

**It is Finished... He is Risen**  
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Seven Words From the Cross

**Luke 24:1-12**

“**It is finished,**” and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.”(John 19:30 ESV)  
Those were Jesus’ last words on Friday. **The mission has been accomplished.**

-There are many things that are left unaccomplished in our lives. Some people left the world without finishing some major projects they had started. For example, **Franz Schubert** has an unfinished symphony (No. 8 in B minor). It is called *Schubert's Unfinished Symphony*.

-Don’t we leave a lot undone in our lives? How about undone tasks, phone calls, visits, unorganized cabinets, unfinished paperwork? Let me ask you, who can claim they have accomplished everything before leaving this world?

Only one person can say, “**It is Finished.**”

He came for a reason. He came to save humanity from eternal demnation. He did accomplish his task. It is finished.

Jesus did not say, “**I am finished.**” NO, he said, “**It is finished.**” In fact, this morning when we are celebrating Christ’s resurrection, we are acknowledging that Jesus was not finished.

The Greek word that has been used for “It is finished” is one word: “**Tetelestai**”.

In the ancient Greek society this word was used for several occasions:

When a **servant** accomplished a task;  
when a **judge** said, “justice has been served, the sentence has been served”;  
when an **accounting** debt was fully paid;  
when an **artist or musician** finished the painting or the composition;  
when a **priest** offered a perfect sacrifice;  
and when a **solider** returned home after winning the war, they would all shout *tetelestai!*

Jesus said about his ministry:

**“My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to accomplish (same Greek verb *teleo*) his work.” (John 4:34 ESV)**

Today we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord.

**He is risen because he did finish his work.** He is risen because Jesus did His Father’s will to the fullest.

What are we celebrating this morning?

### **1. *Tetelestai*: the promise of God has been fulfilled**

“These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.” <sup>45</sup>Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, <sup>46</sup>and said to them, “Thus it is written, **that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead,** <sup>47</sup>and that **repentance for the forgiveness of sins** should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.” (Luke 24:44-47 ESV)

When Jesus says *Tetelestai*, he assures us that he has come for a purpose, which is to fulfill the promises that God the Father made to us. Jesus accomplished those in his life and on the cross. Today, on Resurrection Sunday, we witness that **Christ had suffered and on the third day rose from the dead;**

Brothers and sisters, this is invitation to repentance for forgiveness of sins;

This invitation to experience HIS GRACE.

Do you? Do you know the resurrected Christ in your life?

Paul says it best:

**For all the promises of God find their Yes in him. That is why it is through him that we utter our Amen to God for his glory. (2 Corinthians 1:20 ESV)**

How amazing it is that promises and prophecies made thousands of years ago were fulfilled in the life, death

## 2. *Tetelestai*: Sin is defeated; Satan is defeated

In the beginning when sin entered our lives, as a consequence of our disobedience to God, death, pain and suffering, followed as result a of our sinful nature. Satan's best tool was to manipulate and deceive us. Our sinful nature dominated our lives and eventually led to death.

How do fix this?

Paul explains what the cross of Jesus accomplished:

**<sup>4</sup>He did this so that the just requirement of the law would be fully satisfied for us, who no longer follow our sinful nature but instead follow the Spirit.** (Romans 8:4 NLT)

Someone had to pay the penalty of the sin. Jesus accomplished that on the cross on Friday. On Sunday he declared that he was offering a new beginning, a new life sin would not dominate on our lives. We are still in this world where we live in a sinful nature. **With, by, through and in Christ** we can win over this old nature. "It is finished." The old life is finished. The old ways are gone. The new life, the new and abundant life has just started.

In Hebrews we read:

**And being made perfect (root word *telos*), he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him** (5:9 ESV)

Paraphrased translation:

**After he had finished his work, he became the source of eternal salvation for everyone who obeys him.** (5:9 GW)

Jesus was forsaken so we would never and never be forsaken.

3. *Tetelestai*: death is defeated.

I read the accounts of the resurrection of Jesus in all four gospels. Each one has different a emphasis. Luke's narrative tells us that the angel of the Lord says:

**Why do you seek the living among the dead?** <sup>6</sup> He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, <sup>7</sup> that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise.” (Luke 24:5-7 ESV)

Christ prepared his disciples for this day. He did prepare us to tell us that death would be defeated. Whenever I do a funeral, I remind myself and my congregation that funerals on this earth are temporary. All tombstones will be temporary for those who believe in Jesus. Our bodies will be raised one day when Christ returns.

#### **4. *Tetelestai*: Fear is defeated**

Some say there are 365 times in the bible we hear about fear. God promises us to be with us, not forsake us. FEAR NOT...FEAR NOT

**“Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified**  
(Matthew 28:5)

**“Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me.”** Mathew 28:10

Jesus’ resurrection is an assurance that we should never be fearful of sin and death. God is giving us a new life new opportunity. God is offering us a transformed life.

Jesus was with disciples when they saw him walking on the water and they were afraid. I love his response: **“Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid.” (Matthew 14:27 ESV)**

#### **Application:**

**Christ gave his heart (life) to each one of us. Each of us is alive because he lives in us.**

**Paul says:**

**I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. (Galatians 2:20)**

**Do you believe in the Risen Lord?**