

It Is Finished - John 19:16–30

Main Idea: When Jesus said “It is finished,” He declared that the full and final payment for sin had been made. What the sacrificial system could never complete, Christ accomplished once and for all.

1. Sin Created a Debt That Required Payment

Sin is not small or harmless. It is missing the mark of God’s perfection and it brings real consequences. Romans 6:23 tells us that the wages of sin is death, meaning sin creates a debt that must be paid. From the beginning in Genesis, we see that sin leads to death and requires covering through sacrifice.

Truth: Sin creates a real debt that demands payment.

Challenge: Do I take my sin seriously, or do I minimize it?

2. The System Covered Sin But Could Not Finish It

God established a system of sacrifice where blood was shed for forgiveness. Yet it had to be repeated over and over. Hebrews 9:22 reminds us that without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness, but the system never removed sin completely. People were forgiven, yet needed forgiveness again.

Truth: The system revealed sin’s cost but could not remove it fully.

Challenge: Am I relying on my own effort instead of what God has provided?

3. Jesus Finished the Work Completely

Jesus came as the Lamb of God to take away sin. On the cross, He became the final sacrifice. His blood paid the debt once and for all. Colossians 2 says our debt has been canceled and nailed to the cross. When Jesus said “It is finished,” He meant the payment was complete.

Truth: Jesus fully paid the debt of sin once and for all.

Challenge: Am I living like the work is finished, or still trying to earn it?

4. The Cross Secured It and the Resurrection Confirms It

Life is still hard, which creates tension. If it is finished, why does it not feel that way? The cross paid the debt, even when it looked like defeat. The resurrection proves the victory. Because He is risen, we know it truly is finished.

Truth: The victory is secure, even when life feels unresolved.

Challenge: Am I trusting what Christ has finished, even in the middle of struggle?

Reflection

We did nothing to finish it, and we cannot add to it. Jesus has paid the debt we could never pay. The question is not whether the work is finished, but whether we have trusted in what He finished.

Devotion 1: The Weight of Sin

Scripture: Romans 6:23

“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Reflection:

Sin is often treated lightly in our culture and even in our own hearts. We excuse it, justify it, or compare it to others. But Scripture is clear. Sin carries a cost, and that cost is death. It creates separation from God and brings real consequences into our lives. The sacrificial system in the Old Testament existed to show just how serious sin is. Every sacrifice was a reminder that sin is not free. It always costs something.

Challenge:

Take time today to honestly examine your life. Where have you minimized sin instead of confronting it? Bring it before God with humility and ask Him to help you see it rightly.

Devotion 2: Once and For All

Scripture: Hebrews 9:22

“Without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.”

Reflection:

The Old Testament system required constant sacrifice. Morning and evening offerings, yearly sacrifices, and repeated rituals all pointed to one truth. Sin required payment, but the system was never meant to be the final answer. It revealed the problem but could not fully solve it. Jesus came to do what the system could not. His sacrifice was not temporary. It was complete. When He said “It is finished,” He meant that nothing more needed to be added.

Challenge:

Consider where you may still be trying to earn God’s forgiveness or approval. Remind yourself today that Jesus has already paid the price in full.

Devotion 3: Living in What Is Finished

Scripture: Colossians 2:13–14

“He forgave us all our sins, having canceled the charge of our legal indebtedness... nailing it to the cross.”

Reflection:

Even though Jesus finished the work on the cross, we often live as though the debt is still hanging over us. Guilt and shame can make it feel like nothing has really changed. But the truth is, the debt has been canceled. It has been nailed to the cross. The resurrection confirms that the payment was accepted. Because Jesus is alive, we can trust that what He finished is truly finished.

Challenge:

When guilt or shame rises up today, pause and remind yourself of what Christ has done. Speak the truth out loud if needed. The debt is paid, and you are forgiven.