

## A Lesson on Finishing Well

("It is Finished")

John 19:30

"On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross,  
The emblem of suffering and shame;  
And I love that old cross where the dearest and best  
For a world of lost sinners was slain.

So I'll cherish the old rugged cross,  
Till my trophies at last I lay down;  
I will cling to the old rugged cross,  
And exchange it some day for a crown."



We often sing these words but when singing them do we really contemplate the depth of their meaning? Do we really understand and remember what happened when Jesus Christ died on the cross of Calvary?

Jesus gave us a supper to help us remember what He did for us when He suffered and died upon the cross (1 Corinthians 11:23-28). We

call it the Lord's Supper. We need to refresh our thinking once again concerning the theological implications and importance of Christ's death. John 19:30 provides us with the truth of what took place when Jesus died on the cross. It is a blessed noonday truth that brings out the reason for Christ's death upon the cross and why we can be saved today.

John 19:30

"When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost."

Many people have heard how Jesus died upon a cross. They know the story of Christ's death upon a cross. People wear crosses as jewelry, and they have pictures

of the cross in their homes. Most people can tell you that Christianity has always spoken of Jesus dying on a cross. Even Hollywood movies portray the death of Jesus Christ. There are big productions and money behind the promotion of Christ's death today. Baseball players wear crosses around their neck and kiss the cross before they bat. You would think everyone knows what really happened when Jesus died on the cross. However, most people are still trying to figure out who Jesus was and why Jesus Christ actually died on the cross. The good news is that the Bible gives us the answers regarding the person and finished work of Jesus Christ on the cross.

Jesus finished the plan of redemption when suffering and dying on the cross.

This is evident in two ways.

### **I. The payment was made.**

Jesus tells us why He died upon the cross when He triumphantly declared in John 19:30, "It is finished." This saying of Jesus Christ on the cross reveals what really took place on the cross. Christ suffered and then died on the cross because He had finished the necessary payment that a holy God demanded and required for sin. It was a payment related to God's wrath and judgment which was something that we deserved.

Romans 6:23

"For the wages of sin *is* death; but the gift of God *is* eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

Sin demands a wage or payment. It's a payment we deserve which is eternal judgment in Hell. You cannot get around it. You cannot wiggle out of it! We are all sinners and going to Hell without Christ paying our fine on the cross. The fine was God's wrath and judgment. But on the cross Jesus Christ in a judicial and legal way took upon Himself those wages related to our sins and experienced God's wrath and judgment in our place. He paid the necessary price required for our sins which was God's judgment and justice.

Galatians 3:13

"Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed *is* every one that hangeth on a tree."

“I will sing of my Redeemer,  
And His wondrous love to me;  
On the cruel cross He suffered,  
From the curse to set me free.”

Jesus was punished in our place. He was cursed in our place, experiencing God’s wrath and anathema for the entire human race. This was the ultimate payment God’s justice required for sinners and their sins.

The evangelist Alexander Wooten was approached by a young man who asked, “What must I *DO* to be saved?” Wooten replied “It’s too late!” The young man became alarmed asking “Do you mean that it’s too late for me to be saved? Is there nothing I can *DO*?” Wooten replied “Too late! It’s already been *DONE*! (IT IS FINISHED!) The payment for our sins was already made on the cross. The only thing you can *DO* is BELIEVE.”

An awesome spiritual transaction took place while Christ hung on the cross. God the Father laid upon God the Son all the guilt and wrath our sin deserved, and He bore it in Himself perfectly and totally, satisfying the wrath of God on our behalf (2 Cor. 5:20).

When Jesus cries out “It is finished” on the cross, the Greek word used is “tetelestai” which means to bring to a close, to complete, to fulfill. It means the sacrifice is accomplished – the price is all paid. THREE words in English (“It is finished”) is ONE word in Greek – TETELESTAI! This word means to bring to a close, make an end, complete, execute, conclude, carry out into full operation, and settle or discharge a debt! Papyri receipts for taxes have been recovered with the word tetelestai written across them, meaning “paid in full.” In other words, they are cancelled, abolished, voided, revoked, nullified. Tetelestai is the GREATEST WORD from the GREATEST SAVIOR on the GREATEST DAY in all eternity! One word, but this one word that Jesus uttered on the cross has changed the history and destiny of mankind.



