

When Jesus Said, "It is Finished," What Did He Begin?

John 19:30: (NASB) *Therefore when Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, It is finished! And he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.*



"It is finished." When Jesus said these three words, he signaled an ending. He proclaimed to those who were gazing upon his beaten and crucified body that he had completed a specific set of tasks successfully. He had done what he had set out to do. Looking back on this event, some may wonder, what did he really accomplish? If we are living God's plan, it sure seems disjointed, broken and worthless, for all they can see are the tragedies of human choices and experiences. As we look more deeply into the final moments of Jesus' earthly life, we will see they were a catalyst to change the downward sin and

death-ridden course that Satan had begun so long before. We will see that Jesus proclaiming, "It is finished," was also a victorious proclamation of what was to begin! This is inspiring!

Let's take a moment and look at the last events of Jesus' human life on the cross that surrounded these three words – *it is finished*. The following rendering was compiled and put in order from the four gospels to the best of our ability.

We will be reading from [Matthew 27:45-51](#), [Mark 15:33-39](#), [Luke 23:46-49](#) and [John 19:25-30](#), all from the [New American Standard Version, 1995 Edition](#).

Matthew 27:45: (NASB) *Now from the sixth hour darkness fell upon all the land until the ninth hour.*

John 19:25-27: (NASB) ²⁵..But standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. ²⁶When Jesus then saw his mother, and the disciple whom he loved (John) standing nearby, he said to his mother, Woman, behold, your son! ²⁷Then he said to the disciple, Behold, your mother! From that hour the disciple took her into his own household.

Matthew 27:46: (NASB) *About the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, ELI, ELI, LAMA SABACHTHANI? that is, MY GOD, MY GOD, WHY HAVE YOU FORSAKEN ME?*

Mark 15:35: (NASB) *When some of the bystanders heard it, they began saying, Behold, he is calling for Elijah.*

John 19:28: (NASB) *...Jesus, knowing that all things had already been accomplished, to fulfill the Scripture, said, I am thirsty.*

Mark 15:36: (NASB) *Someone ran and filled a sponge with sour wine (vinegar), put it on a reed, and gave him a drink, saying, Let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down.*

John 19:30: (NASB) *Therefore when Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, It is finished...*

Luke 23:46: (NASB) *And...crying out with a loud voice, said, Father, into Your hands I commit my spirit. Having said this, he breathed his last.*

John 19:30: (NASB) *...And he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.*



Mark 15:39: (NASB) *When the centurion, who was standing right in front of him, saw the way he breathed his last...*

Luke 23:47: (NASB) *...he began praising God, saying, Certainly this man was innocent.*

Mark 15:39: (NASB) *...Truly this man was the Son of God!*

Luke 23:48-49: (NASB) ⁴⁸*And all the crowds who came together for this spectacle, when they observed what had happened, began to return, beating their breasts.* ⁴⁹*And all his acquaintances and the women who accompanied him from Galilee were standing at a distance, seeing these things.*

Matthew 27:51: (NASB) *And behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth shook and the rocks were split.*

This world-changing event is one of the most dramatic we will ever hear or read.

“It is finished.” These three words were an outward verbalization of what Jesus already knew:

John 19:28-30: (NASB) ²⁸*After this, Jesus, knowing that all things had already been **accomplished <5055>**, to fulfill the Scripture, said, I am thirsty.* ²⁹*A jar full of sour wine (vinegar) was standing there; so they put a sponge full of the sour wine (vinegar) upon a branch of hyssop and brought it up to his mouth.* ³⁰*Therefore when Jesus had received the sour wine (vinegar), he said, It is **finished <5055>**! And he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.*

The word for finished is the same word in verse 28 for *been accomplished*.

Finished: Strong's Exhaustive Concordance #5055 *teleo*; to end, i.e. complete, execute, conclude, discharge (a debt)

(Source: Bible Commentary from David Guzik) The verb *teleo*, “to finish,” was used in first and second centuries in the sense of “fulfilling” or “paying” a debt and often appeared in receipts. Jesus’ statement ‘It is finished’ could be interpreted as “paid in full.” (Tenney)

Jesus had finished what he had set out to do. The idea of “paid in full” means there is no more conversation, no more discussion or unfinished business. There is no detail left; it is over.

There are many aspects to the work he finished, both legal and emotional. The first one is a fundamental, big picture piece.



1. WHAT WAS FINISHED?

The sentence of death being a final consequence for every human being who ever lived. The penalty for sin is death, brought on by Adam in the Garden of Eden.

But the satisfaction of God’s justice gets counterbalanced with love and mercy, as God sent His only begotten son to be a ransom substitution for Adam:

1 Timothy 2:5,6: (NASB) ⁵*For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus,* ⁶*who gave himself as a **ransom** for all, the testimony given at the proper time.*

That word *ransom* means “a corresponding price.” Jesus discharged a debt that imperfect humanity could not pay. It is finished –it is paid!



If someone is in a situation where they are financially in over their head, and there is nothing they can do to fix their debt – and then someone comes along and says, "I know you are struggling and it is very difficult; let me pay that debt for you so you can get back on your feet." They have taken away a legal responsibility the first person could not handle. This is what Jesus did for humanity. He took away the legal grasp of death and said, "I have got this – for all of you!" He legally fulfilled the debt humanity was buried under.

The ransom is the central theme of the Bible, so it is important we study and understand it.



**ONE MAN - JESUS - THE MEDIATOR
GAVE HIMSELF A RANSOM FOR ALL - FOR EVERYONE!**

One man = Adam
brought condemnation to all



One man - Jesus
brings justification of life to all



1 Timothy 2:5,6: (RVIC) ...Christ Jesus who gave himself a ransom for ALL.

Adam sinned and thereby introduced certain death for all his posterity:

Genesis 2:16-17: (YLT) ¹⁶And Jehovah God layeth a charge on the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden eating thou dost eat; ¹⁷and of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, thou dost not eat of it, for in the day of thine eating of it - dying thou dost die.

