

Bibles???

The Word of God is the Absolute Truth and the Final Authority

Turn your bibles with me to the Gospel of John 19

We are continuing our verse-by-verse study through the Gospel of John

And we are in the portion of scripture where the Apostle John provides for us the final moments of Jesus hanging on a rugged Roman cross to pay for our sins.

Illustration -

A very wise person once said - that what one finds in the garage of the average person living in the United States is a testimony to the problem of procrastination.

Think about it -

We start a project, but we don't complete it.

It could be a car that we say we will one day renovate

It could be that piece of exercise equipment we buy in January of every year – hoping it motivates us to get into shape.

It could be the new hobby that we are thinking of getting into – I bought a smoke back in October and I still haven't used it.

Items are added to our honey-do lists and we fail to follow through

Everything turns into – I will do it tomorrow or I will do it next weekend

A few months ago – Bridget told me that the downstairs sink in our house was leaking – I ordered the faucet kit to fix the leak – got there in 2 days – and to this day, it is still sitting in the Amazon bag that it came in - on our dining room table.

And every day I walk by the dining room table – that kit sits there, mocking me, reminding me of my failure to getting the sink fixed.

Am I the only one with this problem???

Our garages have become a memorial to the unfinished project

In fact – the problem of procrastination has gotten so bad – that self-storage places are popping up so that we can have more places to store some of our unfinished projects.

In the text we are going to be looking at this morning – we will be reminded that God, unlike us, completes what He begins.

And so therefore, we can have assurance, we can have confidence, we can count on Him to keep His promises no matter how great the obstacles.

Let's pray...

Read Text John 29:28-37

Just to provide a little context and setting of where we are –

Jesus has been on the cross at this point in our text for about 6 hours.

When we look at the different gospel accounts – we find that Jesus is sentenced by Pilate at 6 AM (John uses Roman time to tell us this) John 19:14 (the 6th hour using the Roman system)

The crucifixion begins at the third hour (Jewish system) that is 9 AM (Mark 15)

At the sixth hour (Jewish system) that is when darkness begins (noon) (Matt 27) and it lasts for 3 hours

At the ninth hour (Jewish system) that is when Jesus dies (3 PM)

So we are approaching 3:00 PM at the beginning of our text

Look at verse 28 again

[Jhn 19:28-37 NKJV] 28 After this, Jesus, knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the Scripture might be fulfilled, said, "I thirst!"

After this is in reference to everything that John has told us in our study last Sunday

That Jesus in His agony as is hanging from the cross is in great love taking care of His mother and handing her off into the care of John

It is after that – that Jesus, knowing that all things were now accomplished

I had you make a note of that because that is very important

Because it clearly shows that Jesus was still fully conscious and fully aware of what was going on.

Jesus knew the end had come.

He knew the previous 6 hours had served to atone for our sins

There was no need for Him to spend another minute in agony because the work He'd come to do was now complete.

The only thing left was to make sure everyone else knew He had completed the work of our redemption.

And so, Jesus makes the statement from the cross – "I thirst"

The thirst of Jesus reminds us that He is fully human

Because humans thirst – it is natural

God in human flesh is hanging from a Roman cross – thirsty

His throat would have been bone dry, His lips would have been severely chapped

The only ones who would hear His request for a drink would be the guards standing at the foot of the cross – waiting for Him to die.

29 Now a vessel full of sour wine was sitting there; and they filled a sponge with sour wine, put [it] on hyssop, and put [it] to His mouth.

Keep in mind that John just told us in verse 28 that Jesus was fully aware of what was going on and He fully knew that everything that He was called to do – was accomplished

There is a reason why Jesus says, I am thirsty –

Was He thirsty – of course He was – but there is another reason why He says it.

Why do I bring this up?

Turn with me to Matt 27

[Mat 27:33-35 NKJV] 33 And when they had come to a place called Golgotha, that is to say, Place of a Skull, 34 they gave Him sour wine mingled with gall to drink. But when He had tasted [it], He would not drink. 35 Then they crucified Him, and divided His garments, casting lots, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet: "They divided My garments among them, And for My clothing they cast lots."

So right before 9 AM – right before Jesus was nailed to the cross

He was offered this drink – sour wine mixed with gall

This was a drugged wine –

this was a type of anesthetic

This sour wine was meant to numb the senses of the condemned and it was given to make it easier for the Roman guards to nail the condemned to the cross.

