

"Resurrection Sunday, 2023 — It Is Finished"

Our Outline Today: "It Is Finished".

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- ***What They Could Have Known Before the Cross***
- ***[NEXT TIME] What They Came to Know After the Cross***
- ***What difference does it make?***

- ***Our theme today is simply "It Is Finished". But what was finished? Now that is a pretty significant question, is it not?***

- ***What does Paul say about that? And what do the other authors of scripture say other than Paul? We will learn about that today, this glorious day of remembrance of Christ's glorious resurrection so long ago, 20 centuries ago, actually. And yet there is no other even in the human history of antiquity other than Christ's cross event — his death, his burial, and his resurrection, about which more is known than of what occurred on those critical days so long ago.***

"Hallelujah! What a Savior!" By P.P. Bliss.

1. **"Man of Sorrows!" what a name
For the Son of God, who came
Ruined sinners to reclaim.
Hallelujah! What a Savior!**

2. **Bearing shame and scoffing rude,
In my place condemned He stood;
Sealed my pardon with His blood.
Hallelujah! What a Savior!**

3. **Guilty, vile, and helpless we;
Spotless Lamb of God was He;
"Full atonement!" can it be?
Hallelujah! What a Savior!**

4. **Lifted up was He to die;
"It is finished!" was His cry;
Now in Heav'n exalted high.
Hallelujah! What a Savior!**

5. When He comes, our glorious King,
All His ransomed home to bring,
Then anew His song we'll sing:
Hallelujah! What a Savior!

I. What They Could Have Known Before the Cross:

- *First today we will be blessed by looking carefully at what those aware of what was happening on that day might have known and what might have been written in a newspaper article that was entirely true but complete with all of the necessary details. We will limit ourselves to John's account this morning primarily:*

[READ] John 19:25-27

25 Now there stood by the cross of Jesus his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Cleophas, and Mary Magdalene.

26 When Jesus therefore saw his mother, and the disciple standing by, whom he loved, he saith unto his mother, Woman, behold thy son!

27 Then saith he to the disciple, Behold thy mother! And from that hour that disciple took her unto his own home.

[READ] John 19:28-30

28 After this, Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the scripture might be fulfilled, saith, I thirst.

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.

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

- *What was finished? Do you know? Surely not everything was finished according to the Lord God's plan of redemption, written in heaven's archive from even before the foundation of the world. Not everything. So what do these words mean, "It is Finished?"*

At that point in our Lord's short but eventful life much had already been accomplished. That is so clear. So very much. But more was yet to be accomplished as history would reveal and as we will enjoy considering today.

- *What was the context of those blessed words that day? The apostle John tells us here in his account and I am sure that his accounting is true and authentic as he writes under the control of the spirit of God.*

As he writes here again and again, in so many words, "... that the scripture might be fulfilled", we see that so much prophecy was being fulfilled just as it had been written. The details of that are amazing and sometimes astounding as we shall be blessed to see today again.

It says here in verse 28 that Jesus knew that much had already been accomplished in that wonderful plan of redemption, and that the next phase must now begin according to plan. And so he says, "I thirst" and the events detailed in Psalms 22 and 69 unfold exactly as written. Verse 30 brings the culmination with the words "It is finished". This is just one word in the original, "P.P. Bliss. "τετελεσται", or in English lettering, "tetelestai!" And our Lord then gives up his spirit willingly and obediently as he bows his head in death. Let's go on for there is much more here to see.

[READ] John 19:31-37

31 The Jews therefore, because it was the preparation, that the bodies should not remain upon the cross on the sabbath day, (for that sabbath day was an high day,) besought Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away.

32 Then came the soldiers, and brake the legs of the first, and of the other which was crucified with him.

33 But when they came to Jesus, and saw that he was dead already, they brake not his legs:

34 But one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, and forthwith came there out blood and water.

35 And he that saw it bare record, and his record is true: and he knoweth that he saith true, that ye might believe.

36 For these things were done, that the scripture should be fulfilled, A bone of him shall not be broken. [See Ps. 34:20; Ex. 12:46; Num. 9:12]

37 And again another scripture saith, They shall look on him whom they pierced. [Ps. 22:16-17; Zech. 12:10; Rev. 1:7]

- ***But it is verse 34 that captures my attention today and perhaps yours as well: "But one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, and forthwith came there out blood and water." This is a reference back again to the Old Testament, to Ps. 22:14 in particular, but also to Deuteronomy 15.***

Ps. 22:14 I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint: my heart is like wax; it is melted in the midst of my bowels.

Deut. 15:19-23

19 All the firstling males that come of thy herd and of thy flock thou shalt sanctify unto the LORD thy God: thou shalt do no work with the firstling of thy bullock, nor shear the firstling of thy sheep.

20 Thou shalt eat *it* before the LORD thy God year by year in the place which the LORD shall choose, thou and thy household.

21 And if there be *any* blemish therein, *as if it be* lame, or blind, or have any ill blemish, thou shalt not sacrifice it unto the LORD thy God.

22 Thou shalt eat it within thy gates: the unclean and the clean *person shall eat it* alike, as the roebuck, and as the hart.