We see the start of the debt: if Adam did not obey, then *dying thou dost die...* It is a very simple equation:

OBEDIENCE = LIFE

DISOBEDIENCE = DEATH

Once Adam took the step to disobey and die, every single one of his children would inherit his death. This is a BIG part of what was finished –the sentence of death being a final consequence for every human being who ever lived.



WHY WAS IT FINISHED?

Because of Jesus' perfect obedience to the Father's perfect plan:

Hebrews 5:8-9: (NASB) ⁸Although he was a son, he learned obedience from the things which he suffered. ⁹And having been made perfect, he became to all those who obey him the source of eternal salvation.



THE TEST FOR ADAM WAS OBEDIENCE.

THE TEST FOR JESUS WAS OBEDIENCE.

See how simple justice can be? Adam disobeyed and Jesus obeyed.

Jesus' righteousness canceled Adam's sin. It is a beautiful picture. It was finished because of Jesus' perfect obedience. In God's plan, nothing ever finishes without something beginning.



WHAT CAN NOW BEGIN?

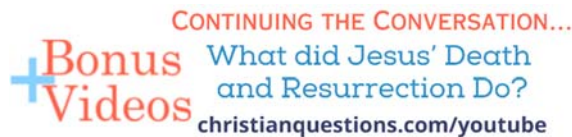
The methodical turning of events to prepare the entire world for resurrection and the needed learning process of reconciliation so they can have eternal life.

Common question: If Jesus died thousands of years ago to release everyone from sin, why is the world still sinning and dying?



His own personal sacrifice was finished –the debt has been paid –but the work of converting the world back to God still remains. There are different phases to this work. Something finishes and something begins.

Jesus was the Lamb of God. Jesus prophetically was also the Lion of the tribe of Judah. The Lion, the ruler, comes after the work of the Lamb. He put his sacrifice "on deposit," as it were, to be redeemed later. This works over time. Just because something is finished does not mean that something new instantly starts. It just means the door is open for a methodical turning of events.



The Apostle Paul summed up this inescapable penalty clearly by showing us how God's plan corrects this dark result of sin:

Romans 5:18-19: (NASB) 18So then as through one transgression there resulted condemnation to all men, even so through one act of righteousness there resulted justification of life to all men. 19For as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, even so through the obedience of the one the many will be made righteous.

Such clarity! The many (everyone born of Adam) were made sinners..the many (everyone born of Adam) will be made righteous.

Romans 6:23: (NASB) For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

This is a free gift because Jesus paid the debt. When we consider the statement, "It is finished," meaning the sentence of death being the final consequence is canceled, we see the beauty of God's justice being fulfilled. The justice part was put on the table at this point.



Seeing new beginnings in the ending:



God’s plan is neverending. Whenever we see something end it will inevitably make room for another phase of His plan to begin. Jesus’ work as a man was no exception. He came to begin a redemption work, accomplish its goals and finally die as its full payment. God’s plan would now enter another phase.


This ending was a remarkable event as Jesus dying by crucifixion looked like such a defeat. God, however, had other plans.

We have just looked at the big picture of what Jesus finished. What about other finished tasks that Jesus could now put away?

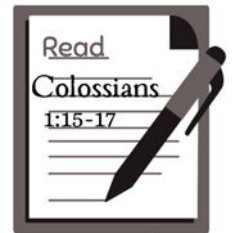
Let’s step back from that glorious big picture of Jesus paying the debt that the world could not pay and focus on some of the personal things Jesus also accomplished. We do not often think about the magnitude of the price Jesus paid on his own personal level. Remember, he was in heaven with the Father for an eternity of time before coming to earth.

We know Jesus had a pre-human existence with the Father from several scriptures, including:

John 1:14: (NASB) *And the Word (Logos in Greek) became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw his glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.*

 He had a level of glory and was in a very unique position as the *only begotten from the Father*. He was the first and only direct creation of the Father –this is what *only begotten* means. How do we know this? Because Colossians 1:15-17 tells us after he was made, all things were created through him.


HOMework



For more on the relationship between Jesus and God, see Proverbs 8:22-30.

We also see this when Jesus was praying before he was crucified:

John 17:5: (NASB) *Now, Father, glorify me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.*

 Jesus was originally a spirit being and underwent a change in nature to become human. This was different from angels, who appeared as men to deliver messages but were never actually human. Jesus was born and lived as a perfect man.

There is a phase of Jesus’ prehuman existence as the Logos that ends when he comes to earth. As that ends, so ends a set of unique, precious experiences he had in heaven with his Father.

The sentence of death being a final consequence for every human being who ever lived was “finished” through Jesus’ selfless sacrifice to cancel this debt of sin. Let’s consider the next aspect that was finished in Jesus’ life.



2. WHAT WAS FINISHED?

The unjust disrespect of being overlooked and not recognized as representing his Father's will.

We will be looking at Isaiah 53:1-12 each time we go to a new, **WHAT WAS FINISHED** question. Isaiah 53 explains it to us in a prophetic way long before Jesus came to earth and became the man Christ Jesus.

Isaiah 53:1-2: (NASB) *¹Who has believed our message? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? ²For he grew up before Him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of parched ground; he has no stately form or majesty that we should look upon him, nor appearance that we should be attracted to him.*



Jesus was previously the Logos, the Word of God, before he came to earth. This was the highest position in all of creation! He was the representative of God Almighty. From this high and lofty position, Jesus was reduced to a human being who was looked on as nothing special. What a cost!

John 1:43-46: (NASB) *⁴³The next day he purposed to go into Galilee, and he found Philip. and Jesus said to him, Follow me. ⁴⁴Now Philip was from Bethsaida, of the city of Andrew and Peter. ⁴⁵Philip found Nathanael and said to him, We have found him of whom Moses in the Law and also the Prophets wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph. ⁴⁶Nathanael said to him, Can any good thing come out of Nazareth? Philip said to him, Come and see.*

“Wait, he grew up in Nazareth? Say no more! He came from the wrong side of the tracks! He's one of “them”! He was a blue-collar worker with no formal education. He was a carpenter's son?”