There would be less squirming if the individual was out of it.

Most people took the offer of drinking this drink – anything to deaden the pain.

But Jesus refused to drink

Why did He refuse?

Because He came to take our punishment, not avoid it.

Jesus took the full brunt of our sinful pain upon Himself on the cross

That is why it is so very important to grasp that Jesus was fully conscious of His surroundings

Therefore, the reason He said, “I am thirsty”

Is not because He is expecting His thirst to be fully quenched

He says He is thirsty because He needs a little moisture on His sunburnt lips, tongue and throat so He can be heard by all those that are passing by.

He wants to make an announcement of what He just did for humanity

So He asks for a drink

So one of the guards dips a sponge into the vinegar – puts it to the end of a branch and lifts it to Jesus' mouth.

BTW -

Hyssop bushes are not big bushes (2' to 3' big) – so many times in movies or shows where they depict the crucifixion – they make it seem like Jesus' head was 10' off the ground –

That is not the case – His feet were no more than 18-24" off the ground.

30 So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!" And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.

When Jesus drank the vinegar or the sour wine – He fulfilled prophecy (Psalm 69:21)

But also got enough to wet His mouth and loosen His tongue

He had "a" word to say –

One word in the Greek –

and He wanted to make sure that no one misunderstood it.

He pushed up on the nail on His feet to take His last breath

Then, as the other Gospels tell us – with a loud voice He sent forth His final breath in forming the word – "Te-telestai

Done –

Finished –

Completed –

The End –

Paid in full!

A couple things to grasp –

When Jesus cried out “Te-telestai!” or “It is finished” – as it is translated in the English - it was not a scream of agony

It was not an angry curse directed at those who nailed Him to the cross

Nor was it the despair of the defeated

When Jesus cried out “te-telestai” – it was a confident announcement of victory.

He didn’t say, “I am finished” – but “It” is finished.

In the ancient Greek culture – they would use this word to describe servants completing a task –

If you gave your servant a task to do and they completed – they would return to you and say, “te-telestai” – it is done

When a person was convicted of a crime – their sentence was written up and handed over to the jailor – who would post the sentence outside the prisoner's cell.

At the completion of the sentence – after fees were paid – the jailor would release the prisoner – take down the sign and write across the sentence – tetelestai – paid in full.

The prisoner would then carry his completed sentence around with him wherever he went to prove that justice had been served.

What Jesus did on the cross was to do for us what we could never do for ourselves – pay our debt of sin.

And so – when He shouted out that victorious declaration – it was so that all might know that the guilt of our sin, ALL OF IT, past, present and future has been removed completely.

Church –

God is perfect in His justice

Since Jesus fully paid the penalty of our sin – once and for all, God would be unjust to make us pay now.

That is why John writes in his epistle –

[1Jo 1:9 NKJV] 9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us [our] sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

That means we don't have to beat ourselves up for our own sins because Jesus took the beating on our behalf.

A few years ago – a heard a pastor tell this story – and it is one that I will never forget.

And he told the story of how someone at his church asked if he would meet with one of their friends for counselling

The individual believed in God and wanted to have a relationship with Him

The problem was that the individual felt totally unworthy

He had committed adultery and the guilt of it was overwhelming him

And after speaking to the individual for a few minutes,

the pastor learned that his marriage was falling apart,

he learned that he was about to lose his job,

his relationship with his children was strained and his health was beginning to

deteriorate because of all the stress and guilt

And after speaking to him some more – he zeroed in on the problem.

The individual believed that he had erred so greatly, all the bad stuff that was happening to him was necessary to atone for his transgressions.

He believed that he had to go through this period of pain and suffering to prove that he was sorry.

So the pastor asked him to close his eyes and to try to imagine himself at the foot of the cross looking at Jesus hanging there

He told him to approach the cross, and to get real close and to hear Him as He lifted his head and shouted out, "It is finished!"

Then the pastor said, he told the young man –

"Now, tell Jesus, 'No it's not!'"

Tell Jesus He's wrong –

Tell Jesus it isn't finished.

Tell Jesus what He did wasn't enough & that you have to add to it."

And the pastor said that the young man began shaking his head and he began to sob uncontrollably

The awareness of the completeness of God's forgiveness washed over him like a giant wave.

