

“PAID IN FULL”

John 19:30

Some things are not worth remembering. I mean why should we remember . . .

- **past hurts**
- **useless worries**
- **petty insults**
- **missed opportunities**
- **embarrassing moments.**

This stuff clutters up our mental space and diminishes our joy. Let these things go. Forget about them.

On the other hand, there are many important things to remember—birthdays, anniversaries, holidays, etc. For us, as believers, there is one

thing we are commanded to never forget and that is the death of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

In the final moments of His earthly life, the Lord Jesus was hanging on the cross. Dehydration sucked the moisture from His body and left His throat as parched as a desert. He asked for something to drink. A sponge full of sour wine was hoisted to His lips. John, who was there at the cross, recorded what happened next. . .

John 19:30... Therefore when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!" And He bowed His head and gave up His spirit.

This shout of victory echoes through the corridors of heaven and hell. Satan and every demon trembled. It is three words in English but only one word in New Testament Greek, "**TETELESTAI.**"

Greek businesses used this same word to signify that a bill had been "paid in full." Earlier in His ministry Jesus shared this important message . . .

Mark 10:45... “For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”

God the Father required that Jesus pay the full price for your redemption! That price included offering His body and blood as payment for your sins.

On this Good Friday, I want to take you back to the cross so I can show you the receipt for your redemption. The first aspect of our Lord’s finished work is:

1. ITS ANTICIPATION

The Bible says that Jesus was crucified “before the foundation of the world.” Even before Adam and Eve were created, God knew exactly how He would redeem them and us. The hope of sinners would rest with the death of His Son on the cross.

You will find the anticipation of His finished work in the...

A.) Prophetic Scriptures

Isaiah 53:4–6... Surely our griefs He Himself bore, And our sorrows He carried; Yet we ourselves esteemed Him stricken, Smitten of God, and afflicted. **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 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.

This was written about 700 years before Jesus was born!

If that were not enough, you will also find the anticipation of His finished work in the Lord's. . .

B.) Personal Statements

John 3:16–17... “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. **17** “For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him.”

These are the words of God’s perfect man and man’s perfect God. When you take these *personal statements* of Jesus and combine them with the *prophetic scriptures*, you get a panoramic view of the anticipation of the finished work of Jesus.

The second aspect of our Lord’s finished work is:

2. ITS ACHIEVEMENT

In the fullness of time, Jesus moved with authority to achieve His plan of redemption. We see that:

A.) The Savior Was Condemned

Our minds cannot begin to grasp the pure holiness of God. He cannot and He will not tolerate sin. I want you to see how God the Father arranged for the Lord Jesus to pay the penalty for our sins....

2 Cor. 5:21... He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

1 Peter 2:24... and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed.

Jesus assumed our guilt, and He died as our substitute. This was that awful, agonizing moment when Jesus felt the separation from God the Father for the first time in all of eternity.

Yes, the Savior was condemned! But, we also see ...

B.) The Sins were Conquered

When Jesus shouted "*It is finished*" it was not the whining of a loser who had given up. No, this was the shout of a conqueror who had just won the war against Satan and sin! He was saying, "***All of your sins have been paid in full!***" This is what He came to do, and I tell you tonight on this Good Friday—**"JESUS PAID IT ALL!"**

Having examined *the anticipation of His finished work* and *the achievement of His finished work*, I want to point out to you that the third aspect of our Lord's finished work is:

3. ITS AFFIRMATION

What's the relevance of all of this as it relates to our relationship with God? You need to know that once our Lord's finished work was achieved it resulted in two powerful affirmations. First . . .

A.) God Was Pleased

Did God accept the finished work of Jesus as the full payment for our sins? This is the fundamental question. Listen to the words of the writer of Hebrews....

Heb. 10:12 ... “But He, having offered one sacrifice for sins for all time, sat down at the right hand of God.”

God accepted the blood of Jesus as full payment for the sin of the human race. Praise His holy name! Not only was God pleased, we also see that . . .

B.) Grace Was Provided

The unmerited favor of God is available to everyone who believes in Jesus...

Titus 2:11–13... For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men **12** instructing us to deny ungodliness and

worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age **13** looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus

1 Peter 3:18... For Christ also died for sins once for all, *the* just for *the* unjust, so that He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit....

Get this. As a result of our Lord's finished work on the cross, redemption and salvation is available to anyone who will repent of their sins and receive Jesus as their Savior and Lord by faith. Oh, what a blessing this is!

CONCLUSION:

On this Good Friday we are here to remember the death of Jesus on the cross and to celebrate the victory we enjoy as a result.