The Logos willingly went into the unknown:

Isaiah 6:8: (NASB) *Then I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then I said, Here am I. Send me!*

This beautiful scripture tells us how the Logos was willing to do whatever the Father would ask, whenever the Father would ask it, however the Father would ask it, with whatever consequences the Father saw fit. Jesus, as the Logos, showed an overwhelming acquiescence to do whatever the Father asked of him. *Here am I. Send me!*



WHY WAS IT FINISHED?

It is the same answer as the first time - because of perfect obedience to the Father's perfect plan.

Hebrews 5:8-9: (NASB) *⁸Although he was a son, he learned obedience from the things which he suffered. ⁹And having been made perfect, he became to all those who obey him the source of eternal salvation.*



He learned obedience from the things which he suffered - the unjust disrespect was finished because he did exactly what the Father put in front of him without question. Here on earth, he was disrespected, overlooked and unrecognized – even though he was the most recognizable being of all of God’s creation! He lowered himself to become just one of “those dirty people down there.”



WHAT CAN NOW BEGIN?

The GLORY of his deserved recognition as Lord of ALL mankind. There is incredible glory because he did something incredible!

Daniel 7:13-14: (NASB) ¹³I kept looking in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven one like a Son of Man (Jesus) was coming, and he came up to the Ancient of Days (God) and was presented before him. ¹⁴And to him was given dominion, glory and a kingdom, that all the peoples, nations and men of every language might serve him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion which will not pass away; and his kingdom is one which will not be destroyed.

This is very recognizable! He was given dominion *which will not pass away*, glory and a kingdom. Everyone will know who he is when the kingdom is established. The disrespect is definitely finished.

Seeing new beginnings in the ending:



Jesus willingly became a lowly human being and grew up in a family of no reputation and had no place of honor in society. This apparently average life would allow God’s power to be more easily recognized as from above.



Am I willing to accept whatever lowliness might come MY way so that God’s power can be more easily recognized?

It is interesting how the more average and ordinary you are, the more God’s glory can be recognized as in, “What? How is that even possible?” Just like something great coming from Nazareth. It is a stark contrast.

God set it up this way so there is no doubt that it is His will and power overruling everything.

The unjust disrespect was replaced with the glory of Jesus’ deserved recognition.

3. WHAT WAS FINISHED?

The unjust disrespect of being misunderstood as being sinful and wrong, as he bore the hardships of others without being able to eternally heal them.





He was disrespected, unrecognized and misunderstood as being sinful and wrong. This is a lesson in integrity. Jesus always fulfilled the will of God with complete integrity. He never did anything wrong. Yet, people saw some of his acts (allowing his starving disciples to pick grain on the Sabbath, his healing on the Sabbath, and others) as sinful. They saw things differently, and so Jesus was made out to be the one that did not have integrity. Untrue! Think about how he had come from the height of glory as the Logos to now having to handle this insulting misconception.

Isaiah 53:3-4: (NASB) *³He was despised and forsaken of men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; and like one from whom men hide their face he was despised, and we did not esteem him. ⁴Surely our griefs he himself bore, and our sorrows he carried; yet we ourselves esteemed him stricken, smitten of God, (to the people he appeared to be suffering for his own sins) and afflicted.*

But he was a perfect man. This was an enormous contradiction. His integrity was put out there, stepped on and muddled. His integrity was there; it had not changed, but peoples' view of it was skewed.

The account of healing the woman with the 18-year infirmity and the synagogue official's response:

Luke 13:13-14: (NASB) *¹³And he laid his hands on her; and immediately she was made erect again and began glorifying God.*

This woman has been sick for 18 years – so much so that she was bent over and couldn't stand up straight. Can you imagine the backache? This is huge! She is healed and starts giving God the glory! What a wonderful thing to happen in the synagogue!

¹⁴But the synagogue official, indignant because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath, began saying to the crowd in response, There are six days in which work should be done; so come during them and get healed, and not on the Sabbath day.

Instead of being amazed and happy for the woman, Jesus was criticized in front of everyone on a legal technicality that was not even correct. "You can pull your oxen out of a ditch on the Sabbath but cannot cure this woman in pain?" Jesus rightly called him a hypocrite!

The beauty of her being healed and her glorifying God after, is looked upon with disdain. Jesus is looked upon with disdain. He is misunderstood as they accused him of breaking Sabbath Law (which he did not).

Jesus knew he was here to fulfill prophecy and what prophecies he was fulfilling:

Matthew 8:16-17: (NASB) *¹⁶When evening came, they brought to him many who were demon-possessed; and he cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all who were ill. ¹⁷This was to fulfill what was spoken through Isaiah the prophet: he himself took our infirmities and carried away our diseases.*

John 19:36: (NASB)
For these things came to pass to fulfill the Scripture, Not a bone of him shall be broken.

We often talk about Jesus' broken body, but we know not a bone in him was broken (John 19:36). What was broken? He carried the burdens of the world by exhausting himself. This was the giving of his vitality to others. He himself took our infirmities and carried away our diseases. He bore the weight of all of those things which cost him greatly.



Matthew 12:15 tells us *many followed him, and he healed them all. He did not stop until ALL were healed. Even though he was tired – we are told that healing took “vitality” out of him – he never said like the synagogue official did, “You, Number 13! You’re the last one – the rest of you can go home. Next time get here earlier.” Many times he healed them all. Every last one was healed. The integrity of Jesus’ character shines as he heals without stopping until the work was done.*



WHY WAS IT FINISHED?

Because of perfect obedience to the Father’s perfect plan.

Hebrews 5:8-9: (NASB) ⁸Although he was a son, he learned obedience from the things which he suffered. ⁹And having been made perfect, he became to all those who obey him the source of eternal salvation.

