

## “It Is Finished”

Text : **John 19: 28-38**

### **INTRODUCTION :**

#### **A. Illustrations to emphasize man’s tendency to forget.**

1. What is your response when you hear the date **Aug. 24, 1814** ?
  - a. Do you have any response ?
  - b. Few today place any significance on that date.
2. What is your reaction to the date **Dec. 7, 1941** ?
  - a. Most of us know what happened on that date, but don’t react to it with emotion.
  - b. Those above 75 remember where they were on that day and ...
3. Now, what is your reaction to the date **Sept. 11, 2001** ?
  - a. All of us remember where we were on **9-11**.
  - b. The mere mention of **9-11** invokes strong emotions within us.
4. Both **Aug. 24, 1814 & Dec. 7, 1941** were significant days in our history.
  - a. On **Aug. 24, 1814**, during the war of 1812, British troops came down from Canada supported by ships from Bermuda captured Washington, D.C. They burned the government buildings, including the White House.
  - b. On **Dec. 7, 1941**, the Japanese attacked our base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. They sunk most of our Pacific fleet while it was still in the harbor killing 2400 people and wounding 1300 others.
  - c. Why is it that these dates do not invoke the same emotional reaction as **9-11** ? Because they are in the more distant past.

#### **B. By nature, people have the tendency to forget.**

1. Some forgetfulness is a defense mechanism.
  - a. We need to get past the emotion of some very painful experiences.
  - b. We must all learn to deal with them and move on. (  *dwell on the positive*  )
  - c. Failure to deal with negative experiences leads to emotional trauma.
2. We make an effort to remember the happy times in life.
  - a. Scrap books
  - b. Photographs
  - c. It’s boring to get trapped watching the home movies of others, but we treasure our own.

**C. Aware of people's forgetfulness, God has always provided reminders for man.**

1. The patriarchs erected "pillars" ( etc. ) as reminders. **Gen. 28:18ff, 31: 13**
2. The Passover reminded Israel of God's deliverance. **Ex. 12: 1 - 13:10, Lev. 23**
3. Jesus commanded His followers to partake of the communion to remind us of our deliverance from the bondage of sin.
  - a. **Luke 22: 17-20** And when He had taken a cup *and* given thanks, He said, "Take this and share it among yourselves; **18** for I say to you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine from now on until the kingdom of God comes." **19** And when He had taken *some* bread *and* given thanks, He broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me." **20** And in the same way *He* took the cup after they had eaten, saying, "This cup which is poured out for you is the new covenant in My blood.
  - b. **I Cor. 11: 23-26** For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus in the night in which He was betrayed took bread; **24** and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "This is My body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of Me." **25** In the same way *He* took the cup also after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, as often as you drink *it*, in remembrance of Me." **26** For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes. (Cf. **Vs-20** )
4. Peter felt responsible to keep reminding brethren of the teachings. **II Pet. 1: 12-15**

**Therefore, I also feel it appropriate for us to be reminded of what Jesus has done for us.**

**I. Jesus brought to fruition the eternal purpose of God.**

- A. God had a plan for saving man even before He created the world.
  1. **Eph. 3:11**- This was in accordance with the eternal purpose which He carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, ( Cf. - **Act 2: 23** )
  2. **Matt. 25:34**- Then the King will say to those on His right, 'Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.
- B. God's plan involved reversing the condemnation Satan had brought on man.
  1. **John 12: 31**- Now judgment is upon this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out.

2. **I John 3: 8b-** The Son of God appeared for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil.

**C. From the time God announced His plan, Satan has tried to prevent it.**

1. God told Satan that a child of man would destroy him. ... **Gen. 3**
2. Satan corrupted all but one man, Noah. ... **Gen. 6**
3. As man multiplied God narrowed the scope to one man, Abraham. ... **Gen 12**
4. The seed of Abraham was widened into a nation, Israel. ... **Exod. 19**
5. From that nation God chose one man, David. ... **I Chron. 17**
6. Using wicked Athaliah, Satan came close to destroying that nation. .. **II Chron. 22**
  - a. She killed all of the seed royal except baby Joash. ( **II Sam. 7: 16, Isa. 11: 1f** )
  - b. The Messiah had to come via the seed of David. Joash was the last of his lineage.
  - c. If Athaliah had killed Joash, Jesus couldn't have been born. ( **No Savior** )
7. When the time was right, God sent Jesus into the world to save mankind. .. **Gal. 4: 4-5**

**II. In spite of Satan's best efforts to prevent it, the promised Savior was born.**

**A. Satan tried his best to prevent Jesus from accomplishing His work.**

1. He tried to use Herod to Jesus kill Jesus as an infant. ... **Matt. 1**
2. Satan used temptations attempting to cause the Savior to sin. ... **Matt. 4**
3. He used the Jewish leaders to oppose and instigate many against the Savior. .. **Mrk 8**
4. When all else failed, Satan's disciples used the Romans to kill Jesus. ... **Act 2: 23**
5. Fortunately for us, Satan did not know the plan of God.
  - a. The prophets didn't even know His plan.
 

**I Pet. 1: 10-12** As to this salvation, the prophets who prophesied of the grace that *would come* to you made careful searches and inquiries, <sup>11</sup> seeking to know what person or time the Spirit of Christ within them was indicating as He predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories to follow. <sup>12</sup> It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves, but you, in these things which now have been announced to you through those who preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven—things into which angels long to look. ( cf – **Eph 3:9** )
  - b. If Satan had known God's plan, he would have protected Jesus.

