

HIS WORK IS FINISHED

John 19:30

(Not entirely original with me)

Introduction: In a wonderful song that William J. & Gloria Gather wrote in 1976 entitled "It Is Finished," Jesus' last hours on earth are described in a very picturesque manner as there being "a line drawn through the ages and on that line stands the old rugged cross and on that cross a battle is raging, for the gain of man's soul or his loss." The song goes on to describe the forces of evil being on one side and on the other the angels of glory and they meet on Golgotha's hill there at Jesus' crucifixion. The earth shakes and darkness covers the earth and there in the midst of all the conflict hangs God's Son. When Jesus uttered those words, "*...it is finished...*" it was indeed finished, not the cry of one who had been conquered, no wailing of defeat but it was the cry of one who had completed a long, strenuous labor and finally it was all done as it was supposed to have been done, it was the cry of "victory!"

I. HIS WORK WAS FINISHED TO HIS GLORY

1. Jesus finished what He came to this earth to do.
 - How often have we began things, sometimes well, but after a while we slack off, and eventually fall to the side, never completing what we started and if completed, it was never perfectly.
 - Not so with Jesus for He began well and ended accomplishing what He started.
2. What exactly was it that Jesus finished?
 - Jesus' life-work and His atoning sacrificial death was for the sins of mankind.
 - Jesus came to stand in our/mankind's place before God, to suffer on our behalf.
 - For His 33 years on earth, Jesus was obedient to every injustice, trial and pain that could be put on Him and now it was costing Him His earthly life, all to redeem us/mankind.
 - What patience to be able to carry on through all that He suffered and then to give up His earthly life. What a wonderful work Jesus had done.
3. When Jesus said, "*...it is finished...*", who was He talking to?
 - Jesus was speaking directly to God, His Heavenly Father.
 - Before all those around the cross watching and listening, Jesus said, "Father, it is finished, I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do..."
4. Jesus had truly finished what He had come to do.
 - From His birth to His death there was nothing omitted, not a single act of service left undone, nothing bypassed, nothing done carelessly, everything done with divine precision.
 - Examine Jesus' life beginning at Bethlehem and go to Golgotha, looking microscopically at every second of it and you will find that all is finished, completed and perfect.

II. HIS WORK WAS FINISHED FOR THE CHURCH'S FOUNDATION

1. From the cross Jesus God, His Heavenly Father to forgive those who had put Him there.
 - *..I thirst...* " was for Himself and so was that cry, "*...My God, My God, why has thou forsaken me...?*" "*Woman, behold thy son...*" was for His earthly mother, Mary. "*...Today shalt thou be with me in paradise...*" was for the believing thief at His side.

- For the Church His words, "*...it is finished...*" My redeemed bride, my beloved, for whom I came to lay down my life, it is finished, the work is done.
 - "*...Christ loved the Church and gave Himself for it...*" said John in *Revelation*.
 - "*...Unto Him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in His own blood, and hath made us kings and priests unto God and His Father, to Him be glory and dominion for ever and ever...*"
2. Jesus' suffering and shame are finished.
 - Jesus is free from being spit on again, from being whipped, scourged, betrayed for He is now on His great white throne, the glorious King, once a man of sorrows.
 - Who will dare spit on Him, who will dare lie about Him now, who will accuse Him, who will shout "Away with Him, crucify Him?"
 - Those who once despised and rejected Jesus now cry for the mountains and rocks to fall on them and hide their faces from Him that sits on the throne.
 3. God, the Heavenly Father's will has been completed.
 - God is well pleased with the work of His Son, Jesus Christ.
 - Jesus can say, "I have finished the work which My Father gave me to do, wherefore be comforted O my people for My Father is well pleased with me, and well pleased with you in me."
 - What God sent Jesus here to do, Jesus did perfectly and completely.
 4. Jesus' work for the redemption of His Church is finished, perfected.
 - There is not another single thing to be added or done.
 - Those whom Jesus bought with His blood are forever clear of all charges.
 - When Jesus uttered "*...it is finished...*" it is finished forever.
 - All debts have been paid and those who believe in Jesus will appear without fear before the throne of God itself.
 5. Jesus' work secured His Church's total, final and ultimate triumph.
 - Satan has been defeated.
 - The hosts of darkness have been put down.
 - The hopes of hell have been crushed.
 - Battles are yet to be fought by believers (Jesus' Church), but the enemy/foe has been defeated.
 - His Church/believers take comfort in those words "*...it is finished...*" for victory has been won for every one who believes in the Lord Jesus Christ.