Again we return to the fact that Jesus *learned obedience from the things which he suffered. Where it says having been made perfect – meaning “being made complete.” He was born perfect, but he gathered experience in having to deal with the difficulties. This was one of them. He was fulfilling the Law but being criticized and considered wrong and sinful for doing it. This showed his tenacity to never stop doing the right things.*



WHAT CAN NOW BEGIN?

The GLORY of understanding the eternal power given to him because of his lowliness.

Philippians 2:7-11: (NASB) ⁷(Jesus) ..emptied himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. ⁸Being found in appearance as a man (not a spirit being in any sense), he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. ⁹For this reason also, God highly exalted him, and bestowed on him the name which is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, of those who are in heaven (angels) and on earth (living humans) and under the earth (those who will be resurrected from their graves), ¹¹and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

What was finished was the ignominy of being unjustly misunderstood as being sinful and wrong, but because of his perfect obedience, he is exalted at God’s right hand.

Seeing new beginnings in the ending:



Jesus willingly accepted being seen, labeled and harassed as one who disrespected God’s Law in order to fulfill that very Law in his everyday life. His higher purpose never left his heart or mind.



Do I have that higher purpose so firmly entrenched in my own heart and mind when I may face disrespect while doing God’s will?

If we are disciples of Jesus, are we reacting the best way we can while in our imperfect humanness to follow what he did? He finished these things so that we could follow. Where are we seeing ourselves in the whole picture?

Jesus was considered a nobody, when he was in fact THE somebody, and was considered to be disrespecting the Law that he alone fulfilled! Somebody's confused!

Jesus paid the price to redeem all humanity while being disrespected. What else did he endure?

For many of us, being judged by the place that you come from and being categorized as a wrongdoer while only doing what is right and godly would create a troubling disconnect in our minds. "Can't these people see the obvious good here? Can't they just accept the plain truth before them?" Such a disconnect can easily lead to prideful reactions. We need to continually focus on JESUS!



4. WHAT IS FINISHED?

The requirement of the self-sacrifice needed to redeem all from Adam's sin and provide an offering for the sins of man so reconciliation could reach its full potential.

Remember, Jesus' death as the ransom price for Adam's sin bought back the race. This guaranteed a resurrection for every man, woman and child. But then what? They all need to be educated and reconciled back to God. How is that accomplished? Through this offering for sin.

We have talked about the ransom, the paying of the corresponding price. The first Adam sinned and brought death to all his progeny. Jesus is called the *second Adam* (1 Corinthians 15:45), in whom all of Adam's progeny shall be made alive. If there was only the ransom, the whole world would be brought back from the dead with all their old propensities. They would follow their old habits and would quickly fall back into sin and not be reconciled to God.



What is the offering for sin? We talked earlier about the breaking of Jesus' body. No bone was broken, but his suffering –way beyond just dying –put in place the opportunity for reconciliation. Jesus' church (his faithful followers) also suffer for Christ's sake and are also given *the ministry of reconciliation* (2 Corinthians 5:18).



This is the other part of the equation. Jesus' self-sacrifice and suffering beyond what was required not only redeems, but provides reconciliation for the world. It was an amazing amount for one man to give.

Isaiah 53:5-6: (NASB) ⁵*But he was pierced through for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the chastening for our well-being fell upon him, and by his scourging (by his suffering –not by his death) we are healed.* ⁶*All of us like sheep have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; but the LORD has caused the iniquity of us all to fall on him.*

Look at what the cost was for Jesus. He willingly went through such pain and anguish. It is hard to imagine.



What was his mindset?

Hebrews 12:2: (NASB) *...who, for the joy set before him endured the cross, despising the shame...*

What a Savior! *For the joy set before him* tells us this was not easy. It was painful and trying. But he had the joy of accomplishing his Father’s will set before him. To provide both the ransom and the reconciliation, his self-sacrifice and his pain and suffering were needed.

Never forget the depth and power of a selfless character!

While Jesus was on the cross, the chief priests, scribes and elders were talking amongst themselves:

Matthew 27:41-43: (NASB) *⁴¹In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking him and saying, ⁴²he saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him now come down from the cross, and we will believe in him. ⁴³He trusts in God; let God rescue him now, if He delights in him; for he said, I am the Son of God.*

The chief priests, along with the scribes and elders quoted from Psalms. Why didn't they pay attention to the context?

Psalms 22:6-8: (NASB) *⁶But I am a worm and not a man, a reproach of men and despised by the people. ⁷All who see me sneer at me; they separate with the lip, they wag the head, saying, ⁸Commit yourself to the LORD; let Him deliver him; let Him rescue him, because He delights in him.*

This prophetically described Jesus being crucified on the cross. The chief priests, scribes and elders fulfilled the exact prophecy they were quoting from! They were the ones sneering at him, as predicted hundreds of years earlier!

Why didn't they instead quote from this verse?

Psalms 22:24: (NASB) *For He (God) has not despised nor abhorred the affliction of the afflicted; nor has He hidden His face from him (Jesus); but when he cried to Him for help, He heard.*

This verse shows that God rescues. Although Jesus died, we know he was raised parts of three days later, becoming immortal and sitting on the right hand of God. Why didn't they read that part? Instead, they fulfilled the negativity in the Psalm by knowingly quoting the scripture. It is mind-blowing how they were blinded by their own ambitions.

This is another reason we know the Bible is true. There is no way Jesus could have set that up and forced them to say that exact part of Psalms 22. Especially when they are the “sneerers.”



But I am a worm and not a man –why would Jesus be described as worm? Not only does this show extreme humility and lowliness, but this refers to a special kind of worm called a Tola worm used to make scarlet dye in biblical times. It lays its eggs and then dies, releasing a scarlet fluid that stains its children red. They receive their identity as scarlet worms by the death of the one who gives them life. What a wonderful picture of our crucified Lord Jesus and his shed blood of redemption and the resulting salvation.

