

It is Finished

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Let's start by reading the Good Friday Event in Scripture from John:

19 So Pilate then took Jesus and ^[a]had Him flogged. ² And the soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and placed it on His head, and put a purple ^[b]cloak on Him; ³ and they *repeatedly* came up to Him and said, "Hail, King of the Jews!" and slapped Him in the face *again and again*. ⁴ And *then* Pilate came out again and *said to them, "See, I am bringing Him out to you so that you will know that I find no grounds at all for charges in ^[c]His case." ⁵ Jesus then came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. And *Pilate* *said to them, "Behold, the Man!" ⁶ So when the chief priests and the officers saw Him, they shouted, saying, "Crucify, crucify!" Pilate *said to them, "Take Him yourselves and crucify *Him*; for I find no grounds for charges in ^[d]His case!" ⁷ The Jews answered him, "We have a law, and by that law He ought to die, because He made Himself *out to be* the Son of God!"

⁸ Therefore when Pilate heard this statement, he was *even* more afraid; ⁹ and he entered the ^[e]Praetorium again and *said to Jesus, "Where are You from?" But Jesus gave him no answer. ¹⁰ So Pilate *said to Him, "Are you not speaking to me? Do You not know that I have authority to release You, and I have authority to crucify You?" ¹¹ Jesus answered him, "You would have no authority ^[f]over Me at all, if it had not been given to you from above; for this reason the one who handed Me over to you has *the* greater sin." ¹² As a result of this, Pilate ^[g]made efforts to release Him; but the Jews shouted, saying, "If you release this Man, you are not a friend of Caesar; everyone who makes himself *out to be* a king ^[h]opposes Caesar!"

¹³ Therefore when Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus out, and sat down on the judgment seat at a place called ^[i]The Pavement—but in ^[j]Hebrew, Gabbatha. ¹⁴ Now it was the day of preparation for the Passover; it was about the ^[k]sixth hour. And he *said to the Jews, "Look, your King!" ¹⁵ So they shouted, "Away with *Him*, away with *Him*, crucify Him!" Pilate *said to them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king except Caesar."

¹⁶ So he then handed Him over to them to be crucified.

¹⁷ They took Jesus, therefore, and He went out, ^[l]carrying His own cross, to the *place* called the Place of a Skull, which in ^[m]Hebrew is called, Golgotha. ¹⁸ There they crucified Him, and with Him two other men, one on either side, and Jesus in between. ¹⁹ Now Pilate also wrote an inscription and put it on the cross. It was written: "JESUS THE NAZARENE, THE KING OF THE JEWS." ²⁰ Therefore many of the Jews read this inscription, because the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in ^[n]Hebrew, Latin, *and* in Greek. ²¹ So the chief priests of the Jews were saying to Pilate, "Do not write, 'The King of the Jews'; rather, *write* that He said, 'I am King of the Jews.'" ²² Pilate answered, "What I have written, I have written."

²³ Then the soldiers, when they had crucified Jesus, took His outer garments and made four parts: a part to each soldier, and the ^[o]tunic *also*; but the tunic was seamless, woven ^[p]in one piece. ²⁴ So they said to one another, "Let's not tear it, but cast lots for it, *to decide* whose it shall be." *This happened* so that the Scripture would be fulfilled: "THEY DIVIDED MY GARMENTS AMONG THEMSELVES, AND THEY CAST ^[q]LOTS FOR MY CLOTHING." Therefore the soldiers did these things.

²⁵ Now beside the cross of Jesus stood His mother, His mother's sister, Mary the *wife* of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. ²⁶ So 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 into his own *household*.

²⁸ After this, Jesus, knowing that all things had already been accomplished, in order that the Scripture would be fulfilled, **said*, "I am thirsty." ²⁹ A jar full of sour wine was standing *there*; so they put a sponge full of the sour wine on *a branch of hyssop* and brought it *up* to His mouth. ³⁰ Therefore when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!" And He bowed His head and gave up His spirit. (NASB – www.biblegateway.com)

Today, we celebrate the fulfillment of Scripture. A plan that was set up before the world was created by the Lord, through His wisdom and understanding knew what was needed to have a loving and holy relationship between us and Himself. God knew the time and place to have his own Son carry the sin of mankind to the cross as our lamb for Passover. A perfect Lamb that was with no sin and blemish

went to the cross and allowed His blood to be poured out for the gift of salvation for those who will put their trust in Him and ask the forgiveness of their own sin. This same Jesus, through the Holy Spirit, would have victory over the grave so that we too would have victory over the grave when our time on this earth is over. So, now, Jesus sits next to His Father waiting to fulfill the final part of God's plan – Jesus' second coming. As I was reading John's account, something really caught my eye.

