



The Life of Jesus (133)

The Crucifixion of Jesus
(11)

The Seven Last Words of
Jesus on the Cross (6)



John 19:30

#1 (6) It Is Finished

2) Fulfillment of Salvation

The second meaning of “It is finished” is that Jesus finished the work of salvation for us.

God entrusted Jesus with many works but the most important thing Jesus did on earth was complete our salvation. That was the purpose for which He came into the world. The very name of Jesus reveals this.

“She will give birth to a son, and **you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins**”
(Mt 1:21)

Jesus also said, “The Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.” (Lk 19:10)

“I did not come to judge the world, **but to save the world.**”
(Jn 12:47)

The name Jesus comes from the Greek name Iēsous, which in turn comes from the Hebrew name Yeshua, meaning “**Yahweh saves**” or “**the Lord is salvation.**”

#2 (6) It Is Finished

Saving people from their sins was the purpose for which Jesus came into the world, and that purpose was completely fulfilled on the cross.

Then, we might ask: What is the salvation that Jesus wanted to accomplish? And how did His crucifixion contribute to it? These questions are crucial to understanding what Christianity is.

What Is Salvation?

Some people may think that salvation is the forgiveness of sins. Some people may also think that salvation is going to heaven after death.

These are important meanings of salvation. But salvation is much more than that. Salvation cannot be reduced to simply having our sins forgiven and going to heaven after we die, because the biblical definition of salvation refers to a fundamental transformation of who we are and of all the relationships we have.

#3 (6) It Is Finished

At its core, salvation is about our relationship with God.

The Bible says that human beings are created in the image of God. Because we are made in God's image, we find in Him what we are meant to be. All the values that we consider to be important, such as love, freedom, equality, and human rights, stem from this.

We also find life in our relationship with God. Only God has eternal life, so it is in our relationship with God that we can have the eternal life that He gives us. Likewise, our relationship with God explains every important aspect of our lives. So, as human beings who are created in the image of God, what matters most is how we relate to God.

Only when we are in a proper relationship with God can we live rightly, according to the purpose for which we were created. Only when we're in a proper relationship with Him can we love Him and love one another with His love according to His image in which we were created. And, only when we are in a close relationship with God can we enjoy the true, eternal life He has.

#4 (6) It Is Finished

But we lost all these blessings when sin entered the world.

The essence of sin is rebellion against God and refusal to acknowledge Him as the Creator and thus the Lord of our lives. So **sin inevitably leads to the severance of our relationship with God.** And that severance has had a huge, negative impact on our lives.

We've lost the image of God. We've lost the purpose and the reason for our existence. We've lost our way as to how we should live. And, we've lost true life.

But the salvation of Jesus Christ restores all of these things to their original states. His salvation breaks down the barrier of sin between us and God and reconciles us to God. That's the biblical meaning of salvation. **It means reconciliation with God.**

As Paul said, "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, **the new creation** has come: The old has gone, the new is here! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ..." (2Co 5:17-18)

#5 (6) It Is Finished

In order to give us this amazing gift of reconciliation with God, Jesus died on the cross. There, He fulfilled our salvation through His suffering and death. That's why He said, "It is finished."

Why Is Crucifixion Necessary?

Then, why is crucifixion necessary for salvation? How did Jesus' crucifixion contribute to His work of salvation?"

The most important thing about salvation is dealing with the problem of sin. Because it is sin that severs our relationship with God, **it is necessary for the problem of sin to be solved in order for us to be saved.**

In the Old Testament, animals without defect were used to make atonement for people's sins. **Blood and death were essential for the forgiveness of sin** because the wages of sin is death, and God places the life of a creature in its blood.

#6 (6) It Is Finished

But there was a problem with animal sacrifices: the atonement from it was temporary.

Because animals and humans are not of equal value, the blood shed by animals could not fully atone for human sins.

Therefore, **three conditions** were necessary for the complete forgiveness of sins. First, the sacrifice had to be blameless; second, the sacrifice had to bleed to death; and third, the sacrifice had to be of sufficient value to forgive all human sins.

We see how all of these conditions were perfectly satisfied on the cross. First, Jesus is the only person without any sin, blemish, or defect. Second, He died on the cross, shedding His blood. And third, because He is the Son of God, He could represent all human beings.

That is why Jesus is the only way we can receive forgiveness of our sins and come to God. There is no sacrifice that meets all the requirements for atonement except Jesus.

#7 (6) It Is Finished

There are many passages that testify to this fact.

“All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood – to be received by faith…” (Rom 3:23–25)

“For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things… by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.” (Col 1:19–20)

“But when Christ came… he went through the greater and more perfect tabernacle… He did not enter by means of the blood of goats and calves; but he entered the Most Holy Place once for all by his own blood, thus obtaining eternal redemption” (Heb 9:11–12)

“He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.” (1Jn 2:2)

#8 (6) It Is Finished

That is why Jesus' suffering, blood, and death on the cross are the completion of our salvation.

"It is finished" indicates He has consumed the cup of God's wrath on our behalf, and through His sacrifice, the bridge of salvation between God and sinful humanity has been established.

When Jesus said, "It is finished," it was indeed a turning point in the entire history of mankind. At that moment, the Old Testament came to an end and the New Testament began. As some theologians say, the cross was "**the Great Divide**" in human history.

At that moment, the justice of God was fully met. At that moment, the sacrifices of the Old Testament permanently ceased, because the perfect sacrifice laid down His life for the salvation of mankind. Jesus' mission of salvation was accomplished. His task was complete.

#9 (6) It Is Finished

That's where our assurance of salvation comes from. We know that our salvation is complete because Jesus said so.

The moment He said, *tetelestai*, "it is finished," He indeed completed our salvation.

Now, all those who believe in Jesus and His works and accept Him as their Savior and Lord are saved, no matter who they are or what they have done.

The work of salvation is already done. The way is already open for us to be saved. We no longer need to do anything to be saved, because the Lord has already paid all the debts of our sins in full.

In Jesus, we're saved. In Jesus, we're forgiven of our sins, made righteous, reconciled with God, restored to His image, and promised to have eternal life in His kingdom. We can have these amazing blessings right now if we choose to believe in Him.

Memory Verses

“She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins”
(Mt 1:21) (1)

God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood - to be received by faith...” (Rom 3:23-25) (1)

“For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things... by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.” (Col 1:19-20) (2)

“He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.” (1Jn 2:2) (1)

Reflection Questions

1. What do the words “It is finished” tell you about salvation? What is salvation? What did Jesus do to accomplish it? How can you have it?
2. Do you believe in Jesus and all the works He did on the cross? If so, how did you come to believe in Him? If not, what makes you hesitate to believe in Him?