The doctors of the Law, the intellectuals of the time, fulfilled this portion of the prophecy by sneering at their own Messiah. It is amazing, but we recognize that the self-sacrifice required to redeem all was very difficult.



WHY WAS IT FINISHED?

Because of perfect obedience to the Father’s perfect plan.

Adam sinned because he disobeyed. Jesus was faithful because of his obedience. This is the pivot point for the entire world of mankind. Jesus *learned obedience from the things which he suffered*. It is our job, too, to learn obedience not only through the things he suffered, but through our experiences as well.

Hebrews 5:8-9: (NASB) *8Although he was a son, he learned obedience from the things which he suffered. 9And having been made perfect, he became to all those who obey him the source of eternal salvation.*



WHAT CAN NOW BEGIN?

The GLORY of the recognition that proclaims Jesus as Savior. His recognition as Savior can begin because the need for his self-sacrifice was finished.

Isaiah 9:6-7: (KJV) *6For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. 7Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.*

After reading this prophecy with the titles Jesus is given, many can be confused thinking these titles are for God himself. When the scripture says the *mighty God*, the word for *God* here is the Hebrew word *Elohim*. Angels are called *Elohim* - mighty ones. This is saying Jesus is the mightiest of the mighty in heaven under God. He and his bride, the church from heaven, will be parents (*everlasting fathers*) to humanity. They will be working from heaven to teach the world of mankind righteousness in the kingdom.

How did Jesus receive these titles? The final phrase in Isaiah 9 says it, *the zeal of the LORD of Hosts will perform this*—all these descriptions of Jesus glorified were given to him by God because of his perfect obedience.

Seeing new beginnings in the ending:



Jesus willingly laid down his own human will, even though it was perfect, to do the sacrificial work that God had set before him. This was a costly and painful decision and he never once wavered in it.



Is my determination and focus so pure as to endure whatever hardship may come my way as a result of being called to walk in his footsteps?



Am I going to take Jesus' example as inspiration, or am I going to look at it and think it is too hard? Of course it's difficult, but we have to be inspired as disciples of Christ.

In answering the question, **WHAT WAS FINISHED**, we are just touching on a few of the more emotional aspects of the answer. Jesus completed other aspects we are not talking about, like how various Old Testament promises and prophecies were completed. The age of the Jewish Law was also finished, as now the gospel message would be sent forth.



5. WHAT WAS FINISHED?

The need for humble silence before his accusers while God's name and plan were being reviled.

Romans 15:3: (NLT): *For even Christ didn't live to please himself. As the Scriptures say, THE INSULTS OF THOSE WHO INSULT YOU, O GOD, HAVE FALLEN ON ME*

This was the fulfillment of **Psalms 69:9**.

Jesus had to have extreme discipline and self-control to not defend himself. But then to stand by as God was being insulted? That's painful. Think about how we feel when God is misrepresented. It doesn't even scratch the surface of how Jesus felt.

Isaiah 53:7-8: (NASB) *⁷He was oppressed and he was afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; like a lamb that is led to slaughter, and like a sheep that is silent before its shearers, so he did not open his mouth. ⁸By oppression and judgment he was taken away; and as for his generation, who considered that he was cut off out of the land of the living for the transgression of My people, to whom the stroke was due?*

How hard would it have been to be silent and not speak out for the truth of God's plan while God was being maligned?

Matthew 27:12-14: (NASB) *¹²And while he was being accused by the chief priests and elders, he did not answer. ¹³Then Pilate said to him, Do you not hear how many things they testify against you? ¹⁴And he did not answer him with regard to even a single charge, so the governor was quite amazed.*

He was silent, exactly as the prophecy said. He acquiesced completely to the Father's will. With one command, he could have had legions of angels obliterate all who disrespected him. What great self-control to stand there and take the abuse.

Who would not speak up in their own defense? That is lamb-like. The work of the Lamb had to be completed before the future work of the *Lion from the tribe of Judah* could begin.

Jesus did what was necessary, even at his own expense. Even at the apparent expense of defending his Father – apparently he let that go, too. His silence was required to fulfill his Father's plan.



WHY WAS IT FINISHED?

Because of perfect obedience to the Father's perfect plan.

Hebrews 5:8-9: (NASB) *⁸Although he was a son, he learned obedience from the things which he suffered. ⁹And having been made perfect, he became to all those who obey him the source of eternal salvation.*

He became to all those who obey him the source of eternal salvation - one of the ways he did this was to be silent before his accusers. The need for humble silence was finished through Jesus' perfect obedience.



WHAT CAN NOW BEGIN?

The GLORY of EVERY human being hearing his voice.

We saw the humble silence, but this is going to change in a dramatic way:

John 5:28-29: (NASB) *²⁸Do not marvel at this; for an hour is coming, in which all who are in the tombs will hear his voice, ²⁹and will come forth; those who did the good deeds to a resurrection of life, those who committed the evil deeds to a resurrection of judgment.*

Jesus gives even those who accused him the opportunity for life everlasting. Just like Lazarus came forth when he heard the voice of Jesus, all humanity will also be resurrected from their graves. This includes those who accuse him even now, as well as those who never knew him. *It is finished* was a world-changing statement. "I paid the price. It is done; it's over."

His voice will be heard by every single human being that has ever lived. How will he get to the glory of every person hearing his voice? By being silent before his accusers!

Seeing new beginnings in the ending:



Jesus willingly stood silent before those who lied about him. He did not answer those who had the power to release him. While his silence may look like it cost him his life, it actually gave all of the world an opportunity for life. His silence would, by God's grace, give his voice eternal power.



Am I willing to be silent even when it is justifiable to speak, for the sake of appropriately representing Jesus?

Sometimes it is appropriate to be silent. Just ask Jesus. What an incredible example!

The further we go with understanding the cost and challenge of Jesus' sacrifice, the greater our appreciation of all he did.