In an instant, he was free; free of the lie the enemy had bound him in

The truth of Romans 8:1 – had become his

[Rom 8:1 NKJV] 1 [There is] therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.

Because of the cross, forgiveness is already ours.

When we blow it & mess up, all we have to do is admit it & reach out to take hold of that forgiveness.

Jesus shouted “It is finished!” so that all might hear it – so WE can hear it.

Don’t let the enemy tell you God can’t or won’t forgive you.

That’s a lie aimed at defeating us and keeping us from being free to enjoy the fullness of God’s love.

Do you know why Jesus went to the cross?

To atone for our sins and provide complete forgiveness.

But why?

So nothing would stand in the way of God’s amazing love for you and me!

Some of us feel unworthy of God’s love, and because of that, we fail to enjoy it

Let’s settle something right now – you and I, are totally unworthy of God’s love!

God loves us not because of who we are but because of who HE is!

If we earned God's love, then the credit would go to who? US!

I had you make a note of the last portion in verse 30

Where after making His one-word triumphant announcement – John writes for us that Jesus - bowing His head, He gave up His spirit

Turn with me back to John 10

[Jhn 10:17-18 NKJV] 17 "Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again. 18 "No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father."

Jesus did not hang His head in defeat; He bowed it in peace.

Again – He was in full control to the end

31 Therefore, because it was the Preparation [Day], that the bodies should not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken, and [that] they might be taken away.

32 Then the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and of the other who was crucified with Him. 33 But when they came to Jesus and saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs.

The religious rulers had a problem –

the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread was the very next day and that year it fell on the Sabbath – making it even more special

So what the religious rulers do – is they go to Pilate – and they want Pilate to have the legs broken – to accelerate their deaths – that way they can remove them from the cross and they participate in the feast and not be defiled.

Think of the hypocrisy on their part –

They had no guilt murdering the Lord of the Sabbath yet they were meticulous in not wanting to defile the Sabbath by having His body hanging on the cross after that day began.

When the soldiers came up to the two guys on either side of Jesus, they could see that they were alive, and so their legs were broken – they could no longer push themselves up to catch their breath.

But when they get to Jesus – He was already dead.

Therefore – there was no need to break His legs –

34 But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out. 35 And he who has seen has testified, and his testimony is true; and he knows that he is telling the truth, so that you may believe. 36 For these things were done that the Scripture should be fulfilled, "Not [one] of His

bones shall be broken." 37 And again another Scripture says, "They shall look on Him whom they pierced."

John says – "I WAS THERE, and saw it with my own eyes."

He says this because even back in those days there were skeptics who said Jesus hadn't really died on the cross, they were claiming that He simply went into a deep sleep and woke up in the tomb.

The blood and water that flowed from the wound in Jesus' side is proof He was dead!

And in the process – multiple scriptures were fulfilled. (Psalm 34:20 and Zech 12:10)

I want to close with this church -

Man's greatest need – the forgiveness of sins - was accomplished through God's greatest deed - the crucifixion of Jesus Christ and His resurrection

What was lost in the Garden of Eden by Adam and his sin was regained on the cross by Jesus Christ (who is referred to the New Adam)

It is here on the cross that our salvation is purchased

It is here on the cross that the righteous demands of God were met as the full weight and wrath of God, was poured out on Jesus

And Jesus endured the cross willingly for you and me to bring the work of redemption to completion

Tetelestai – it is finished.

Amen

Let's pray...

To Receive Christ do the following:

Admit, "I am a sinner."

Confess and be willing to turn from your sin.

Believe, by faith that Jesus Christ died for you on the cross.

Receive, through prayer, Jesus Christ into your heart and receive eternal life.

Dear Lord Jesus,

I know that I am a sinner and need Your forgiveness. I believe that You died on the cross for my sins. Please forgive me for my sins and cleanse me by Your blood. I accept You by faith as my personal Lord and Savior. Give me a thirst for Your Word and Help me to follow You all of my days. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.

One of the highest forms of worship we can give God is to let Him love us without looking for the why of His love within ourselves.

The answer does not lie there – the Answer is in Him

[Num 6:24-26 NLT] 24 '

May the LORD bless you and protect you.

May the LORD smile on you and be gracious to you.

May the LORD show you his favor and give you his peace.'



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