



Finished!

John 19:30 (NKJV) *'So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!" And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.'*

Words of Ministry

When you look at many Christians today you would think that Christianity's motto is: "do, do, do". It seems like a very busy life. There are so many things to do: read the bible, pray, attend meetings, encourage others, use your gifts, reach the lost, walk in the spirit, obey God, etc. There is an endless list, it seems, of good and spiritual things to do.

Now there is nothing wrong with good works. The bible encourages them. However we need to look closely at what the motive is behind all these things. There is a danger in attempting to do things for God in order to win His approval or to attempt to gain acceptance with Him. What is your motive for your good works? Is it to win approval with God? Is it to acquire righteousness with Him? Is it to compensate for your sins? Is it to please God or gain His favour? If the answer is yes to any of these, then you have missed the meaning of grace. Grace means that God has already done everything that needed doing in order for you to be in right standing with Him.

You see, the New Testament's primary message is NOT, "do, do, do" but, "done, done, done". Christ has accomplished everything FOR you at the cross where He worked out your salvation full and free. All your "doing" will not make you more acceptable to God. Christ is your acceptance. His work is credited to your account as "paid in full". You owe nothing... except the debt of gratefulness for what God has done.

There is absolutely nothing you can do to "add" to your sins being forgiven, to having right standing with God, or to acquiring the resources to live the Christian life. ALL these things have already been given, already provided and already accomplished by Christ. That is why Jesus said, "It is finished" when He

died cross. The work was done. He accomplished it on our behalf. He completed everything for us. All that remains is for us to receive by faith!

Imagine if someone, looking at some famous artists painting, thought that it was not quite done and proceeded to "add" some finishing touches themselves. It would ruin the artist's work! Every added brush stroke would only ruin the painting's perfection and insult the artist's work. That is exactly what we do to the work of Christ when we try to "add" to it something of our own effort to it. You can't add anything better to a work that is finished. If He is satisfied with your forgiveness and righteousness because of the cross, then you need to be too. There is nothing for you to "add" to being acceptable to God, loved by Him and approved by Him.

Beloved, Christ's work on your behalf is a completed work. He cried out, "It is finished!" You cannot complete a completed work. You cannot finish a finished work. Your salvation is won. Your sins are all forgiven. You are made forever righteous by His blood. Christ paid completely and perfectly for your total forgiveness, righteousness and every blessing!

These three words, "It is finished", come from one Greek word *teleo*. In the days of Jesus, a servant would use it when reporting to his master: "I have completed the work assigned to me" (John 17:4). Perhaps the most significant meaning of *teleo* is how it is used by merchants: "The debt is paid in full!" When Jesus gave Himself on the cross, He met fully the righteous demands of the law. He paid our debts in full!

Today, it is not your works that will bring you God's blessings. It is Christ's finished work. Christian living is not about doing, but believing in His finished work. Under the law, we must do. Under grace, it is done!

Beloved, stop trying to gain acceptance with God or to win His favour. Jesus promises, "It is finished!" Stop trying to win a victory in a battle that Jesus has already won. Just resting in His finished work and let your good works flow from a life ALREADY in the acceptance and perfection of Christ. "For we are God's workmanship [Gr. "poem" "work of art"], created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do" (Eph 2:10).

Beloved, the work is finished. The victory is won. Your blessings have been bought by His blood! Live life knowing that there is nothing for you to do — only believe, receive and express what God has already done! It is finished!