Jesus endured a bad reputation, being misunderstood, enduring hard self-sacrifice and amazing restraint in the face of evil. What more could there have been?

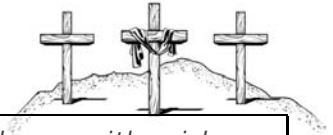
What follows are the results of those hardships. All of these things were contributing factors to the very specific and dramatic end result of Jesus' life. God designed the rescuing of the world to be accomplished through the spectacle of the torment and torture of generally unrecognized innocence hanging helplessly on a cross on public display. This would be a lesson for the ages.

6. WHAT WAS FINISHED?

The unjust disrespect of misrepresentation of being labeled as a criminal who stood against the righteousness of God. This is similar to our last one (the need for humble silence before his accusers while God's name and plan were being reviled) but this takes it a step further – Jesus is now shamefully being labeled as a criminal.



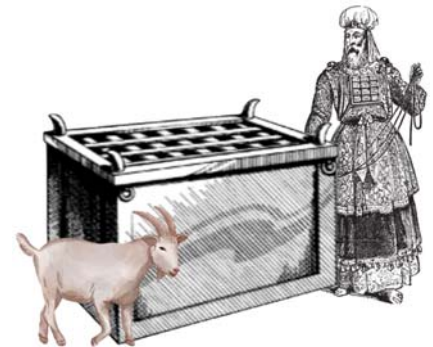
He was literally crucified between two actual criminals!



Isaiah 53:9-10: (NASB) ⁹*His grave was assigned with wicked men, yet he was with a rich man in his death, because he had done no violence, nor was there any deceit in his mouth.* ¹⁰*But the LORD was pleased to crush him, putting him to grief; If he would render himself as a guilt offering, he will see his offspring, he will prolong his days, and the good pleasure of the LORD will prosper in his hand.*

Jesus offered himself as a *guilt offering* or sin offering, but he never sinned. This *guilt offering* is the same word found in Leviticus 6:6 where the priest offered animal sacrifices for sins.

The Old Testament sacrifices paint a very detailed picture of what Jesus, the man, actually came to do. When he accomplished all these things as the Lamb of God, each little detail was then finished. We are breaking down his sacrifice and saying each part was finished. As was said, there are many things we have not talked about that were finished, but we are focusing on what it cost Jesus at this point in his human life.



The disrespect of being labeled as a criminal came with mockery.

Mockery is a tool of the ignorant and was on full display with Jesus as its target:

Matthew 27:28-30: (NASB) ²⁸*They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him.* ²⁹*And after twisting together a crown of thorns, they put it on his head, and a reed in his right hand; and they knelt down before him and mocked him, saying, Hail, King of the Jews!* ³⁰*They spat on him, and took the reed and began to beat him on the head.*

How sick is man's injustice to man? Some people are so ignorant. Humanity needs to be saved from themselves. That is why Jesus gave himself for us. That is why he could say, *It is finished*. All this inhumanity of man's injustice to one another will come to an end.



WHY WAS IT FINISHED?

Because of perfect obedience to the Father's perfect plan.

Hebrews 5:8-9: (NASB) *⁸Although he was a son, he learned obedience from the things which he suffered. ⁹And having been made perfect, he became to all those who obey him the source of eternal salvation.*

We see the clarity of the deep need of complete obedience in every little aspect. The Isaiah prophecy tells us all the things he had to finish. We do not normally stop and think about this, but it is profound what his obedience accomplished.



WHAT CAN NOW BEGIN?

The GLORY of righteous judgments and actions which bring reconciliation.

Finally, everything is made right and all the suffering is over. It does not appear to be righted yet because we are in the very beginning of this period of time. The misrepresentation of being labeled a criminal contrasted with the real actions of Jesus which will bring righteous reconciliation.

1 Corinthians 15:24-26: (NASB) *²⁴then comes the end, when he hands over the kingdom to the God and Father, when he has abolished all rule and all authority and power. ²⁵For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. ²⁶The last enemy that will be abolished is death.*

There is a clear-cut process laid out here and in many other scriptures. There is the glory of righteous judgments and actions which bring reconciliation between the world of mankind and God. The final event is Jesus putting all his enemies under his feet, abolishing even death.



Seeing new beginnings in the ending:



Jesus willingly accepted being unjustly and outwardly labeled as one who blasphemed God. This brought public shame and ridicule and led to horrifying beatings, scourging, mocking and crucifixion. He accepted being seen from the outside in this way so he could forever remove the evil that causes such unjust treatment.



Am I willing to stand for Christ in the face of public ridicule, no matter what the cost?

The previous mirror question was about being silent for the sake of Jesus and here we are supposed to stand for Christ in the face of public ridicule. Which is correct?

It depends on the context of the experience. Jesus knew when to speak out and he knew when to be silent. Remember he went after the scribes and Pharisees in Matthew 23, *Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees*. He was as vocal as he could possibly be because it was time to be vocal. In preparation for the cross, he went silent. This is not completely answering the question, but using Jesus' example we need to try to perceive when it is important to speak up and when to let things go.



7. WHAT WAS FINISHED?

The need to experience the anguish and the heaviness of the price of disobedience, but remember, he was taking the place of the sinners. He was the corresponding price, or ransom sacrifice.

Remember our theme text of John 19:30, after he said - *It is finished* - he bowed his head. This is not a defeat; this is a humble bowing – picture complete acquiescence to the heavenly Father, as in prayer.

(Source: Bible Commentary by David Guzik) This speaks of a peaceful act, like lying down on a pillow to sleep. Jesus did not hang his head in defeat; he bowed it in peace.

Isaiah 53:11-12: (NASB) ¹¹As a result of the anguish of his soul, he will see it and be satisfied; by his knowledge the righteous one, My servant, will justify the many, as he will bear their iniquities. ¹²Therefore, I will allot him a portion with the great (the many of mankind), and he will divide the booty (spoil) with the strong (Jesus' faithful followers); because he poured out himself to death, and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he himself bore the sin of many, and interceded for the transgressors.

