

04-1-2022, COTR Texarkana

Title: 'It Is Finished' and 'He Is Risen'

Purpose: Declare the meaning of the two most significant phrases in human history: 'It is finished' and 'He is risen' and provoke people to believe in and follow Jesus.

Truth for Today: The significance of 'It is finished' and "He is risen" is life changing.

Text: John 19:16-30, Matthew 28:1-6

Topic: Easter, Resurrection, Cross, Forgiveness, Atonement, Redemption

'It Is Finished' and 'He Is Risen'

I. Introduction

A. Today we gather with over 2 billion Christians, 1/3 of the world's population, to celebrate one of the greatest events in human history, the resurrection of Jesus Christ. The death and resurrection of Jesus is more than a story, but a historically verifiable account. The source of my message is the Bible, the most validated historical record in world history. Apologist Josh McDowell says there are over 66k manuscripts and partial manuscripts of the Bible. In contrast, the manuscripts for Homer's Iliad, Aristotle, and Plato's writings combined are approx. 2k. ⁵

1. Also archaeology and fulfilled prophecy give us good reason to rationally believe the Bible is indeed God's Word. Search Christian apologetics to learn more.

B. Today we'll focus on 2 Biblical phrases that have more significance to humanity than any other words ever uttered, 'It is finished' and 'He is risen.' Everyday phrases have great meaning, e.g., if your boss says, 'go home early'; or the policeman says, 'I'm not giving you a ticket'; or the doctor says you passed your physical.

1. The Biblical phrases 'It is finished' and 'He is risen' mean more than any words ever spoken because they affect us now and for eternity. Today I'll tell you why.

C. Title: 'It Is Finished' and 'He Is Risen'

D. Truth for Today: The significance of 'It is finished' and 'He is risen' is life changing.

II. It is finished! The penalty for the sins of humanity is paid.

A. [John 19:16–30 (NLT) Pilate turned Jesus over to them to be crucified...18...they nailed him to the cross...23 When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they divided his clothes among the four of them. They also took his robe, but it was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom. 24 So they said, "Rather than tearing it apart, let's throw dice for it." **This fulfilled the Scripture** that says, "They divided my garments among themselves and threw

dice for my clothing.”] Ps. 22:18 Fulfilled Biblical prophecy written 100’s -1000’s of years earlier, is one of the greatest proofs the Bible is true, e.g., born in Bethlehem, Mi. 5:2; betrayed for thirty pieces of silver, Ze. 11:12-13; clothes would be gambled away, Ps 22:18; hands and feet would be pierced, Ps. 22:16; bones not be broken, Ps. 34:20; born tribe of Judah, Is. 37:31.

- B. Vs. 28 Jesus knew that **his mission was now finished**...30...he said, “**It is finished!**” Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.
 - 1. What was His mission? To restore the relationship between God and humanity through His substitutionary death on the cross, i.e., He died in our place.
 - 2. What was finished? His redemptive work was completed. He suffered the penalty of God’s justice for which our sin deserved.⁶ Adam pawned us to satan.
- C. Sin enters the world. [Genesis 2:16–17 (ESV)...God commanded the man, saying, “You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, 17 but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for **in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.**”] Adam’s sin brought sin to the entire human race. Def. Death: separation, (1) physical death separates the soul from the body; and (2) spiritual death separates our soul from God. Now and for all eternity in hell.
- D. God provided a temporary solution: Driven from Eden, [Ge. 3:21 (NLT) And the LORD God made **clothing from animal skins** for Adam and his wife.] Picture⁹ Why animal skins? [Lev. 17:11 (NKJV) For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls; for **it is the blood that makes atonement for the soul.**] Def. atone: Through a substitutionary blood sacrifice, the guilty are not punished but reconciled to God. ¹²[Heb. 9:22 (ESV)...without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.] These are spiritual laws of our Creator, like gravity. NY Times op-ed, Let’s get rid of God
- E. God’s chosen people had a constant reminder of sin: Every year the Jews, on Yom Kippur, the high priest killed an animal as a sin offering and he entered the Holy of Holies sprinkling the blood on the mercy seat.¹ Picture⁸
- F. The final and ultimate sacrifice. [John 1:29 (NLT) ...John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, “Look! **The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!**”]
 - 1. [Mt. 27:50–51 (NIV) And when Jesus had cried out...he gave up his spirit. 51 At that moment **the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom...**] Jesus was dead. JAMA, Modern medical interpretation of the historical evidence indicates that Jesus was dead when taken down from the cross.²