INVITATION:

But let me ask you, have you turned from your sins and committed your life to Jesus?

He has done absolutely everything necessary to redeem you and to bring you into a right relationship with God. There is nothing you can add to His finished work. Come to Jesus tonight!

Are you as a believer living the kind of life that honors the Savior?

Are you living in obedience to Him? Do you love Him more than anybody or anything on this earth? Are you seeking to please Him each day? Are you reading your Bible, praying, and abiding in Him? He deserves your very best!

Is there any sin that is hampering your relationship with Jesus? Come to the altar and confess it and forsake it.

Invitation Song

THE LORD'S SUPPER:

Opening Reflection

1 Corinthians 11:23–26... For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus in the night in which He was betrayed *took bread*; **24** and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, “This is My body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of Me.” **25** In the same way He took the cup also after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.” **26** For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes.

The Bread

The bread in your hand represents the Body of Jesus that was sacrificed for your sins. In this way, God made His amazing grace available to you.

--PRAYER--

Receive the bread in remembrance of the sacrifice of the body of Jesus.

The Juice

The grape juice in the cup represents the blood of Jesus Christ that was shed to pay the penalty for your sin. Think about the price Jesus paid for you.

--PRAYER--

Receive the juice in remembrance of the blood of Jesus shed to pay the penalty for your sins.

Closing Remarks

I close with this word—**“Tetelestai” (Paid In Full)**

Ephesians 1:7... In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace

DOXOLOGY

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1 I hear the Savior say,
"Thy strength indeed is small,
Child of weakness, watch and pray,
Find in Me thine all in all." [Refrain]

2 Lord, now indeed I find
Thy pow'r and Thine alone,
Can change the leper's spots
And melt the heart of stone. [Refrain]

3 For nothing good have I
Where-by Thy grace to claim;
I'll wash my garments white
In the blood of Calv'ry's Lamb. [Refrain]

4 And when, before the throne,
I stand in Him complete,
"Jesus died my soul to save,"
My lips shall still repeat. [Refrain]

**Jesus paid it all,
All to Him I owe;
Sin had left a crimson stain,
He washed it white as snow.**

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Closing Remarks

**When I survey the wondrous cross on which the
Prince of glory died, my richest gain I count but
loss, and pour contempt on all my pride.**

**Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast, save in the
death of Christ, my God; all the vain things that
charm me most—I sacrifice them to His blood.**

**See, from His head, His hands, His feet, sorrow
and love flow mingled down; did e'er such love
and sorrow meet, or thorns compose so rich a
crown?**

**Were the whole realm of nature mine, that
were a present far too small: Love so amazing,
so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.¹**

One man recently read about a touching
ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier
at Arlington National Cemetery.

¹Kenneth W. Osbeck, *Amazing Grace : 366 Inspiring Hymn Stories for Daily Devotions*, Includes Indexes. (Grand Rapids, Mich.: Kregel Publications, 1990), 106.

When the changing of the guard was completed, the commanding officer asked the crowd to remain standing in silence. Sergeant Jennings, who had completed 27 months of special duty at the Tomb, now wanted to pay his respect to the unknown soldiers. Another guard escorted his family to a place of honor.

The commanding officer handed Jennings four roses. He approached the great Tomb of the Unknown Soldiers of the First World War, knelt, and placed a rose before it. Then he moved with solemn dignity to the tombs honoring unknown soldiers from the Second World War, and the wars in Korea and Vietnam, kneeling to place one red rose upon each. He returned to his commanding officer and stood before him. At attention, with their eyes locked, they shook hands. Then Sergeant Jennings carefully removed his white gloves and returned them, his

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work finished. He saluted his officer, greeted his family, and left.

One day I will bow before my Lord who died and shed His blood for me on the cross. More than anything in this world, I want to be able to say to Him...

“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith!”

Always Remember

Always remember to forget, the things that made you sad,
But never forget to remember, the things that made you glad.

Always remember to forget, the friends that proved untrue.

But never forget to remember those that have stuck by you.

Always remember to forget the troubles that passed away,

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But never forget to remember the blessings that come each day.

Just before the Israelites were about to step foot into the promised land, Moses gave them one long lesson that basically recounted their entire journey from Egypt through the wilderness. This account, which stretches from [Deuteronomy 1-25](#), contains more than 20 repetitions of “do not forget” and “remember”.

Remembering what God has done for us is important because it helps us to trust that God is faithful; it also reminds us to be faithful.

“May you never forget
what is worth remembering,
nor ever remember
what is best forgotten.”

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