This is the inheritance with which he and his faithful followers receive. Because of his faithfulness, his faithful followers have a part in helping all the families of the earth. What a privilege! See Genesis 22:18.

But that privilege includes the anguish and the heaviness of the price of disobedience. We cannot make light of what it costs. That is why we are honoring the things that Jesus finished and the cost to himself.

Jesus, knowing what would happen, had unbreakable confidence in his Father's power and plan:

John 10:17-18: (NASB) ¹⁷For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life so that I may take it again. ¹⁸No one has taken it away from me, but I lay it down on my own initiative. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This commandment I received from my Father.

We see Jesus understanding he was supposed to lay his life down, and that after he was faithful, he was supposed to take it up again. How did he know this? His Father instructed him to do it. And, by the way, all he ever did was the will of his Father.



WHY WAS IT FINISHED?

Because of perfect obedience and loyalty to the Father and His perfect plan!

Hebrews 5:8-9: (NASB) *Although he was a son, he learned obedience from the things which he suffered. And having been made perfect, he became to all those who obey him the source of eternal salvation.*

We have referenced these same scriptures throughout this entire episode. It is clear why we did this. It is the core of everything. Perfect obedience to the Father’s perfect will, in the perfect timing to reveal the perfect results, for the perfect payment of sin and its effects. We see the weight of the heartache and anguish he had to carry.



WHAT CAN NOW BEGIN?

The GLORY of the results of his worthy sacrifice.

(Source: Bible Commentary by David Guzik) *It is finished* – “Jesus died with the cry of the Victor on His lips. This is not the moan of the defeated, nor the sigh of patient resignation. It is the triumphant recognition that he has now fully accomplished the work that he came to do.” (Morris)

John 19:30 ends with *he gave up his spirit*. No one took it from him –this was a voluntary death.

Jesus had a choice. This is a reigning principle in the entire plan of God. Choice is always there. The choice of loyalty to God’s will and way always produces something good, always another new beginning. This was the work of the Lamb of God.

Revelation 5:11-13: (NASB) *Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne and the living creatures and the elders; and the number of them was myriads of myriads, and thousands of thousands, saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing. And every created thing which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all things in them, I heard saying, To Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, be blessing and honor and glory and dominion forever and ever.*

All of this is because of the worthy Lamb. How is the Lamb made worthy? Through perfect obedience and through the willingness to lay everything down so that we all can benefit from the paying of that price.

1 Corinthians 15:28: (NASB) *When all things are subjected to him, then the son himself also will be subjected to the One who subjected all things to him, so that God may be all in all.*

God will be all in all. Jesus turns the perfect heaven and earth, in perfect harmony, over to the Heavenly Father.

In looking at the whole picture, we can see it all starts with God...and it all ends with God. There is the big mess in-between, which is when Jesus comes into play. He takes the mess, rights the ship, then hands that righted ship – once again back in order –to the Father. We need to appreciate the incredible harmony of God’s unfolding plan and all the *It is finished* details that occur in Jesus’ fulfilled life.

Seeing new beginnings in the ending:



Jesus endured the incalculable burden of bearing all of these sinful accusations and actions in his heart. He understood everyone's pain, sorrow, discontent, fear and trauma and willingly carried that weight upon his very being. He bore these things so he could eventually remove them forever.



How willing am I to help others bear their pain and suffering as a footstep follower of Christ?



Am I truly a footstep follower of Christ? But am I, in some little way, willing to extend myself with that same obedience and that same loyalty to put things in perspective as they should be in my own life?

We cannot do what Jesus did, we all know that.

Jesus paid a debt that he did not owe because humanity owed a debt they could not pay. Through the sheer force of his own obedience, loyalty and honor to God's will, he NEVER ONCE faltered. Let us take his gift of redemption and shake off whatever lethargy, challenge or divided focus we may have and run the race set before us. It is now our turn to be faithful.

Jesus said, *It is finished*, so we should say: "Now let it BEGIN with us!"

***So, when Jesus said, "It is finished" what did he begin?
For Jonathan, Rick, Julie and Christian Questions...
Think about it..!***

All quoted scriptures are from the 1995 version of NASB unless otherwise indicated.



Join us next week for our podcast on April 17, 2023

Ep. 1277: Will the World's Pain and Suffering Ever End?

Bonus Material and Study Questions

There once was a nobleman who had disobeyed his king. His home was taken away, and he was sent to a prison for the rest of his life. His wife went with him and they eventually had children. Now these children share in the man's sentence and are not allowed to leave as long as their father is imprisoned there. Many years pass, and much of the family gives up hope of ever leaving.



Then one day, a nobleman of similar birth and equal rank presents himself to the king. He offers himself as a substitute for the first man - volunteering to serve his sentence - becoming what is called a "RANSOM" for the first man.

The king graciously accepts the offer and the first nobleman is released and restored to his estate. Because he is now free, the family he had while in prison is also free. These children, who never had real freedom because they were born prisoners under their father's sentence, are now also redeemed. They leave the prison and inherit the restored estate of their father together with him.



The first man in the story was Adam, who disobeyed God, represented by the king. The second man who willingly offered his life for the first man was Jesus. The man's children are us, since we all came from Adam, which means we all inherited the penalty for his sin: a prison house of death. The perfect man Jesus taking the perfect man Adam's place satisfied God's quality of perfect justice. With Adam's death sentence ransomed (or canceled out) all of humankind will be raised from the grave in God's kingdom - just like the children in the story being allowed to leave the prison.

This is what we mean when we say that Jesus gave his life for the world.

Adapted from Robert Seklemian

Scriptures used for the compiling of Jesus' last hours:

John 19:28-30: (NASB) ²⁸After this, Jesus, knowing that all things had already been accomplished, to fulfill the Scripture, said, I am thirsty. ²⁹A jar full of sour wine was standing there; so they put a sponge full of the sour wine upon a branch of hyssop and brought it up to his mouth. ³⁰Therefore when Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, It is finished! And he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.