2. Picture¹⁰ This curtain separated the holy place from the holy of holies in the temple. The fact that this occurred from top to bottom signified that God ripped the thick curtain showing that the way of access into His presence was now available for everyone⁷ because of the death of Jesus Christ, our Savior.

III. He is risen! We can live after we die for ever and ever.

A. Matthew 28:1–6 (NLT) Early on Sunday morning...Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went out to visit the tomb. 2 Suddenly there was a great earthquake! For an angel of the Lord came down from heaven, rolled aside the stone, and sat on it...4 The guards shook with fear...and they fell into a dead faint. 5 Then the angel spoke to the women. “Don’t be afraid!”...“I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. 6 **He isn’t here! He is risen from the dead...**] 2 Pictures¹¹ One thing believers and non-believers agree on is that the tomb of Christ is empty. What happened to the body? Many theories exist but none are reasonable. If the body could be found the Jews could have stopped Christianity but they couldn’t find it.³

1. Siri can give you a list of intellectual atheists and agnostics who sought to disprove the resurrection and became Christians. Lee Strobel investigative reporter

B. What’s the significance to us? [Mt. 27:50–53 (NIV)...At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two...52 **the tombs broke open. The bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life. 53 They came out of the tombs after Jesus’ resurrection** and went into the holy city and appeared to many people.]

1. Observations: (1) People don’t cease to exist when they die. (2) The believers were in Paradise, the holding place of the dead, until Christ died. Now they are in heaven in the Presence of the Lord. (3) When a believer dies today, their spirit goes to be with the Lord. [2 Cor. 5:8 (ESV)...we would rather be **away from the body and at home with the Lord.**] Tragically, when someone who rejects God’s plan dies, they go to Hades until Judgment Day when they go to hell.

C. Jesus made a promise about the resurrection to His followers: [Jn. 11:25 (ESV) Jesus said to *Martha*, “I am the resurrection and the life. **Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live**] Nobody wants to die. We were created for life. There’s sadness in the cemetery but there’s also hope. Because He lives so can we.

IV. Conclusion: ‘It is finished’ and ‘He is risen’ mean nothing unless we act on it.

A. What does this mean? (John 1:12 (NKJV) But as many as **received Him**, to them He gave the right to become children of God...) How do we ‘receive Him’. // Chr. gift. We receive Christ in prayer when we admit our sin, ask God

to forgive us and come into our life. (Acts 20:21 (NLT) I have had one message...the necessity of **repenting from sin** and **turning to God**, and of having **faith in our Lord Jesus**) Pers.testimony

B. Response: I want you to pick the statement that best describes your spiritual life. Bow your head; Be honest. If you're watching online, I want you to respond.

1. I've put my trust in Jesus Christ to save me. I'm 100% sure if I died today, I'd go to heaven because I believe in Jesus and try to follow Him every day.
2. I'm not 100% sure I'd go to heaven. I'm not living for God, but I want to get right with God today. I want a new beginning in my spiritual life. I want to pray and ask Jesus to forgive me and save me. I'm ready to start following Him.
3. I believe in Jesus but I'm not following Him like I should. I want to recommit my life to Christ. (Stand...clap for those who want to be saved/recommitment.)

C. Ask neighbor, would you like for me to go the with you to receive Christ?

D. Online commitment to Christ: Text 97000, spiritual growth 101, short videos

E. Next week, continue the series, 'Mentor Me'. Biblical characters show us how to have a better life. Decide now, I'm coming back. Prayer team and closing song.

V. Bibliography/ Resources: Logos Bible Software and Library, Platinum Edition, was used to prepare this message.

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