

It is Finished

It's easy to assume that when Jesus Christ declares "It is finished," he means his suffering is finished. But as we study his final word from the cross, we discover it is really a cry of accomplishment. He is declaring his work done. His sacrifice is complete and death conquered. The victory is his! The triumph we proclaim at Easter is just the beginning of our reconciled, reunited relationship with God. Because of Jesus, it is once again possible for God to dwell among his people and for us to respond to him in faith.

AWARENESS Before listening reflect on what you already know or understand about topics we'll cover in the episode.

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



LISTEN TO THE EPISODE: [It is Finished](#)

READ [John 19:28-30](#)

REFLECTION After listening, consider the following questions:

- 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 for further study

[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>

Printed on November 21, 2024