

WORDS CARRY WEIGHT Online Devotion May 3, 2020

The last words Christ spoke on the Cross were weighty; they were critical. 'And truly Jesus did many other things that weren't written down but what is written down is written that we would believe in Him;' this is our work. John 20:31, 6:29

Jesus declared 'It is finished!' John 19:30. He bowed his head and gave up his spirit. When Jesus declared 'It is finished' He used the Greek accounting term 'teleho' meaning debt discharged, completed, accomplished, debt paid in full, done.

It is finished doesn't mean falling over the line as you might after a marathon but it is similar to paying the last payment on a long loan – you set out and committed and you did what you set out to do.

Jesus declared 'It is finished'. He was not looking at past events but present and future. He was declaring that past, present, and future debt is paid in full. It is important to remember it was not His debt. It was the debt of every other human being. It is important to hear that He did not say I am finished. He said it is finished. He 'said' I have completed what I came to do. And He completed every line in the prophetic word around what He came to do. He carried the weight of sin, every cursed thing – paid in full. He took on sickness, separation from God – He paid in full.

Matthew 27:50-54 'And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, He gave up his spirit. At that moment, the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook, the rocks split, and the tombs broke open. The bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life. They came out of the tombs after Jesus' resurrection and went into the holy city and appeared to many people. When the centurion and those with him who were guarding Jesus saw the earthquake and all that had happened, they were terrified, and exclaimed, Surely He was the Son of God!'

At that moment when He cried out 'into your hands I commit my spirit' the temple curtain tore from top to bottom. This is no lightweight curtain. This curtain is fifteen metres high and ten centimetres thick. Natural things were torn apart. The earth shattered but at the same time the heavens were opened. There is no longer any separation between God and all mankind.

The death Jesus died brought life out of death. Hosea prophesied it 'Where o death is your sting?'

For all mankind, for all humanity Jesus paid the price in full. The wages of sin that earned death are now paid in full and salvation is free. The power of sin is broken. The power of the devil is dealt with. We are free. No weight of sin. No weight of condemnation. No debt.

From John 17:4 we hear the last public prayer Jesus prayed prior to going to the Cross. To his father He prayed 'I have brought you glory by finishing the *work* you gave me to do' and we hear what that *work* was in Luke 19:10 'For the son of man came *to seek and save the lost.*'

Jesus *worked* out of John 3:16: 'for God so loved the world.' He *worked* out of his love for his father and he *worked* out of his love for us. That love brought him to the cross and that love held him on the cross. The obedience he portrayed is a masterpiece of work and we have the benefit.

Words carry weight and coming into agreement with the Word is a powerful thing, a weighty thing. Jesus carried the weight of the world on his shoulders, so we do not need too. There is a different weight He brings now, and it is the glory of God. John 17.

Communion message.

'It is finished' was a triumphant declaration. 'I'm finished' is signal of giving up, but Jesus declared 'it' is finished. What 'it' is matters eternally especially in the mouth of Jesus, on the Cross.

It – the wages of sin, the debt we earned – debt discharged, paid in full.

It – the power of sin, dealt with – paid in full.

It – the power of death, dealt with – sting removed, paid in full.

It – the power of the devil – disarmed and defeated, executed, paid in full.

It – the purpose He came, to seek and save the lost – accomplished, completed, paid in full.

It – the separation between God and mankind – we may enter in, entrance paid in full.

It – the weight of guilt, shame, condemnation – certificate revoked, paid in full.

It – everything that stood contrary to us – executed, paid in full.

It – the love of God, the will of God, the purposes of God, the reward of God – accomplished, completed, executed, all debt discharged that we may receive every benefit of the 'finished' work of Christ on the Cross – PAID IN FULL.

An older song: He Paid a Debt He Did Not Owe:

'I had a debt I could not pay; He paid the debt He did not owe; I needed someone to wash my sins away. And now I sing a brand-new song, "Amazing grace" ... Christ Jesus paid the debt that I could never pay.'

Hebrews 9: ²⁴ *For Christ did not enter a sanctuary made with human hands that was only a copy of the true one; He entered heaven itself, now to appear for us in God's presence.* ²⁵ *Nor did He enter heaven to offer Himself again and again, the way the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood that is not his own.* ²⁶ *Otherwise Christ would have had to suffer many times since the creation of the world. But He has appeared once for all at the culmination of the ages to do away with sin by the sacrifice of Himself.* ²⁷ *Just as people are destined to die once, and after that to face judgment,* ²⁸ *so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many; and He will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for Him.'*

Once, for all mankind; once for all time; once for all.