitude of descendants, as well as the even more amazing spiritual blessings that would come through our loving Savior. Jesus Christ's death made it possible for our sins to be forgiven so we could be offered salvation, spiritual blessings of conversion becoming children of God and eternal life in God's Kingdom.

Ephesians 2:1-10 explains the relationship between our lack of obedience, the grace of God and our salvation. Before we were saved, we were under the full effects of the works of the devil. The works of the devil in our lives caused us to be "gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts". It is only through the love, mercy, and grace of God that we were rescued from the works of the devil. Salvation is accomplished on the basis of grace, through faith. Good works, human effort, and our best intentions will never be enough to earn salvation The good news is that Jesus' power and presence destroys the devil's work and that guarantees our sanctification. The child of God lives in righteousness. We can, by faith, live as new creations in Christ. Jesus' finished work on the cross was the beginning of new life for all who were once "dead in trespasses and sins" but who are now made "alive with Christ".

Meditating on the cross would produce in them a heart of thanksgiving to the One who bore so much on their behalf. As we partake Lord's Supper, we should aware the redemptive glory of His sacrifice. *For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes.*(1CO11:26) Let us all adore the Son of God, and say, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain, to receive Power, Riches, Wisdom, Strength, Honour, Glory, Blessing!(REV5:12)