Servants used TETELESTAI when reporting to their master, "I have COMPLETED (TETELESTAI) the work assigned to me" Priests would examine animals for blemishes before they were sacrificed. If the lamb was faultless, perfect, and acceptable, the priest would say, "TETELESTAI!" In ancient times when a promissory note was paid, the one holding the note wrote "TETELESTAI" across it.

Charles Spurgeon said of this word that it's: "an ocean of meaning in a drop of language, a mere drop. It would need all the other words that ever were spoken, or ever can be spoken, to explain this one word. It is altogether immeasurable. It is high; I cannot attain to it. It is deep; I cannot fathom it. IT IS FINISHED is the most charming note in all of Calvary's music. The fire has passed upon the Lamb. He has borne the whole of the wrath that was due to His people. This is the royal dish of the feast of love."

Arno C. Gaebelein adds:

"Never before and never after was ever spoken ONE WORD which contains and means so much. It is the shout of the mighty Victor. And who can measure the depths of this ONE WORD!"

Frank Boreham writes this interesting point:

"When the painter or the sculptor had put the last finishing touches to the vivid landscape or the marble bust, he would stand back a few feet to admire his masterpiece, and, seeing in it nothing that called for correction or improvement, would murmur fondly, 'Tetelestai!' 'Tetelestai!'" "IT IS FINISHED!" It is done!

To meditate on and contemplate the meaning of TETELESTAI is to come to the realization that "the place whereon we stand is holy ground." May the Holy Spirit help us to comprehend and to handle rightly "this text which is at once so small and yet so great!"

Phillip Bliss wrote:

"Lifted up was He to die,  
"It is finished," was His cry;  
Now in heaven exalted high;  
Hallelujah! what a Saviour."

Once again, we see how Jesus was enduring real physical suffering (Matt. 27:27-30), for He had a real human body. Christ's suffering was very evident by the pain, thirst, and separation from the Father that He experienced on the cross during those hours of darkness. When you combine these things together - darkness, pain, thirst, and isolation, you have Hell!

Jesus bore our Hell on the cross in every way. He suffered pain, He possessed significant thirst, and He was separated from God the Father during the solar blackness of eerie darkness. Jesus experienced our Hell and the wrath of God on the cross so that we might never experience it. The wrath of God is a Biblical doctrine and God's wrath is what Jesus took in our place when suffering and finally dying on the cross. Taking our place, Jesus made the payment for our own sins as He suffered, shed His blood, and died on the cross.

Over 400 bikers gathered to pay their last respects to "Grandpa Bob." Bob Shields, was a founding member of the once-feared motorcycle gang known as the Bandidos. He died of cancer at the age of 78. Middle age and older bikers gathered to drink beer and swap stories of the good old days of drug-running, assault, terrorism and murder, not to mention some of their legal sins. What caught my attention was the macho manner in which they attempted to deal with death and the reality of future judgment.

"You will have fun in Hell, Grandpa," one gray-bearded biker said. Another said, "The devil's in the unemployment line now." Lamont, another heavily tattooed gang member, is reported to have said, "Where he's gone, that's where we're all going someday. He's just waiting on us." "I don't want no preachers ranting and raving over me," he wrote. "Besides, I'll be down below, drinking whiskey."

I do not know if these bikers actually believe there is a Hell, but they certainly do not have a correct view of the wrath of God. Most people today do not want to think of God's wrath at all, preferring only to think and speak of God's love. Those who do believe God is a God of wrath as well as a God of love prefer to think of His wrath in the past tense. Many seem to believe God's wrath is an Old Testament truth, and that with the coming of Christ, we are now safe to think only in terms of God's love. This is wrong thinking about God.

A. W. Pink observes:

“It is sad to find so many professing Christians who appear to regard the wrath of God as something for which they need to make an apology, or at least they wish there were no such thing. While some would not go so far as to openly admit that they consider it a blemish on the Divine character, yet they are far from regarding it with delight; they like not to think about it, and they rarely hear it mentioned without a secret resentment rising up in their hearts against it. Even with those who are more sober in their judgment, not a few seem to imagine that there is a severity about the Divine wrath which is too terrifying to form a theme for profitable contemplation. Others harbor the delusion that God’s wrath is not consistent with His goodness, and so seek to banish it from their thoughts.

