

IT IS FINISHED

When he had received the drink, Jesus said, *'It is finished.'* *With that, he bowed his head and gave up his Spirit.* (John 19:30)

WHAT DID JESUS FINISH?

1. The long night of his suffering

I put this first because John described how someone held up a sponge soaked in vinegar on a stick, and the Apostle says, ***"When Jesus had received the drink, he said 'It is finished.'"***

Matthew Henry says: When He had received that last indignity in the vinegar they gave Him, He said, ***"This is the last. I am now going out of their reach."***

This was the end of his excruciating suffering. Jesus knows suffering from the inside—more than anyone has ever known it. But he is not suffering now. He's done with that. It is finished.

2. The full course of his obedience

The night before he died, he was able to say to his father, *"I have brought you glory on earth by completing the work you gave me to do"* (John 17:4).

Jesus said, *"I have not come to abolish [the law] but to fulfill [it]"* (Matthew 5:17). Every commandment of God was fulfilled in the life of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus' perfect life of obedience was now complete, and he was about to lay it down, so he said, "It is finished."

3. The decisive battle with his enemy

The life of Jesus was a life of suffering, it was a life of obedience, but it was also a life of conflict with our great enemy the devil.

From the beginning of time, God promised that a Redeemer would come, saying to Satan, ***"You will bite his heel, but he will crush your head"*** (Genesis 3:15). What a picture!

God's promise in Eden is precisely what happened at the cross. In Christ's death, he breaks the devil's power:

Having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross. (Colossians 2:15)

When Jesus died, he went beyond the reach of Satan. Satan could no longer tempt him. The devil could no longer afflict him or cause him to suffer. When Jesus went into death, it was "game over" for the devil and "game on" for us. The decisive battle with the enemy had been won.

4. The complete work of his atonement

Jesus came to seek and save the lost. He came to give his life as a ransom for many, and on the cross with a loud voice, He says, ***"It is finished."***

The word in this verse, ***"finished,"*** is from the Greek word, ***"tetelestai,"*** which is the same word that means **"paid in full."** Often, it was used in an accounting term, which indicates a debt was paid.

The tense of this verb is important to us -- perfect tense (*tetelestai*). In Greek, the perfect tense signifies a past action, the effect of which continues into the present. It has been completed and is still complete. The

effect of the tense in this verb is a sense of finality. His atonement was *free, full, and final*.

He has borne the guilt of our sins. He has endured the punishment of our hell. The divine wrath has been spent on him. The justice of God has been satisfied in him.

The perfect sacrifice has been offered. Complete atonement has been made. Hell has been vanquished. The condemnation has been removed.

Christ finished. We haven't. But with him we will!