

The Road to Redemption

Sacrifice-It is Finished: The Victory of the Cross

John 19:28-30 (NIV) ²⁸ Later, knowing that everything had now been finished, and so that Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, "I am thirsty." ²⁹ A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus' lips. ³⁰ When he had received the drink, Jesus said, "It is finished." With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

Key truths: When Jesus said, "It is finished," He was declaring:

- **Prophecy is fulfilled – God's redemptive plan for mankind was complete.**
- **Salvation is secured – Sin was defeated.**
- **New life has begun – Eternal life for all who put their faith in Christ Jesus as Lord and Savior.**

1. The Fulfillment of Prophecy (John 19:28-29)

- John uses the phrase "everything had now been finished" to indicate Jesus is aware of the completion of His earthly mission.
- John tells us that Jesus, knowing that all was now completed, said, "I thirst"; this moment is rich in meaning! It reveals not only a physical need but also the fulfillment of prophetic scripture.
 - It signifies Jesus' human suffering on the cross and serves as a poignant reminder of His humanity.
 - Jesus's thirst symbolizes the deep longing of humanity for relationship with God. Just as He cried out for water, we too thirst for spiritual fulfillment and deep relationships.
 - So that the scriptures might be fulfilled. Every detail of Christ's suffering was foretold in the Old Testament. At least 28 prophecies were fulfilled by Christ on the day He was crucified.
 - "I thirst" was a fulfillment of **Psalms 22:15 & Psalm 69:21**. This is a reminder of God's sovereignty over human events.
 - Just taking **Psalms 22:16** into account, the odds of this one Messianic prophecy being fulfilled accidentally in the life of one person is 1 in 10,000.
 - The odds of only eight of these prophecies being fulfilled accidentally in the life of one person are 1 in 10 to the 17th power, or one in one hundred quadrillion.
- Twice Jesus was offered wine while on the cross. He refused the first offer but took the second.
 - The first time came in **Mark 15:23**, "then they offered him wine mixed with myrrh, but he did not take it."
 - At this time, a narcotic drink was offered to those condemned to death in order to decrease their sensitivity to the excruciating pain.
 - Jesus refused this drink, choosing instead to endure the pain of His suffering with full consciousness.

- The drink mentioned in **John 19:29** was a sour drink mentioned in the Old Testament (**Numbers 6:3; Ruth 2:14**), and in Greek and Roman literature as well as a common beverage appreciated by laborers and soldiers because it relieved thirst more effectively than water and was inexpensive.

Application: This verse encourages us to remember that in our seasons of thirst—whether physically, emotionally, or spiritually—Jesus sympathizes with us. You can trust God's timing in your life, even when things feel painful or confusing. There's a bigger plan unfolding.

2. The Road to Redemption is Complete (John 19:30)

- Jesus' last words, "It is finished": these are not words of defeat but of victory!
- "Finished" or "Accomplished"; Strong's Lexicon 5055. Teleó (verb)
- Jesus had completed the mission for which He came—to redeem us from our sin (**2 Corinthians 5:21**). No further sacrifice is needed; It is finished!

Application: We cannot earn salvation, and our debt is paid in full through Christ. All we need to do is receive the gift of salvation by faith (**Ephesians 2:8-10**).

3. The Beginning of New Life (John 19:30)

- After Jesus declared "It is finished," He "bowed His head and gave up His spirit."
 - He willingly gave His life (**John 10:17-18**); Jesus brought Himself to death, meaning the cross, or any human hand, didn't take Jesus' life.
 - He died voluntarily; in other Gospels Jesus is recorded saying, "Father, into your hands I commend my Spirit". (**Luke 23:46**)
- Jesus' physical death was of His own accord, to take our place in receiving the curse for sin, though He had no sin of His own.
- His death was not an end but the beginning of victory over sin and death.
 - Three days later, His resurrection proved that His work was truly finished.

Application: Because of Jesus' finished work, we can live in freedom, peace, and hope. No matter what we face, our victory is already won in Christ (**Romans 8:37-39**).

Call to Action

Since Jesus has finished the work of salvation for us, are you living in that victory? If you haven't accepted Christ, today is the day you can follow Him. If you are in Christ, walk in the freedom and confidence that "It is finished"!

Colossians 2:13-15 (NLT) ¹³ You were dead because of your sins and because your sinful nature was not yet cut away. Then God made you alive with Christ, for he forgave all our sins. ¹⁴ He canceled the record of the charges against us and took it away by nailing it to the cross. ¹⁵ In this way, he disarmed the spiritual rulers and authorities. He shamed them publicly by his victory over them on the cross