“Yes, many there are who turn away from a vision of God’s wrath as though they were called to look upon some blotch in the Divine character, or some blot upon the Divine government. But what saith the Scriptures? As we turn to them we find that God has made no attempt to conceal the fact of His wrath. He is not ashamed to make it known that vengeance and fury belong unto Him.”

Dear friend, it was this wrath, God’s wrath, that was poured out upon Jesus, when He was on the cross. The payment was made for our sins, and it was a payment of God’s wrath that was poured out upon His beloved Son.

It’s interesting that only John mentioned that the soldiers put a sponge that was soaked with vinegar on a branch of hyssop which was then extended to Jesus to drink.

John 19:29

“Now there was set a vessel full of vinegar: and they filled a sponge with vinegar, and put *it* upon hyssop, and put *it* to his mouth.”

Hyssop was readily available since it grew out of many rocky crevices as a weed. The hyssop may give us a picture of how Jesus was the Lamb of God who was going to become the sacrifice that takes away the sin of the world. Hyssop was linked with the offering of the sacrificial blood of the Lamb. You will remember that the Jews used hyssop to sprinkle the blood on their doorposts and lintels at Passover.

Exodus 12:22

“And ye shall take a bunch of hyssop, and dip *it* in the blood that *is* in the bason, and strike the lintel and the two side posts with the blood that *is* in the bason; and none of you shall go out at the door of his house until the morning.”

Exodus 12:13 declares:

“And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where *are*: and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy *you*, when I smite the land of Egypt.”

“Christ our Redeemer died on the cross,  
Died for the sinner, paid all his due;  
Sprinkle your soul with the blood of the Lamb,  
And I will pass, will pass over you.

When I see the blood,  
When I see the blood,  
When I see the blood,  
I will pass, I will pass over you.”

The vinegar offered to Christ with hyssop is significant for it looks back to the Passover in Egypt and the Lamb’s blood, which was placed on the door frames of the homes. Dear friend, Jesus was the Lamb of God (John 1:29) who became the final Passover on Calvary’s cross!

1 Corinthians 5:7 says:

“For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us.”

The vinegar offered to Christ on a hyssop branch reminds us of how Christ would become our personal Passover Lamb. It reminds us how God the Father would not judge us but provide His Son for a sacrifice and substitute on our behalf, so His wrath could pass upon the Lamb, His dear and beloved Son, and pass over us. Jesus paid for our judgment so God’s wrath can pass over us! The hyssop takes us back to Passover and reminds us how God passed over us when His Son suffered and died on Calvary’s cross. His judgment passed over us, Hell passed over us, the Lake of Fire passed over us, our eternal misery passed over us because Jesus Christ was our Passover sacrificial Lamb!

“Death and the curse were in that cup,  
O Christ, 'twas full for Thee;  
But Thou hast drained the last dark dregs,  
'Tis empty now for me.”

On this occasion, with Christ on the cross, the final Lamb’s blood would be shed that could actually remove the sin and guilt of the world.

John 1:29

“The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.”

In other words, Jesus paid the necessary purchasing price to free everyone that has ever lived. Therefore, hyssop was put to the mouth of Jesus to signify His saving sacrifice for sinners like you and me. Here is the good news. Christ did not say that “I am finished” for He willingly gave up His life for us. He declared on the cross that “It is finished.” When Jesus spoke these words, He was declaring that He had paid in full the necessary redemptive price that could deliver us from sin’s judgment and separation from God, which we all deserved.

The wages that each one of us earned and deserved for our sins was God’s wrath and judgment forever. We deserved God’s wrath. We earned it by sinning against God over and over again. A payment was required of each one of us. The payment was death or separation from God in Hell forever for “the wages of sin is death” (Rom. 6:23). But there on the cross, Jesus paid our fine, the penalty and fine that we deserved, by experiencing God’s wrath in our place, so we could be set free from paying for this penalty or fine (God’s wrath and judgment), a penalty that each one of us deserved.