In the last verse, when Jesus knew death was near, made His last statement before the Resurrection, "It is finished." Luke adds more onto what Jesus stated in his account in Luke 23: 46, "'Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit,' Having said this, He breathed His last. (NASB)." Both of these statements from Jesus, when added together, proves Jesus was in control – He committed His spirit to His Father. Jesus stated that it is finished. The Greek term used for finished is "teleo" which means be completed, fulfilled, perfected, and accomplished (Strong's Concordance). Jesus knew His mission on the cross was fulfilled. That mission was perfect because Jesus was the Son of God. Jesus had completed what God had set Him to do. Now, the Holy Spirit was going to start His mission and plan by the resurrection of Jesus (Romans 8:11). It is finished and Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit is very important words here. Jesus had to die so that we may have the chance for Life – life through Christ. As the Greek term says, Jesus' work on earth was accomplished and fulfilled. He had to die. Jesus had to die only once. Did you know we have to die twice.

Did you know that because of what Jesus did on the cross, we now can die twice. When we think about death, we usually always think about the death of the human body. About everyone here today has seen physical death in some shape or form. What do I mean by dying twice? It's not something I just thought up, but we find it in Scripture that we actually have to die twice. Apostle Paul talks about this in Romans 6: 1-11, "6 What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin so that grace may increase? 2 [a]Far from it! How shall we who died to sin still live in it? 3 Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? 4 Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too may walk in newness of life. 5 For if we

have become ^[b]united with *Him* in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be ^[c]*in the likeness* of His resurrection, ⁶ knowing this, that our old ^[d]self was crucified with *Him*, in order that our body of sin might be ^[e]done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin; ⁷ for the one who has died is ^[f]freed from sin. ⁸ Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, ⁹ knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, ^[g]is never to die again; death no longer is master over Him. ¹⁰ For ^[h]the death that He died, He died to sin once for all *time*; but ^[i]the life that He lives, He lives to ^[j]God. ¹¹ So you too, consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus. (NASB – www.biblegateway.com)

When we allow Jesus into our heart and ask for the forgiveness of our horrible sin, our sin is nailed to the cross of Jesus and His precious blood covers all that sin – It is finished! Paul is telling us our past sin is finished – it is dead. Paul states in verse 2 that we have died to sin and we can't continue to live in it. Don't go back to the sin that is covered by the blood of Jesus. When you give your life to Jesus, your old way of life becomes dead and you start a new life through Jesus Christ. The Greek term that Paul uses here for dead is "apothnesko" which means to die (Strong's Concordance). The Greek term tells you like it is. Our old life is finished when we allow Jesus into our heart. It is dead. Our old self was crucified with Jesus so we are no longer a slave to sin. We start fresh with the Holy Spirit now filling the void in our heart. I love what Paul says there in verse 11, "Even so consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus." Paul is only preaching Jesus here. Jesus tells Nicodemus in John 3: 3, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God" (NASB)" One has to die to be able to be born again. I like what A. W. Tozer says about this in his book called, *The Pursuit of Christian Maturity*, where he states, "A man on the cross is not happy. It is when he gets over that and cries, 'Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit,' and ceases to defend himself and let go, it is then that he dies. And there's a resurrection that follows. That, though, is what needs to happen if we are ever going to be anything more than carnal, mediocre Christians and move from where we are to where we ought to be. (A.W. Tozer)" In other words, we need to realize that when we become a follower of Christ, we need to die to the old way of life and fully embrace the new life we found in Christ. We

were created for this new life. We were not created to live in sin. If we don't embrace this new life, we'll become mediocre Christians. We should never want to go back to the old way of life. One of the things that really grosses me out is seeing an animal going back to its own waste or vomit. I hate seeing that and how much worse is it for the Lord to see us go back to our own sin again. Yes, we may have weak moments, but we ask forgiveness and don't do it again. In fact, if we are truly growing in our faith, it should be harder and harder to go back to the old way of life before Jesus and it should be getting easier to live the new life in Christ. I've been doing my nightly devotionals in Jeremiah and the Lord tells Jeremiah this is what He wants from the people of the Old Testament in Jeremiah 4: 4, "Circumcise yourselves to the Lord and remove the foreskins of your heart. (NASB). God is letting Israel to know what He really wants from them – a heart clean from deadly sin. That has not changed in the New Testament. God wants us to die from our old self and to embrace our new life in Christ. The old life is finished and we must keep it finished. The blood of Jesus covers that old sinful life and let's keep it covered.

The MacArthur Study Bible. Thomas Nelson: Nashville, 2020

The Strongest Strong's Concordance. Zondervan: Grand Rapids, 2001

Tozer, A.W. *The Pursuit of Christian Maturity.* Bethany House: Minneapolis, 2024