III. HIS FINISHED WORK COMFORTS EVERY BELIEVER IN HIM

1. To believe in Jesus of Nazareth is to believe that He is the Messiah, sent from God.
 - Throughout the Old Testament prophecies and words about the promised Messiah were not all that clear but looking at the life and death of Jesus Christ, every mark, hint, clue, prophecy is clearly shown.
 - Every reference to Jesus being the Messiah has been fulfilled and then Jesus said, "*...it is finished...*"
 - The life and death of Jesus and the prophecies in the Old Testament fit each other like a hand in a glove.

- How the believer's faith should be encouraged for one believing in Jesus Christ is not following cunningly-devised fables but the One who IS the Messiah of God as He so exactly fits all the prophecies that were given before concerning Him.
2. Jesus kept every law God required.
 - Jesus did what nobody else could do and that was keep all of God's laws without exception.
 - Jesus' death on the cross for "law breakers" (us) because He never broke/violated a single law of God and therefore God could accept Jesus' death as a sacrificial death for us/sinners.
 3. Jesus' finished work now gives peace of mind to those who sometimes wonder about being accepted by God.
 - People are always starting some new theory about what else is needed to be made right with God.
 - People who break God's laws are in no way capable to determining how to get right with God and every human being breaks God's laws.
 - Jesus is the only one who has not broken God's laws and God has stated more than once that He was "*...well pleased*"
 - One's conscience can never be at rest until God is satisfied and only Jesus Christ has satisfied God concerning mankind's sin.
 4. Jesus' finished work is a guarantee of eternal salvation to those who believe in Him.
 - Jesus finished the work needed FOR us/believers and He will finish the work IN us/believers.
 - If as sinners Jesus loved us so much to die for us, not that He has saved/redeemed us and has brought us to Himself, making us family, friends, disciples, He certainly will finish whatever is necessary to make us/believers fit to stand and sing praises in Heaven.
 - What can anyone possibly add to what Jesus has done that has satisfied almighty God concerning our sinful state before Him?
 - What can a person bring to God that is better than what Jesus has done?
 - Nothing can be added by anybody to what Jesus Christ has done for God, the Father and His justice has been satisfied and all is well between the believer and God.

CONCLUSION:

1. If Jesus has finished everything, what is left for the believer to do?
 - Certainly nothing is left to do for one's salvation, but there is much that the believer can do for Jesus.
 - Paul asked Jesus two questions: "*...Who art thou Lord?...*" "*...Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?...*"
 - Jesus finished work which we (believers) could not do, but there is work for Him which we are privileged and allowed even commanded to do.
2. Believers must keep at their work until they, too, finish their work.
 - Believers do not work to be saved but because they are saved.
 - There are lost souls all around and believers are to win those lost souls to the Lord Jesus.

3. Believers can finish their work for Jesus Christ finished His.
 - Jesus made it to the end, so can believers.
 - Keep on keeping on.
 - Think not that your work is finished till you die.
 - As long as there is breath in your body, keep serving the Lord Jesus, as long as you can think, speak, work, keep on serving Him.

4. The Lord Jesus said, "...*it is finished...*" therefore let us believers in Jesus Christ also say, "Lord, I will finish, too, you finished yours, now I will finish mine..."

5. As long as you are alive, keep on serving the Lord Jesus in whatever way/manner you can, not as others do, but as only YOU can and only as the Lord wants you to.
 - Find and do what the Lord has for you to do for Him. There is something that only YOU can do for Him.