So, when Jesus declared that “It is finished,” He was saying that the payment for sin and judgment had been made for us, so we do not have to face judgment for our sins. Essentially, Jesus paid our bill so that we might go free! Jesus “bare our sins” (1 Pet. 2:24) or the punishment (the necessary wage or payment) that sin required when He died upon the cross. The Bible repeatedly says that “Christ died for our sins” (1 Cor. 15:3) and “Christ died for us” (Rom. 5:8), and “Christ also hath once suffered for sins” (1 Pet. 3:18) paying the required redemptive fine for sin that



God demanded, which was death and judgment in Hell (Rom. 5:12; 6:23; 8:2; James 1:15; Revelation 20:11-15).

Why was this payment necessary? It's because God could no longer maintain His character of holiness and righteousness without judging sin. He would cease being a holy God (Ex. 15:11; Lev. 11:44-45). Christ's perfect payment for sin ("without spot" and "blemish" - Heb. 9:14; 1 Pet. 1:19) was the only payment for sin that could appease God's righteous anger against sin ("the wrath of God" - John 3:36; Eph. 5:6) and vindicate His holiness and justice (Hab. 1:13; Lev. 6:25; Exodus 26:33; Heb. 9:3, 8). God cannot overlook sin without judging it. So, the righteous God had to judge sin in the sufferings and death of Christ on our behalf.

Can you imagine an honest judge failing to sentence a person who is actually guilty. Imagine someone who has committed the crime of rape and the judge letting them go free. How about someone who was a child molester? No honest or fair judge would ever dismiss someone who is guilty. The same is true about God. Because God is holy He cannot dismiss any sin and the sinner without proclaiming His judgment upon them. This means that a payment and penalty for sin is absolutely necessary and required by God. Each sinner must face his or her sins and be judged by God.

The payment (a penalty of judgment for sin) that Jesus Christ experienced on the cross becomes the satisfying sacrifice ("propitiation") that God can accept for sin and the sinner (Rom. 3:25; 1 John 2:2; 4:10). Christ's payment for sin is the only sacrifice that can bring the believing sinner into God's presence ("that he might bring us to God" - 1 Pet. 3:18; John 14:6).

Jesus finished the will of the Father when paying the judgment for our sins. He finished well. He finished the intended course and destiny for Himself since He was "the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world" (Rev. 13:8). When He cried "It is finished" God's payment for sin was paid in full. Christ finished well for He paid the necessary fine that God required for sin. I'm so glad Jesus finished what He came to do! On the cross, Jesus paid the terrible penalty for sin when He experienced God's divine wrath, anger, and judgment against sin, when He was separated from the Father's presence, when he became thirsty, and when He finally died upon the cross. Jesus "poured out his soul unto death" and "bare the sin of many" and "made intercession for the transgressors" (Isa. 53:12) who deserved to die the sinner's

death. This was the necessary price that God required to secure redemption or liberty for lost mankind.

“I should have been crucified,  
I should have suffered died.  
I should have hung on the cross in despair.  
But Jesus God’s Son took my place.”

## **II. Our release was obtained.**

Christ’s suffering and death on the cross was not only a payment related to God’s wrath and judgment but also a payment made for our redemption or release from sin’s penalty and power. When Jesus cried out on the cross, “It is finished” He was saying that a redemptive price was made to release Gospel believers from the judgment for their sins and enslavement to sin. Jesus not only paid it all when dying on the cross, He won it all! He won the total victory over Satan and came to release us from sin and Satan’s power!

Colossians 2:15 speaks of Christ’s victory won the cross:

“*And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.*”

The whole idea of a substitutionary purchasing price (a payment for our sins) is demonstrated by the Biblical word of redemption. Redemption is a related truth to substitution. The word redemption speaks of being released or set free through a payment or price. It is the liberation or freedom that we receive by the payment of a ransom.

The fact that Jesus paid for the sinner’s debt of sin before God, a debt consisting of God’s wrath and judgment (“the wages of sin is death” - Romans 6:23), conveys the imagery of Christ paying for our redemption when suffering and dying on the cross. The redeeming price for our release from sin’s penalty and Satan’s power was paid to God with Christ’s death on the cross. This means that what was finished was Christ’s redeeming work!

1 Peter 1:18-19

“Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed (*to be loosed or set free by a ransom*) with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.”

Titus 2:14

“Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem (*to be loosed or set free by a ransom*) us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.”

Romans 3:24

“Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption (*a ransom that releases and delivers us from sin’s judgment*) that is in Christ Jesus.”

