

J.J.

IT IS FINISHED
(John 19: 30)

INTRODUCTION :

I read from Chuck Swindoll that he was asking his family, “What is the greatest feeling in the world?” Others were saying, “love”... others were saying, “peace” But his sister said, that the greatest feeling in the world is “relief.”

That’s true. Physical example is if you’re driving along a highway and you really need to go to the toilet because you really need to go and then you do a stopover to “relieve” yourself, that’s one of the best feelings in the world.

Or from a health standpoint, you’re coming from a long battle with cancer and have done chemotherapy which is really, really hard and then you had your last check-up and doctor says, “no worries, you’re ok now.” That’s relief and is the best feeling in the world.

Or when you heard about an accident in a particular place and you know your husband or wife or your child is there and you haven’t heard from them and then they called you and told you that they were safe, that’s relief.

Relief is the best feeling in the world.

And this is what we’re going to discuss today.

This Good Friday, remember these three words. “It is finished”

John 19:30 When he had received the drink, Jesus said, “It is finished.” With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

These are the last words of Jesus Christ when He died on the cross.

The last words are important. When someone is about to leave this world, their last words are very important. It’s because it shows what’s really inside their hearts.

Some famous last words :

1. Frank Sinatra : “I’m losing it.”
2. Philosopher Jean-Paul Sartre turned to his partner Simone de Beauvoir – “I love you very much , my dear Beaver.”
3. Sir Arthur Doyle who wrote Sherlock Holmes turned to his wife, “ You are wonderful.”
4. Ernest Hemingway, “Goodnight my kitten”
5. Steve Jobs, “Oh wow. Oh wow. Oh wow.”

Famous Atheists last words

1. Thomas Payne : Stay with me, for God's sake; I cannot bear to be left alone , O Lord, help me! O God, what have I done to suffer so much? What will become of me hereafter? "I would give worlds if I had them, that The Age of Reason had never been published. O Lord, help me! Christ, help me! ...No, don't leave; stay with me! Send even a child to stay with me; for I am on the edge of Hell here alone. If ever the Devil had an agent, I have been that one."
2. Voltaire famous anti-Christian atheist
"I am abandoned by God and man; I will give you half of what I am worth if you will give me six months' life." (He said this to Dr. Fochin, who told him it could not be done.)
"Then I shall die and go to hell!" (His nurse said: "For all the money in Europe I wouldn't want to see another unbeliever die! All night long he cried for forgiveness.
3. David Hume : "I am in flames" (it is said, his desperation was a horrible scene)

Famous Christians last words

1. William Wilberforce
"My affections are so much in heaven that I can leave you all without regret; yet I do not love you less, but God more."
2. John Wesley
"The best of all: God is with us!"
3. John Calvin
Thou Lord, bruise me, but I am abundantly satisfied, since it is from Thy Hand."
4. Adoniram Judson – American missionary
"I go with gladness of a boy bounding away from school. I feel so strong in Christ.

Today, we read the last words of Jesus Christ when He died on the cross.

"It is finished"

It is one word in Greek, "tetelestai"

The Bible shows that when He said this, He shouted it

Mark 15: 36 Someone ran, filled a sponge with wine vinegar, put it on a staff, and offered it to Jesus to drink. "Now leave him alone. Let's see if Elijah comes to take him down," he said. 37 With a loud cry, Jesus breathed his last.

So our Lord shouted it. "TETELESTAI"

What does it mean?

Archeological findings showed the word,

- "tetelestai" were written on pieces of paper and the paper had their list of debts, "utang", so the word "tetelestai" means "Paid"
- Tetelestai also was written sometimes on pieces of art which means, "Finished"

So when our Lord shouted "Tetelestai"

1. He has finished the work that His Father has sent Him.

In John 17, when He was praying to His Father. Jesus said to His Father,

John 17: 4 "I have brought you glory on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do."

What was the work?

Luke 19:10 The Son of man came to seek and save the lost.

Our Lord's work here on earth is to die on the cross in order that we might have eternal life.

Application :

First, I will talk to non-believers :

The reason why you are hearing this is because God has a purpose for it.

Your purpose is not just to raise a family, feed them and become wealthy and etc. Although good, but your main purpose in life is to glorify God.

How do you glorify God? By believing in His Son Jesus Christ.

Because it doesn't matter how good you are as a person, you are lost without Him. If you die without Christ today, all of these things that you have on this earth is all for nothing.

Second, I will talk to believers

If you think God has saved you and that's it and then just go around going your own way, that's not the purpose God has saved you. God has saved you through Christ to glorify Him, to worship Him and as a church, just like Christ to shared the good news that Christ has already paid for our sins.

Specially people who are abroad, I know you love your family in the Philippines and you think sending them money is the most loving thing you can do.

The most loving thing that you can do is to share them what Jesus Christ has done on the cross for them.

It's because you might be feeding them, clothing them but without Christ, their souls will go into eternal damnation. That's your purpose. Finish that purpose just as our Lord did.

2 Corinthians 5:18-19 "All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation"

2. Tetelestai means Jesus has already paid our debt.

We have to remember that as sinners our wages is death. This means our sins have offended a Holy and Eternal God. And the punishment is eternal separation.

Explain : The Great Dilemma

This means when Jesus Christ on the cross, all of our sins or our debt against God has been paid in full.

Remember this, ALL DEBT ARE PAID ONE WAY OR ANOTHER. For example : If I lend you a million dollars and you say you can not pay it and then I say, "Don't worry, you don't have to pay." It doesn't mean, the debt hasn't been paid. It is the lender who lost the \$1M who paid for it.

When Jesus Christ died on the cross, all of our debt against Him has been forgiven but it is the life of Christ Himself that has paid for it.

John 3:16 For God so loved the world that He gave

The reason why you are forgiven is God was the one who paid for your debt against Him by making His Son as the payment for our sin.

This is the reason people who cannot forgive others never really understand the debt that person he or she has against God.

So Tetelestai means, it is finished.

CONCLUSION :

John 19:30 When he had received the drink, Jesus said, "It is finished." With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

ETYMOLOGY : "bowed" "klino" – to cause to fall back; to recline

Some theologians interpreted this word that when Jesus Christ breathed His last on the cross, the head did not "fall down" as in defeat, His head based on the original language "fell back" or "reclined". It means that He has finally rested. It's a gesture of satisfaction and gesture of proud looking up to heaven that He has finished His Father's work.

As Christians, we can rest in our souls knowing that God is satisfied with us because our Lord Jesus Christ finished the work for us.

Now the proof that God is satisfied with what Jesus Christ has done by paying for our sins is Resurrection Sunday.

It is said that our Lord's resurrection is God's "Amen" to our Lord Jesus Christ's word, "It is finished."

The reason why this is a Good Friday because our Lord Jesus said, "It is finished." You just have to believe and follow Him.

S.G.D.