23 Only thou shalt not eat the blood thereof; thou shalt pour it upon the ground as water.

- ***This is the Passover meal, of course, and a comment on the preparation of that meal.*** “Only thou shalt not eat the blood thereof; thou shalt pour it upon the ground as water.” ***Some of it had to be caught to be used in the sacrificial offerings by the priesthood. But the shedding of our Lord’s blood was meant as a “flood” as hymn writers have expressed so well, especially John Stockton in that very special hymn:***

“Only Trust Him”, By John Stockton

1. Come, every soul by sin oppressed,
There’s mercy with the Lord,
And He will surely give you rest
By trusting in His Word.
 - ***Refrain:***
Only trust Him, only trust Him,
Only trust Him now;
He will save you, He will save you,
He will save you now.
2. For Jesus shed His precious blood
Rich blessings to bestow;
Plunge now into the crimson flood
That washes white as snow.

3. Yes, Jesus is the truth, the way,
That leads you into rest;
Believe in Him without delay
And you are fully blest.
 4. Come, then, and join this holy band,
And on to glory go,
To dwell in that celestial land
Where joys immortal flow.
- *Of course, there may also be a medically significant meaning here as well and I think there is. But we may need to enter heaven's glory to learn more of it. And there is other spiritual meaning as well no doubt, but probably not a reference to the sacraments of baptism and the Lord's Supper though as some have taught and subscribe to, however.*

[READ] John 19:38-42

38 And after this Joseph of Arimathaea, being a disciple of Jesus, but secretly for fear of the Jews, besought Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus: and Pilate gave *him* leave. He came therefore, and took the body of Jesus.

39 And there came also Nicodemus, which at the first came to Jesus by night, and brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about an hundred pound weight.

40 Then took they the body of Jesus, and wound it in linen clothes with the spices, as the manner of the Jews is to bury.

41 Now in the place where he was crucified there was a garden; and in the garden a new sepulchre, wherein was never man yet laid.

42 There laid they Jesus therefore because of the Jews' preparation day; for the sepulchre was nigh at hand.

- *What a difference Christ's crucifixion made! For those mentioned here, it made all the difference in the world. What were they willing to sacrifice, if needed, we wonder? Perhaps everything near and dear in this life.*

[READ] John 20:1-9

1 The first day of the week cometh Mary Magdalene early, when it was yet dark, unto the sepulchre, and seeth the stone taken away from the sepulchre.

2 Then she runneth, and cometh to Simon Peter, and to the other disciple, whom Jesus loved, and saith unto them, They have taken away the Lord out of the sepulchre, and we know not where they have laid him.

3 Peter therefore went forth, and that other disciple, and came to the sepulchre.

4 So they ran both together: and the other disciple did outrun Peter, and came first to the sepulchre.

5 And he stooping down, *and looking in*, saw the linen clothes lying; yet went he not in.

6 Then cometh Simon Peter following him, and went into the sepulchre, and seeth the linen clothes lie,

7 And the napkin, that was about his head, not lying with the linen clothes, but wrapped together in a place by itself.

8 Then went in also that other disciple, which came first to the sepulchre, and he saw, and believed.

9 For as yet they knew not the scripture, that he must rise again from the dead.

10 Then the disciples went away again unto their own home.

[READ] John 20:11-18

11 But Mary stood without at the sepulchre weeping: and as she wept, she stooped down, *and looked* into the sepulchre,

12 And seeth two angels in white sitting, the one at the head, and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain.

13 And they say unto her, Woman, why weepest thou? She saith unto them, Because they have taken away my Lord, and I know not where they have laid him.

14 And when she had thus said, she turned herself back, and saw Jesus standing, and knew not that it was Jesus.

15 Jesus saith unto her, Woman, why weepest thou? whom seekest thou? She, supposing him to be the gardener, saith unto him, Sir, if thou have borne him hence, tell me where thou hast laid him, and I will take him away.

16 Jesus saith unto her, Mary. She turned herself, and saith unto him, Rabboni; which is to say, Master.

17 Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and *to* my God, and your God.

18 Mary Magdalene came and told the disciples that she had seen the Lord, and *that* he had spoken these things unto her.

[READ] John 20:19-23

19 Then the same day at evening, being the first *day* of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, came Jesus and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, Peace *be* unto you.

20 And when he had so said, he shewed unto them *his* hands and his side. Then were the disciples glad, when they saw the Lord.

21 Then said Jesus to them again, Peace *be* unto you: as *my* Father hath sent me, even so send I you.

22 And when he had said this, he breathed on *them*, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost:

23 Whose soever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; *and* whose soever *sins* ye retain, they are retained.

[READ] John 20:24-31

24 But Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came.

25 The other disciples therefore said unto him, We have seen the Lord. But he said unto them, Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into his side, I will not believe.

26 And after eight days again his disciples were within, and Thomas with them: *then* came Jesus, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, Peace *be* unto you.

27 Then saith he to Thomas, Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust *it* into my side: and be not faithless, but believing.

28 And Thomas answered and said unto him, My Lord and my God.

29 Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed *are* they that have not seen, and yet have believed.

30 And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book:

31 But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.

- *So be it. It stands written. Amen. IT IS FINISHED!*

II. What Difference Does It Make?

- *Does the knowing of it change anything for us?*

- *For the early believers, it meant persecutions and death for many. Their lives were changed for ever. How about us? Were you changed for ever?*
- *For some though the correct question is quite different: Have you been saved? Perhaps you are only religious and have never believed the gospel of the grace of God.*
- *But for us who are saved, the question is this? What difference does the resurrection of Christ make for us, personally, and individually?*

IT MAKES ALL THE DIFFERENCE, DOESN'T IT?

[READ] Col. 3:1-4

1 If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.

2 Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.

3 For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.

4 When Christ, *who is* our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.