Colossians 1:14

“In whom we have redemption (a ransom that frees us from sin’s penalty and Satan’s power) through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins.”

1 Timothy 2:6 says it best:

“Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.”

Mark 10:45

“For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.”




When Christ cried out, “It is finished” He was saying that our sin debt was paid to God (judgment was placed on Christ) and that the work of our redemption was finished or completed. Essentially, Jesus ransomed us by paying the debt of our judgment with the shedding of His own blood (the ransom price paid to the Father) and we were set free from both the penalty and power of sin. “It is finished” means the work of redemption is completed. A payment was made to release us from God’s wrath and Satan’s power. The Biblical concept of Christ finishing the work of redemption on the cross is rich in meaning.

“Wounded for me, wounded for me,  
There on the cross He was wounded for me;

Gone my transgressions, and now I am free,  
All because Jesus was wounded for me.”

The whole idea of a substitutionary purchasing price is demonstrated by the Biblical word redemption. Redemption is a related truth to substitution. The word redemption speaks of being released or set free through a payment or price. It is the liberation or freedom that we receive by the payment of a ransom.

There are rich and wonderful meanings behind the English word’s redemption, redeem, and ransom. Various Greek words reveal the picture of our redemption. I’d like to bring out this meaning by introducing you to these three Greek words. Each one of them tells the story what Christ meant when He said the work of redemption was finished. The general idea is that a purchasing price was paid to release us from sin’s penalty, power, and the strongholds of Satan.

<p><b>Purchased IN</b> the slave market of sin <b>(agarazo)</b></p> <p><b>1 Corinthians</b> <b>6:20; 7:23</b> “bought” <b>Revelation 5:9</b> “redeemed”</p>		<p><b>Removed OUT</b> of the slave market of sin <b>(exagorazo)</b></p> <p><b>Galatians</b> <b>3:13; 4:4-5</b> “redeem” &amp; “redeemed”</p>		
		<p><b>Ransomed</b> <b>FROM</b> the slave market of sin <b>(lutroo)</b></p> <p><b>1 Peter 1:18-19</b> <b>Titus 2:14</b> <b>Matt. 20:28</b> “redeemed” “redemption” “ransom”</p>		

When Jesus cried, "It is finished," He was declaring that He became our Redeemer on the cross to liberate us or set us free from God's wrath or judgment and the enslavement of sin and Satan. He accomplished this by paying the redemptive price that God required for sin, which was to experience death, Hell, judgment, and God's wrath on the cross.

Here is the full story of our redemption. Jesus came into the slave market and purchased us (agarazo), then took us out of the slave market (exagarzo) because He paid the necessary, required purchasing or ransom price (lutroo) that was needed for our release. The end result is we are free from the penalty and power of sin. The Father accepted the ransom price, and we are free forever! Really free! Totally free! All the words dealing with redemption establish the idea of being set free by payment of a ransom. The payment price for our freedom from sin's judgment, sin's power, and Satan's strongholds was the blood of Jesus Christ (1 Pet. 1:18-19).

"I'm free from the fear of tomorrow  
I'm free from the guilt of the past.  
For I've traded all my shackles for a glorious song,  
I'm free, praise the Lord, free at last!"

Hebrews 9:12 says that Jesus "obtained eternal redemption for us" when suffering and dying on the cross. Jesus declared, "It is finished." This means the redemptive payment was made to God so that His people could be freed forever from sin's doom, Satan's destruction, and sin's devastation. Jesus Christ, when suffering and dying on the cross, and declaring that "It is finished," paid the necessary price to set us free, redeem, or liberate us from sin's PENALTY and POWER forever. Without this purchasing price, we could not be taken out of the slave market. But when Jesus cried "It is finished" on the cross, He was saying, "I ransomed you, set your free from sin's penalty and power forever by paying off the ransom that a holy and righteous God required for sin.

The idea of a ransom "price" is always linked to our redemption. The Bible repeatedly says that we are "bought with a price" (1 Cor. 6:20; 7:23) and speaks of "the redemption of the purchased possession" (Eph. 1:14). There can be no doubt about it. When Jesus shed His blood and died on the cross He paid the necessary purchasing price or ransom that God required to set us free from sin's penalty and

power. A ransom price was given to liberate us from our awful plight with sin and Satan (Col. 2:15; Luke 11:21-22).

