

IT IS FINISHED

John 19:28-30

Awareness

Before listening, reflect:

- What is the difference between saying “I am finished” and “It is finished”?
- What does it mean “to dwell” with someone or something?

It's human nature to do. We are driven by a desire to earn our keep and pay our way. How often do you think “if I first do the housework, then I can go do something fun.” This kind of thinking even spills over into our spiritual lives. “If I pray more faithfully, then God will answer my prayers” or “If I only live a more holy life now, then I will go to heaven.” But Jesus makes clear in his dying breath from the cross that the work of salvation, the work of restoring God's people into relationship with him, well, “It is finished.” This final word from the cross, as recorded in the Gospel of John, means more than that Jesus' suffering had simply finished. With these words, Jesus was declaring that his sacrifice was complete and that he had conquered death. The victory is his, the work is done, we no longer need to *do*! The triumph we proclaim at Easter is that Jesus has ushered in a new beginning—for you, for me, for all who will receive it. Join us as we study this last word from the cross, find relief from our nagging impulse to earn our way, and learn instead how to bask in the joy of our restored relationship with God.

Listen: [*It is Finished*](#)

Reflection

After listening, consider:

- Why is it vital to our faith for us to recognize that Christ's declaration, “It is finished,” means more than simply the end of his suffering?
- In segment 2, host Scott Hoezee says, “what Jesus accomplished was finally the reunion of God and humanity; which ties together really the whole of scripture.” Why does he say it ties the whole of scripture together? And why is this important?
- How do we typically talk about our faith practices and the ways we cultivate our faith? Do you think they reflect *doing for* or *being in a relationship with* God? Are your practices conducive to *dwelling* in relationship with God? Why or why not?
- In segment 3, Scott and host Dave Bast remind us that salvation is both personal and cosmic and that when Christ says “It is finished,” he uses the perfect verb tense which “signifies the ongoing result of a past action.” Identify some of the specific ways you can see the ongoing results of Christ's victorious accomplishment on the cross in your life and our world today.

Related Passages

- **Hebrews 7:23-27**
- **Hebrews 9:23-28**
- **Hebrews 10:1-14**
- **Romans 3:23-24**
- **Colossians 2:14-15**
- **Romans 1:2-4**

Conclusion

In segment 2, Dave says, “The work that Jesus has done on our behalf is finished, but our work isn’t finished.” At this point, it’s natural to think about things we could do to make ourselves better Christians. But to do so would be to miss Dave’s point. He continues, “There is something we need to do, and the New Testament makes it clear that we need to respond to this in faith. We need to entrust ourselves to him and to what he has done.”

For the season of Lent, we committed ourselves to preparing our hearts and minds for Easter. We remember our sin and we intentionally reflect on Christ’s sacrifice and the crucifixion. But on Easter, we acknowledge that “It is finished.” We don’t need to wait for heaven, we can dwell with God now. Don’t let the meaning of Easter and Christ’s resurrection be a fleeting celebration. Think about what it would look like to be about the business of celebrating, of intentionally seeing the ongoing results of Christ’s work in your daily life, and of dwelling with God. Then consider challenging yourself to set aside the spiritual “to-do” list (because Christ has already accomplished it!) and *do* nothing, instead, develop a practice of *dwelling* with God and reveling in the relationship that Christ has restored.

<https://groundworkonline.com/episodes/it-is-finished>

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