

THE AWESOME GLORY OF CHRIST **(In His Power Over Satan, part #2)** **John 19:25-30; Col. 2:13-15**

Verse 30 tells us that just before Jesus died He said, “It is finished”. And beloved, do not think for a moment that it was a sad whimper of defeat. It was a triumphant cry of victory! Both Matthew and Mark record that Jesus cried out with a loud voice on the cross, and that is what He said. “It is finished!” But what did He mean by that? What was finished? Well, even though Jesus was about to die, He was not speaking of His physical suffering. He was referring to the work of salvation. And Jesus was saying, “The price for salvation has been paid in full”. And the tense of the Greek verb for “It is finished” means “It is a done deal, and it will always be a done deal, never to be undone”.

To try to add to the finished work of Jesus for your salvation would be just like trying to pay for a free car. When each of my girls got their driver’s license we gave them a car. Not the day they turned sixteen, but at some point before they went to college. They did not pay a nickel for their car. And furthermore, they did not ask to help pay for their car. They all had learned how to graciously accept a gift from mom and dad! Now, what would you think about Rebekah, or Anna Katherine, or Emily, if about two weeks after they got their car they drove their car to the dealership where I bought it, walked in and said to the salesman, “I’m here to make a car payment”. He goes back to the office, checks the invoice and says, “Ma’am, you don’t owe anything on this car. It’s paid in full”. But my girls said, “Oh, no, I know that my daddy paid for it, but I’m just sure that I need to make some payments, too”. Tell me, what would you think about that? You’d think just what I’d think. Pardon my English, but one of my girls has done backslid

and has been smoking something. But just as foolish is the man who thinks that he can add his own payment of good works or repentance to what Jesus has done.

Beloved, I want you to get this today. There is nothing more that you can do to be saved other than to trust what Jesus Christ has already done for you on the cross! It is finished! Hebrews 10:14 says that by **one offering** Jesus has perfected **forever** those who are being saved. That was the offering of His blood on the cross. But why just one offering? Because with that offering "It is finished". There's no need for any other offering! And those who accept it are perfected forever. Paul said in Rom. 5:18 that by "**one man's** righteous act the free gift came to all men, the free gift of salvation. Did you hear that? It was one man's righteous act, not two men's. And that one Man was Jesus. And it was not many righteous acts, it was only one. And His righteous act was His death on the cross. And the moment any man repents of his sin, that is, turns from his sin with all the sincerity of his soul, and trusts in Jesus alone for salvation, it is finished! His salvation is secure forevermore.

Friends, we live in a world absolutely full of people who do not believe Jesus when He said, "It is finished". They do not believe that Jesus paid it all, like the choir just sang. They do not believe that Jesus' blood is sufficient to wash away all of their sins. They believe that there is more to salvation than turning from their sin and placing their faith in Jesus as their Savior and Lord. You may be one of those people. And this morning by the grace of God I want to try to show you why this is impossible.

Dear friends, the God that created you and me is a God of infinite holiness, infinite perfection. Deut. 32:4 says, "He is the Rock, His work is perfect, for all His ways are justice. A God of truth and without iniquity; righteous and upright is He". God is perfect in every way. He has never, ever, done anything, said

anything, or even thought anything that was not 100% perfection. And that means that God is a God of perfect love. The Psalmist says that God's lovingkindness is marvelous (17:7) and that it is better than life (63:3). Paul says that God's love is great (Eph. 2:4) and that Jesus' love passes knowledge (3:19).

So God is a God of perfect righteousness and perfect love, and 1 Tim. 6:16 tells us that Jesus Christ, Who is God, dwells in unapproachable light. This is speaking of His posture in Heaven. Jesus is so magnificently holy that He is engulfed in unapproachable light. Think of the light on the bead of a welder's torch, and then think of that light multiplied a ten thousand times and stretched all the way across the front of this auditorium, floor to ceiling, wall to wall. It would blind you in seconds if you gazed upon it. And so would the holiness of God. John caught a glimpse of the holiness of Jesus in Rev. 1 and fell to the ground like a dead man.

Now, beloved, here's the way it is. If you would go to Heaven, if you would live with Jesus forever and ever, then you must have this same holiness also. For the Bible says that Heaven is a place where there is no defilement (Rev. 21:27). There is no sin in Heaven, not one. Jesus said, "Be perfect, even as your Father in Heaven is perfect" (Matt. 5:48). In the book of Leviticus, four times God says to Israel, "Be holy, for I am holy". Heb. 12:14 says that without holiness no man shall see the Lord. And God has not left us to wonder as to how we are doing in this pursuit of holiness. There is a standard for right and wrong, for good and for evil! There are moral absolutes, and they are called the Ten Commandments. The Ten Commandments are God's perfect law, they are good, just like God is good, and God said in Lev. 18:5, "You shall therefore keep My statutes and My judgments, which if a man does, he shall live by them: I am the Lord".