It truly was finished! We have a finished redemption!

“O the love that sought me!  
O the blood that bought me!  
O the grace that brought me to the fold,  
Wondrous grace that brought me to the fold!”

Once again, the expression “It is finished” is only one Greek word “tetelestai” which means to bring to a close, make an end, complete, execute, conclude, and discharge a debt. The teaching behind this word means that Jesus completed the work of redemption when suffering, shedding His blood, and dying on the cross. As previously mentioned, the word tetelestai was written on business documents or receipts in New Testament times to indicate that a bill had been paid in full.

The Greek-English lexicon by Moulton and Milligan says this:

“Receipts are often introduced by the phrase [sic] *tetelestai*, usually written in an abbreviated manner...” (p. 630).

The connection between receipts and what Christ accomplished would have been quite clear to John’s Greek-speaking readership; it would be unmistakable that Jesus Christ had died to pay for their sins to release and free them from ever having to pay on the debt again!

“Sing, oh, sing of my Redeemer,  
With His blood He purchased me.  
On the cross He sealed my pardon,  
Paid the debt and made me free.”

This is what is meant when Jesus cried out, “It is finished.” While on the cross, Jesus paid the redemptive price for the sinner’s debt of judgment they had before God and redeemed, released, or freed sinners from paying the penalty for this judgment and living under the power of sin. When Jesus said “It is finished” a redemptive price was paid to the Father (not to Satan as Origen and some of the cults teach –

Heb. 9:14; Eph. 5:2) which would allow God's believing children to be free from the penalty of sin, the power of sin, and the personal strongholds of Satan on their lives.

"It is finished." Paid in full! What can you add to Christ's completed payment and redemption? Nothing! You might say, "But I still have to be careful I don't sin too much and lose my salvation." "I don't want my sins to come against me and bring judgment upon me in the end."



As a believer, you must remember that when Jesus paid the ransoming price on the cross, He paid the judgment for all your sins, so that you will never face judgment for any of them. If you must pay the judgment for any of your sins then why did Christ pay the judgment for them? To say that you might someday be judged for your sins is to conclude that when Jesus suffered and died on the cross He did not pay the judgment for all your sins and set you free from God's wrath and judgment.

Some will say, "Jesus did His part now I must do my part." But this mocks the words of Christ on the cross when He said, "It is finished." It's done! You have no part in your redemption and salvation. You cannot earn it or maintain it. What can you possibly add to the payment Christ made and the redemption He provide for you? Jesus paid it all for you! If you believe this message, you will find rest for your soul.

"Nothing in my hands I bring  
Simply to the cross I cling."

It is finished! Friend, rest in Christ's provision for you! It is finished! You can find eternal security in Christ's death on your behalf. You cannot add anything to these words, "It is finished." You cannot add your sacraments, your good works, almsgiving, church attendance, religious heritage, or anything else. Jesus paid it all!

The old saying is true:  
"Jesus came to pay a debt He didn't owe,  
Because we owed a debt we couldn't pay."

The cross and the finished work of Christ is the focal point of all history.

“There was no other good enough  
To pay the price of sin;  
He only could unlock the gate  
Of heav’n and let us in.  
O dearly, dearly has He loved!  
And we must love Him too,  
And trust in His redeeming blood.”

Jesus died upon the cross in order to pay the bill that we deserved to pay with our own life and judgment. He rendered up to God a perfect satisfying sacrifice (ransom price) that would free you from sin and became your replacement before God.

“Dying for me, dying for me,  
There on the cross He was dying for me;  
Now in His death my redemption I see,  
All because Jesus was dying for me.”

- Have you been basking in the sunlight of your freedom?
- Have you been living like a liberated slave?
- How grateful have you been to Christ for what He had done for you?
- In what ways have you been showing your gratitude to Him?
- Are you confident of your redemption?
- Are you resting in the FINISHED work of Christ?
- Do you know that you are eternally free from sin’s penalty?
- Are you living beneath your privileges?

Dear friend, the promise of our eternal safety or security does not motivate us to become a sinner and live like the Devil. Just the opposite is true. The fact that Christ’s redeemed us in the slave market and took us out of the slave market causes us to rejoice in His great deliverance, and out of appreciation for His grace we become Christ’s loving servant. Christ’s redemption not only changes our destiny but also our desires or our heart and attitude toward Christ and spiritual living.

