

**John 19:30**

**Good Friday**

**March 29, 2024**

*“When Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, ‘It is finished!’ and He bowed His head and gave up His spirit.” John 19:30*

What is “it?” What is it that is finished? To the naked eye, Jesus is finished. It’s over. His life has come to an end. This is how the soldiers see it. He drops His head and expires. End of life. End of story. Time to pack it up and go home.

And yes, Jesus is dead. At 3:00 on Friday, Good Friday, Jesus died. But is He finished? No. Rather, the Serpent is finished.

We go back to Eden. This is where “it” began. For something to have a finish, it must have a beginning. It began here. The Tempter brought sin and death, and every evil, into our world. But God made a promise. What the Serpent began, the Seed of the woman would finish.

That Seed is Jesus. And as God said would happen, the Serpent gave Jesus a horribly painful bruise on His heel. Good Friday, and all the suffering that took place before Good Friday. It was a bruise like no other. So agonizing that Jesus sweated blood in Gethsemane, and from the cross He cried out with words that make us shudder, because He was in hell. He was feeling the full force of the wrath of God.

The Serpent brought sin, and death, and every evil into this world, and it all fell upon Jesus. Every bit of it. And because it did, the Serpent was finished. That’s all he had! He unleashed his full arsenal on Jesus. And yes, Jesus died. He suffered beyond any suffering that we could ever imagine. And He died. But the Serpent could not finish what he began.

Instead, Jesus did. *“It is finished!”* He cried from the cross. Satan, you are finished! Sin, your curse and your power are finished! And even death, death you are finished because on the Third Day Jesus rose in triumphant victory.

My friends, Jesus finished off your enemies. Every last one of them. But let’s put this a different way. He finished your salvation. What is finished? Everything that had to happen to make your joy complete giving you a place in heaven with Jesus.

Was that place in jeopardy? Satan thought he had you. He still thinks this every time he tempts you to sin with your thoughts, your words, your actions. Sins that no Christian would ever do if he or she really was a Christian – this is what the Tempter tells you. He accuses you, and he tells you that God could never forgive the likes of you. Just look at your past, what a mess! How can you think that God would ever give you a place in heaven! No, the Serpent tells you, “You’re finished!”

But he is finished. Your accuser is finished. Jesus finished him off. Jesus suffered the hell that you and I deserve. And yes, we deserve eternal punishment. But there is no punishment left for you. Jesus stood between you and what you deserve. He bore your sins in His own body. He became the One accused in your place.

You were in Jesus' heart and on His mind when He cried, "*It is finished!*" He cried these words for you. No truer words were ever spoken. Think on this, whatever doubts you have, therefore, Jesus' words replace your doubts with faith. Whatever sins you have done, those sins cannot undo Jesus' words.

"*It is finished!*" You are forgiven. You, and you, and you...each and every one of you is forgiven of all your sins. There is no sin in your past that is unforgiven. There is nothing you have done that can change Jesus' words. "*It is finished!*" End of story.

And yes, even though your life here is not yet finished, your story is finished because Jesus finished it for you. Your place in heaven is there with Jesus. And no one can take it from you. Your baptism into Christ Jesus is forever. And even if you have left your baptism, it has never left you.

Paul writes in Philippians: "*I am sure of this, that He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion.*" He will finish it. The same word Jesus cries from the cross, Paul uses here.

Not, "I think He might bring it to completion." Not, "I sure hope He will finish it." No! "*I am sure of this,*" Paul writes. How can Paul be so sure? Because Jesus cried from the cross, "*It is finished!*" Your story is complete. Completed by Jesus. Your salvation is certain. Jesus says so. Amen.