

FINISHED

(τετελέσται = 'teteleste')

To bring to a close, to finish, to end, to perform, execute, complete, fulfil, accomplish, to do as commanded.

John 19:30, "*So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!" And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.*" The final word spoken by Jesus and recorded by John is, "***It is finished.***" It is a translation of the Greek word 'τετελέσται', which was a very common word in that society. A slave who had completed an assignment given to him by his master used it. He would report back and say, "*It has been finished!*"

It was used of an artist who had completed work on a painting. He would step back and say, "It's done!" It was used by a merchant who had sold merchandise on credit. When the bill had been paid in full he would write in his ledger book, "*It is finished!*" But note, this word is written in the 'perfect tense', which means something that took place in the past has present abiding effect. Therefore, it could also be translated this way, "*It stands finished and always will be finished!*" In other words, Jesus is saying, "*it has been done now and forevermore!*"

When Jesus used this word on the cross, He was saying, "*Father, I have finished the assignment I was given! I have applied the final strokes to the picture of salvation. It is done! I have paid the penalty for sin. It stands finished and will always be finished!*" Thank God, our salvation rests upon the "finished work" of Jesus on the cross. It has been finished to the full! It is done - now and forevermore! To be saved, we have to do nothing but to accept what He has already done for us. That is a major part of the good news of the Gospel. ***It is finished!***

Whenever you visit the cross you are affirming your complete trust in the 'forever finished' work of Jesus Christ, and nothing else! As Christians we shouldn't live a life of defeat, but one of victory. No matter what the situation, we triumph! Is it going to be easy? No! Will we struggle sometimes? Yes! But in the end, when it's all said and done, we will be victorious. Jesus has established the victory by the finished work on the cross.