“Glory hallelujah, Christ has set me free  
Glory hallelujah, A new life now I see!”



Galatians 5:1 reminds us to:

“Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.”

It's wonderful to know you are free and live in freedom. Freedom is never free because it cost the Son of God His very own life to free us. But we should rejoice in this freedom today and never doubt what Christ has done for us when He paid the tremendous price on Calvary's cross. “It is finished.” Tetelastai! I can rest in this! I can be free because of this. I can have the complete assurance of my salvation because of this. I can go to Heaven because of this!

In ancient times a person was released from slavery by a ransom payment (Leviticus 25:47-55). Redemption was a contractual agreement, which existed in the slave culture. Within this agreement there was offered the potential for emancipation with individuals. Family members who would pay the ransom price could actually buy relatives out of their slavery. The kinsman redeemer or near kin could pay a price for the relative and release him from the slave condition that he was in (Lev. 25:52).

Leviticus 25:52 says:

“And if there remain but few years unto the year of jubile, then he shall count with him, *and* according unto his years shall he give him again the price of his redemption.”

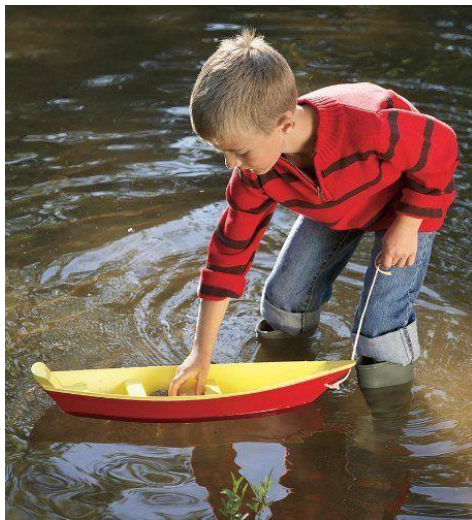
We must remember that redemption always had a purchasing price connected with it. If we are going to have redemption, there must be a Redeemer who is willing to pay the purchasing price. Christ is our Kinsman Redeemer today that has paid the redemptive price to God the Father to release us from sin's penalty and power. The purchasing price He paid to God was His own blood! Peter calls Christ's blood the “precious (costly or valuable) blood of Christ” (1 Peter 1:19). Christ shed His sinless and substitutionary blood upon the cross to pay for the sin debt of judgment that we owed to God. Only Christ could pay the debt that would satisfy God with His perfect sacrifice. Only Christ could pay the debt that would ransom us!

This is why Romans 3:24 concludes:

“Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.”

The picture is very clear. Jesus purchased our pardon and release from the tremendous sin debt we had before God. Jesus released us from the judicial debt of our sins before God. This means that through Christ's own substitutionary death, we can have all of our sins cancelled out before God, as well as the judgment that God had judicially and righteously sentenced us with because of these sins.

We were all in the slave market of sin and condemnation without any way to pay back God. But then Jesus came! And Jesus purchased us in the slave market of sin and took us out of the slave market of sin and damnation by becoming the substitutionary sacrifice upon the cross.



One of the old favorites is the story of the father and son who worked for months to build a toy sailboat. Every night when he came home from work the man and his boy would disappear into the garage for hours. It was a labor of love--love for each other and for the thing they were creating. The wooden hull was painted bright red and it was trimmed with gleaming white sails. When it was finished, they traveled to a nearby lake for the boat's trial run. Before launching it the father tied a string to its stern to keep it from sailing too far. The boat performed beautifully,

but before long a motorboat crossing the lake cut the string, and the sailboat drifted out of sight on the large lake. Attempts to find it were fruitless, and both father and son wept over its loss.

A few weeks later as the boy was walking home from school he passed his favorite toy store and was amazed to see a toy sailboat in the window--his sailboat! He ran inside to claim the boat, telling the proprietor about his experience on the lake. The storeowner explained that he had found the boat while on a fishing trip. "You may be its maker," he said, "but as a finder I am its legal owner. You may have it back--for fifty dollars."