Luke 23:44-49: (NASB) ⁴⁴It was now about the sixth hour, and darkness fell over the whole land until the ninth hour, ⁴⁵because the sun was obscured; and the veil of the temple was torn in two. ⁴⁶And Jesus, crying out with a loud voice, said, Father, into Your hands I commit my spirit. Having said this, he breathed his last. ⁴⁷Now when the centurion saw what had happened, he began praising God, saying, Certainly this man was innocent. ⁴⁸And all the crowds who came together for this spectacle, when they observed what had happened, began to return, beating their breasts. ⁴⁹And all his acquaintances and the women who accompanied him from Galilee were standing at a distance, seeing these things.

Matthew 27:45-51: (NASB) ⁴⁵Now from the sixth hour darkness fell upon all the land until the ninth hour. ⁴⁶About the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, ELI, ELI, LAMA SABACHTHANI? that is, MY GOD, MY GOD, WHY HAVE YOU FORSAKEN ME? ⁴⁷And some of those who were standing there, when they heard it, began saying, This man is calling for Elijah. ⁴⁸Immediately one of them ran, and taking a sponge, he filled it with sour wine and put it on a reed, and gave him a drink. ⁴⁹But the rest of them said, Let us see whether Elijah will come to save him. ⁵⁰And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, and yielded up his spirit. ⁵¹And behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth shook and the rocks were split.

Mark 15:33-39: (NASB) ³³When the sixth hour came; darkness fell over the whole land until the ninth hour. ³⁴At the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, ELOI, ELOI, LAMA SABACHTHANI? which is translated, MY GOD, MY GOD, WHY HAVE YOU FORSAKEN ME? ³⁵When some of the bystanders heard it, they began saying, Behold, he is calling for Elijah. ³⁶Someone ran and filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a reed, and gave him a drink, saying, Let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down. ³⁷And Jesus uttered a loud cry, and breathed his last. ³⁸And the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. ³⁹When the centurion, who was standing right in front of him, saw the way he breathed his last, he said, Truly this man was the Son of God!

Christian Questions Weekly Newsletter

CQ Rewind Show Notes and Study Questions

Text
CQREWIND
to **22828** to get started.



christianquestions.com

Subscribe to our YouTube channel and check out CQ's "Moments that Matter!"

These two-minute videos give you something to ponder throughout your day or before you go to sleep.

[ChristianQuestions.com/YouTube](https://www.christianquestions.com/YouTube) or search

Like us on Facebook

[cqbiblepodcast](https://www.christianquestions.com/podcast)

Christian Questions
Think about the Bible like you never have before

Study QUESTIONS

Ep. 1276: When Jesus Said, "It Is Finished," What Did He Begin?

See:



<https://christianquestions.com/inspiration/1276-it-is-finished/>

1. What was finished? *The ransom* (See 1 Timothy 2:5-6, Genesis 2:16-17, Romans 6:23)
 - a. What is the ransom and why was it necessary?
 - b. Why was Jesus able to finish this? (See Hebrews 5:8-9: 12:2)
 - c. What work can now begin since Jesus satisfied the ransom? (See Romans 5:18-19)
2. What was finished? *Jesus was not recognized as the son of God.* (See Isaiah 53:1)
 - a. How was Jesus perceived? (See John 1:43-46, Psalm 22:6-8,24, Matthew 27:41-44)
 - b. Why was Jesus able to finish this? (See Hebrews 5:8-9, Isaiah 6:8)
 - c. What can now begin? (See Daniel 7:13-14) Answer the mirror question.
3. What was finished? *Jesus was accused of being sinful and wrong.* (See Isaiah 53:3-4)
 - a. What caused this accusation? (See Luke 13:13-14, Matthew 8:16-17, 12:15)
 - b. Why was Jesus able to finish this? (See Hebrews 5:8-9)
 - c. What can now begin? (See Philippians 2:7-11) Answer the mirror question.
4. What was finished? *Sn offering for mankind.* (See Isaiah 53:5-6, Leviticus 6:6)
 - a. How is this different from the ransom? Why is it necessary?
 - b. Why was Jesus able to finish this? (See Hebrews 5:8-9)
 - c. What can now begin? (See Isaiah 9:6-7) Answer the mirror question.
5. What was finished? *Silence before his accusers.* (See Isaiah 53:7-8, Romans 15:3, Matthew 27:12-14)
 - a. Is being silent here lamb-like or lion-like? Why did he act this way?
 - b. Why was Jesus able to finish this? What did he become for the obedient as a result? (Hebrews 5:8-9)
 - c. What can now begin? Will it be lamb-like or lion-like? (See John 5:28-29) Answer the mirror question.
6. What was finished? *Jesus was labeled as a criminal and a blasphemer against his Father.* (Isaiah 53:9-10)
 - a. What was the irony here? What mockery did he endure? (See Matthew 27:28-30, 41-44)
 - b. Why was Jesus able to finish this? Can you imagine how he suffered with this? (See Hebrews 5:8-9)
 - c. What can now begin? Why hasn't it begun? (See 1 Corinthians 15:24-26) Answer the mirror question.
7. What was finished? *Jesus feeling the anguish and heaviness of disobedience.* (See Isaiah 53:11-12)
 - a. Did Jesus feel defeat in his death? Explain bowing his head. What did Jesus understand about laying his life down on behalf of mankind? (See John 10:17-18, 19:30)
 - b. Why was Jesus able to finish this? Why do we keep using these verses? (See Hebrews 5:8-9)
 - c. What can now begin? How is "choice" involved in God's plan? How will this all turn out since Jesus "finished" all he was sent to do? (John 18:30, Revelation 5:11-13, 1 Corinthians 15:28) Mirror question.
8. How can you "shake off whatever lethargy, challenge or divided focus" is in your life to run your race?