So friends, God has laid down the law and has said, “Obey My laws and live”. But here’s the bad news. It is impossible to obey all the laws of God. Ecc. 7:20 says, “For there is not a just man on earth who does good and does not sin”. Did you hear that? Not one. And God says in Ez. 18:4 and 20, “The soul who sins shall die”. Now, beloved, contrary to what some unbelievers say, God did not set up the human race to fail, by giving us a perfect standard that is impossible for us to live by, and then condemn us to death because we cannot do it. Far from it! God set us up to succeed. God put Adam and Eve in a perfect paradise with every amenity beyond their greatest imagination. And God said, “It is yours forever, and there is only one condition. You must not eat the fruit of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil”. And then God warned them, “If you eat of that fruit you will surely die”. And by that God meant that they would die physically and they would die spiritually and suffer eternally. And beloved, there was no reason under the sun that Adam and Eve should have eaten that fruit. Not one. They had everything they ever needed or wanted at their fingertips, every day. But God gave them the choice to love and obey Him or to disobey.

And you know the rest of the story. They shook their fist in the face of a holy, loving God Who had been nothing but gracious toward them and said, “We know better than You! You have been unrighteous to forbid us to eat of this fruit, but we’re going to eat it anyway.” What arrogance! What presumption! What horrible, unspeakable rebellion! And the moment they bit into that fruit, the curse of sin and death descended upon them and upon the entire race that they would produce. And friends, they got just what they deserved.

But don’t begin to throw stones at Adam and Eve. For God tells us in Romans 5:12 that we all sinned in Adam. If we had been in the Garden of Eden we would have done the same thing.

And as proof we have chosen to sin in the here and now just like Adam & Eve did. Listen to what God said to His people in Is. 65:12, “Therefore I will number you for the sword, And you shall all bow down to the slaughter; Because, when I called, you did not answer; When I spoke, you did not hear, But did evil before My eyes, And **chose** *that* in which I do not delight.” Israel chose to do evil, and so do we. We all are just as rebellious and deserving of hell as Adam.

But the sad fact is that we live in a culture that is blinded to the fact of our sin. I read a blog by an atheist this week that declared that sin did not even exist, that it was just an illusion of the human mind. I watched a U Tube clip this week of a cool, good looking young man named Noah Hammond. He believed in some sort of higher power, but his message to the world is that there is only one sin, and that is guilt. God’s too busy keeping this vast universe running smoothly to care about your tiny little actions, even murder. I could not believe what I was hearing. I even played the clip again to make sure my ears weren’t playing tricks on me, and they weren’t. Noah was saying, do **anything** that you want to do and don’t feel bad about it. Your only sin in the matter is your guilt. Noah is blinded to the fact of sin.

But I tell you today that many, many, church-going people are blinded just like Noah, it’s just a different type of blindness. They believe in sin, but they are blinded to the nature of their own sin. Their sin is just not that bad, and there is enough good in them that they can help out Jesus in the matter of their salvation. He shed His blood, but His blood is not good enough. And so with His priceless, holy blood they must mix in some of their own good works. They must to help out Jesus.

But friends, you have nothing with which to help Him! Charles Spurgeon said that every night when we look in the mirror we must confess that we are a sinner, that we are as an unclean

thing, and that our righteousness is as filthy rags. Sir, your gossip, your greed, your jealousy, your lust, your prejudice, your pride, your coldness to the will of God is a stench in His nostrils. You have no good works to erase the record of your sin from the Book of Judgment. They are all bad works. That's the reason the writer of Hebrews said that "by Himself" Jesus purged us from our sins (Heb. 1:3).

Turn to Colossians 2:13 (read). Paul says in v. 13 that those who trust Christ have been forgiven all of their trespasses. But notice the means of that forgiveness in verse 14. Paul says that all of our sins were spiritually written down and then taken out of the way, they were FORGIVEN, by nailing them to the cross! Every one of them! And when Jesus cried, "It is finished", He was saying, "Salvation work is done! I don't need your help! Your help will damn you, not save you. All you can do is trust in Me".

I want to ask you today, what are **you** trusting for your salvation? Are you trusting what **you** can do to earn your salvation, or at least a part of it? Paul says in Phil. 3:8 that your good works are like a pile of scraps that would be fed to the dogs, they are garbage. Are you trusting a pile of garbage to help you to be righteous before God? Or are you trusting alone in the finished work of Jesus on the cross? Is your heart at peace because you know that Jesus did pay it all, and you personally have experienced His cleansing? Beloved, that's what Good Friday is all about. That's what the Lord's Supper is all about – it is a picture saying that the blood of Jesus cleanses us from all sin (1 Jn. 1:6). And if you do not have the peace in your heart that your sins have been washed away by Jesus' blood, I pray that you will settle the matter today.

So when Jesus cried, "It is finished!" He declared that the **penalty of sin was paid in full**. But there is something else that He declared in His cry. He also declared that **the power of sin**

was fully broken. Look at Col. 2:15. When Jesus died on the cross, not only was death defeated, but so was the devil. Jesus disarmed all the powers of hell. And the word disarmed means that he stripped off all of Satan's powers and made him a toothless tiger. And then Jesus made a public spectacle of Satan and all his imps. And the picture Paul paints is of a Roman general who has come back from war and was being honored in an official parade called the "Roman triumph". And in the parade through the city streets he would drag behind him the humiliated prisoners he has conquered, making them a spectacle of all to see.

Oh, beloved child of God, that's the victory that Jesus won for you over the devil at the cross! He has no authority over you unless you lay down and give it to him. Jesus told His disciples, "I give you authority....over all the power of the enemy..." (Luke 10:19). Paul said, "Resist the devil and he will flee from you" (James 4:7). And every day if you and I will put on the whole armor of God as God has commanded, we will not be defeated no matter how hot and heavy the battle! For God says that we are more than conquerors through Him Who loved us (Rom. 8:37).