The boy was stunned at how much it would cost him to regain his boat, but since it was so precious to him he quickly set about earning the money to buy it back. Months later he joyfully walked into the toy store and handed the owner fifty

dollars in exchange for his sailboat. It was the happiest day of his life. As he left the store he held the boat up to the sunlight. Its colors gleamed as though newly painted. "I made you, but I lost you," he said. "Now I've bought you back."

This is the story of our redemption! God created the human race but then lost us in the sin of Adam. But now He has bought us back by the redeeming blood sacrifice of His own Son. Through faith in Christ, we become His and His forever!

"His forever, only His;  
Who the Lord and me shall part?  
Ah, with what a rest of bliss  
Christ can fill the loving heart!  
Heav'n and earth may fade and flee,  
Firstborn light in gloom decline,  
But while God and I shall be,  
I am His, and He is mine."

This is this whole story of our redemption! Jesus has come to free us from sin's power, sure damnation, and Satan's evil clutches.

James Montgomery Boice said:

"What makes the death of Christ so unique and marks it out as the focal point of history is that it accomplished precisely what needed to be accomplished for man's redemption and salvation."

When Jesus said, "It is finished" He was saying that our redemption was complete. He had paid the only price and necessary price that could free us or redeem us from sin's bondage and penalty which was Hell.

Jesus was saying that the work of redemption was finished!

Evidently it was customary to offer wine vinegar (sour wine) to the victims of crucifixion. Our Lord certainly knew what He was doing. He was in full control as He obeyed the Father's will.

We know this for He had earlier refused to drink the pain-deadening wine that was always offered to those about to be crucified. But Jesus did drink the vinegar filled with “gall” or a pain killing substance.

Matthew 27:34

“They gave him vinegar to drink mingled with gall: and when he had tasted *thereof*, he would not drink.”

Jesus only tasted this mixture. He refused to drink the pain killing concoction that was offered to Him. For Jesus it was necessary to bear the full load of man’s sins with no impairment of His senses, no alleviation of His pain.

Psalms 69:21 prophetically states this of the Messiah:

“They gave me also gall for my meat; and in my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink.”

In order to fulfill the Scriptures, He said, “I thirst” (John 19:28) so that He would be offered the sour wine, take a sip, and be able to cry out those last words of victory – “It is finished!” (John 19:30). The taste of vinegar did not fully quench His thirst, but it did enable Him to utter that shout of triumph, in a loud voice, “It is finished!” The payment for our redemption from sin’s penalty and power was made.

“Tell me the story slowly,  
That I may take it in -  
That wonderful redemption,  
God's remedy for sin.  
Tell me the story often,  
For I forget so soon;  
The early dew of morning  
Has passed away at noon.”

A great many people view Christ’s death as only a gory act of martyrdom. They view Christ as some kind of medieval hippie who was trying to promote a new sect or religion. They claim Jesus died to be one of the greatest examples of history and humility to future generations. I’m convinced that the majority of people in this world today do not know the reason why Jesus died what really took place when Jesus died upon the cross.

A man was heard walking through a crowd one day selling cross necklaces. He was crying out, "Crosses, crosses, who'll buy my cheap crosses." Friend, I can say today that the cross of Christ was not cheap! This is because it was on the cross where Jesus paid a tremendous price. He suffered God's wrath for our own sins, in our place, so we could be freed from His wrath. He essentially paid the fine that we deserved with the shedding of His own blood and in paying this final redemptive price for sin, He said, "It is finished."

In John 19:30 Jesus Himself tells us what took place when He died on the cross. In this verse we have a faithful Savior speaking about a finished work. Christ finished well, accomplishing His redemptive work on the cross for you and me. Jesus tells us why He died upon the cross. He put it in plain language so everyone in the world could know and share what happened for generations to come. Jesus said, "It is finished." This means Jesus paid the ransom or redemptive price to release us from God's wrath and judgment and free us from sin and Satan's power. Jesus came to pay the needed redemptive price to rescue and release the human race from Satan's power. I finish this study reminding each one of us of the time-tested Christmas hymn that declares how Christ was born to die on the cross and save us from Satan's power.

"God rest ye merry gentlemen  
Let nothing you dismay  
Remember Christ our Savior  
Was born on Christmas Day  
To save us all from Satan's pow'r  
When we were gone astray  
Oh tidings of comfort and joy  
Comfort and joy  
Oh tidings of comfort and joy."