**B. Satan thought he had defeated God's plan to save man, but he facilitated it.**

1. Jesus came for the purpose of giving His life to ransom mankind. ... **Mark 10: 45**
2. Jesus freely offered His life as a sacrifice for the sins of mankind.
  - a. Jesus was not murdered. **John 10: 11-18**
  - b. His death was voluntary. **Rom. 5: 6-11** , **I John 3: 16**

**C. Imagine the joy of Satan when the Spirit of God left the body of Jesus !**

1. After thousands of years of struggle, Satan thought he had finally prevailed.
2. When Satan heard the words **"It is finished."** he must have taken it as surrender.

**D. BUT, oh how Satan must have mourned when Jesus stepped out of the tomb.**

1. The power struggle between God and Satan was over.
2. The resurrection disarmed Satan. **Death was defeated.**
  - a. Spiritual death was defeated by the sacrifice of Jesus.
  - b. Physical death was defeated by the resurrection of Jesus.

**E. When Jesus said, "It is finished." He was proclaiming the completion His work.**

1. **John 17: 4- I glorified You on the earth, having accomplished the work which You have given Me to do.**
2. He took upon Himself the form of a man ( **Phil 2** ) to :
  - a. To enable Himself to die,
  - b. To enable Himself to perfectly empathize with man. ( **mediate** ) ( **Heb 2: 14-18** )
  - c. And to enable pay man's penalty for sin. ( **man's sin required man's blood** )

**III. When Jesus said, "It is finished." He proclaimed man's debt paid.****A. "It is finished." Translates the original word "tel·eh·o."**

1. Teleo was an accounting term which meant **"Paid in full."** ( *or completed* )
2. It was written across a bill that had been paid or a contract which was fulfilled.
3. Roman tax receipts have been found with **"Teleo"** written across the top.

**B. "It is finished." proclaimed man's sin penalty to be paid in full.**

1. **Read ... Rom. 3: 21-26**
2. **I John 2: 1-2** He is the propitiation for our sin.
3. **Heb. 9: 13-14** , **Heb. 10:4** , **10-14**

**C. Jesus paid the debt for man's sin, because man could not pay it for himself.**

1. **Rom. 5: 6-** For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.
2. If a man keeps every single command perfectly, he has done only the minimum.
  - a. **Luke 17: 10-** So you too, when you do all the things which are commanded you, say, "We are unworthy slaves; we have done only that which we ought to have done." ( Jesus commanded, "**Be perfect...**" **Matt. 5:48** )
  - b. This leaves absolutely **NO** room for error. ( *If one falls short, he can't make it up.* )
  - c. **Sadly**, everyone sins and falls short of God's standard. **Rom. 3: 23, 6:23**
3. Remember, all who are outside of Christ are under "**the law of sin and death.**"
  - a. **Rom. 8: 1-4**
  - b. "**The law of sin and death**" is a law under which the penalty for any sin is the death penalty.

**IV. The resurrection provides proof of payment.**

**A. The resurrection is a unique event in all of human history.**

1. No one has ever brought themselves back from the dead never to die again.
2. Those raised by Jesus and His Apostles all died again.

**B. We know the resurrection happened because it was witnessed by so many.**

1. Jesus was certified dead by expert executioners.
2. He remained in the grave for three days. ( *His body would have been stiff.* )
3. In order to be an Apostle one must have been a witness to the resurrection.
 

**Acts 1: 21-22** Therefore it is necessary that of the men who have accompanied us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us—  
22 beginning with the baptism of John until the day that He was taken up from us— one of these must become a witness with us of His resurrection.
4. The Apostle Paul pointed to 500 witnesses who would testify to the resurrection.
 

**I Cor. 15: 3-8** For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, 5 and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. 6 After that He appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom remain until now, but some have fallen asleep; 7 then He appeared to James, then to all the apostles; 8 and last of all, as to one untimely born, He appeared to me also.

**C. The resurrection proves that Jesus is God and that He has power over the grave.**

**Rom. 1: 4-** who was declared the Son of God with power by the resurrection from the dead, according to the Spirit of holiness, Jesus Christ our Lord,

**D. The resurrection of Jesus demonstrates that He can keep his promise to raise us.**

1. **I Cor. 15: 20-23** ... Jesus is the first fruits.
2. Compare ... **Rom. 8: 11** , **Rev. 1: 5**
3. Our baptism prefigures our ultimate resurrection.

### **CONCLUSION :**

**A. As we participate in this communion service, we remember the single most important event in all of human history.**

1. It is the date from which our calendar is calculated.
2. It is the event which set in motion God's eternal plan to save mankind.
3. It is the event that proves Jesus is God.
  - a. Since Jesus is God, all that He said is true.
  - b. Since Jesus is God, all that He promised will come to pass.
  - c. **Jesus can and will save you if you will trust and obey Him.**

**B. The resurrection is the event upon which all of the Christian religion hinges.**

1. Belief in the resurrection of our Savior sets us aside from all others.
2. Our faith in the resurrection is based on solid evidence.

**C. Jesus is the hope we can believe in. (*Not politicians, economists, etc.*)**

### **INVITATION :**