

## IT IS FINISHED

Text: John 19:30

30 When he had received the drink, Jesus said, "It is finished."

With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

Introduction: Did anyone read the sign this morning? "God will keep His promises even if it kills Him."

Have you ever thought what He meant when He spoke those words on Calvary? Maybe, you and I need to try to grasp the magnitude of these words for those of us who live on this side of Calvary. Go with me to the book of Hebrews and listen to what its author tells you and I concerning the "finished work" of Christ.

### I. An Imperfect Covenant.

#### A. The Law was only a shadow.

Heb 10:1 The law is only a shadow of the good things that are coming — not the realities themselves. For this reason it can never, by the same sacrifices repeated endlessly year after year, make perfect those who draw near to worship.

1. A shadow can only give a slight representation of the real.
2. The sacrifices though many were inadequate.
3. They were forgiven.
4. But they were not made perfect or complete.

#### B. The worshippers were never fully cleansed.

2 If it could, would they not have stopped being offered? For the worshipers would have been cleansed once for all, and would no longer have felt guilty for their sins.

1. The guilt of their sins remained.
2. The sacrifices were annual reminders of sin.

3 But those sacrifices are an annual reminder of sins,

#### C. The blood of the sacrifices could never take away sin.

4 because it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.

1. These pointed to the work that Christ would fulfill through His vicarious sufferings and death.
  2. They had saving significance only in so far as they fixed the attention on the coming Redeemer and the promised redemption.
- D. God was pleased with the actions of the worshippers but atonement for sin was not complete.
1. "I have obeyed the Law. I offered the appropriate sacrifice but I don't feel any release from the guilt of my actions."
  2. "Maybe next year, I will sense a release from all this inner turmoil my sins have caused me."

## II. Help Has Come.

- A. Jesus announced Himself as the perfect sacrifice.

Heb 10:5 Hence, when He [Christ] entered into the world, He said, Sacrifices and offerings You have not desired, but instead You have made ready a body for Me [to offer];

1. The Incarnation brought the Only Begotten Son into our world.
2. He came to fulfill everything that was spoken of Him in the Law and the Prophets.

Heb 10:7 Then I said, 'Here I am — it is written about me in the scroll — I have come to do your will, O God.'

- B. Christ affirmed the Father's will.

1. You accepted them but You were not pleased with them.

8 First he said, "Sacrifices and offerings, burnt offerings and sin offerings you did not desire, nor were you pleased with them" (although the law required them to be made).

2. Doing the Father's will establishes the new covenant.

9 Then he said, "Here I am, I have come to do your will." He sets aside the first to establish the second.

3. His one time sacrifice worked.

10 And in accordance with this will [of God], we have been made holy (consecrated and sanctified) through the offering made once for all of the body of Jesus Christ (the Anointed One).

C. For the priests, it was a daily act.

Heb 10:11 Day after day every priest stands and performs his religious duties; again and again he offers the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins.

1. Repetition was the order of the day.

2. They never set down.

Heb 10:12 But when this priest had offered for all time one sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God.

D. Since Calvary Christ's enemies were defeated and He is awaiting their final surrender.

13 Since that time he waits for his enemies to be made his footstool,

E. Truly, John the Baptist had it right when he declared at Jesus' appearance at the Jordan River:

John 1:29b "...Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"

F. "I am not like the Israelites in the Old Testament watching the "scapegoat" being lead away. I have seen the Lamb of God being offered in my place."

G. "I have been made clean by the blood of the Lamb."

Heb 10:14 because by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy.

1. His sacrifice worked salvation for me.

2. I am declared righteous.

### III. I Am Welcome!

A. The process is by a new covenant.

1. The Holy Spirit is the One who testifies this to my spirit.

Heb 10:15 The Holy Spirit also testifies to us about this. First he says:

2. The Spirit within me will direct me.

16 "This is the covenant I will make with them after that time, says the Lord. I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds."

3. My sins will be removed from my record.

17 Then he adds: "Their sins and lawless acts I will remember no more."

4. Nothing else is needed.

18 And where these have been forgiven, there is no longer any sacrifice for sin.

B. I am given confidence that I am accepted in Christ.

19 Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus,

1. This is not a back door approach.

20 by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body,

2. I will be able to enter into His presence without any feelings of guilt or remorse.

21 and since we have a great priest over the house of God,  
22 let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.

C. I now live at peace and with great hope for tomorrow.

23 Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful.

1. I am going to want to encourage you to accept this forgiveness and encourage you to be committed.

24 And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds.

2. I will want you to join me at God's house so that we can rejoice together over our new relationship in Christ.

25 Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another — and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Conclusion: On this side of Calvary:

- 1] I live with assurance of my new relationship with God.
- 2] I am confident when I come before His throne.
- 3] I know my sins are forgiven.
- 4] I look forward forgetting those things that are behind.
- 5] I anticipate His soon return for His Bride.
- 6] I have a lively hope.
- 7] I have a reason to smile.
- 8] I boldly enter into His presence.
- 9] I don't have to look over my shoulder to see if past sins are going to ruin my life. He cast them into the sea of forgetfulness.
- 10] My tomorrow could be the greatest day of my life.
- 11] My future is secure in Him.
- 12] I know that heaven is my final home.
- 13] I welcome the Holy Spirit's presence in my life.
- 14] My fears are gone.
- 15] My attitude reflects my new relationship in Christ.  
I smile. I laugh. I rejoice. I look up. I listen for the sounds of His imminent return confident that I am among the redeemed.