

COMMUNION DECLARES CHRIST'S FINISHED WORK

MARK 14:24

Communion declares Christ's finished work!

Jesus has reached the last evening He will share with His beloved Disciples, His plan is to celebrate Passover and transform it into a special memorial to the FINISHED WORK of His death. Communion is for His church to celebrate until He Returns.

So on Christ's last evening with His beloved disciples He inaugurates the Lord's Supper as the fulfillment of all Passovers. Christ's Work of Salvation is celebrated as FINISHED!

In the midst of the supper He says in Mark 14:24 And He said to them,
"This is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many.

What is the New Testament or Covenant in His Blood?

Look at His words in Acts 26:18

'to open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, **that they may receive forgiveness of sins** and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me.'

How does God forgive us when we are all guilty and deserving of punishment? Jesus gave Himself for us, and when He did so He FINISHED all that needed to be done to pay for sins! For a moment listen to the heart of Charles Wesley reflected in the hymn Arise my soul arise.

Arise my soul arise,
Shake off thy guilty fears;
The bleeding sacrifice,
In my behalf appears;

Before the throne my surety stand,
My name is written on His hands.

My God is reconciled,

His pardoning voice I hear,
He owns me for His child,
I can no longer fear;

With confidence I now draw nigh,
And Father, Abba Father, cry.

Now look at His declaration of the FINISHED WORK in 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.

Our Lord spoke seven times from the cross. The first three words were to mankind, the last four to God. But the 6th word was the best, it was the word of forgiveness.

John 19: 30

"When Jesus received the vinegar, He said, IT IS FINISHED."

"At these¹ words "you hear fetters burst and prison walls falling down; barriers as high as heaven are overthrown and gates which had been closed for thousands of years again move on their hinges."

1. Luke 23: 34 "Father forgive them" - He showed His pity toward sinful humanity and gave a word of forgiveness.
2. Luke 23: 43 – "Today" – Word assurance showing His power toward sinners who believe.
3. John 19: 26-27 "Woman" – Showing His provision He spoke a word of devotion.
4. Mark 15: 34 "My God, My God why" – Spiritual anguish and separation from God.
5. John 19: 28 – "I thirst" – Showing His physical agony.
6. John 19: 30 "It is finished" – This is the word of triumph. Christ had finished His mission. Hallelujah! It was just one word, tetelestai, finished. But, was it finished? Can we know? The Scriptures are clear that we can. Let's ponder these truths. Turn to Matthew 1 as I share one ancient's testimony.

*Wonder of wonders! On the cross He dies!
Man of the ages, David's mighty Son,
The Eternal Word who spake and it was done,
What time, of old, He formed the earth and skies.*

*Abashed be all the wisdom of the wise!
Let the wide earth through all her kingdoms know
The promise of the Lamb of God, whose blood should flow—
For human guilt the grand sole sacrifice.*

¹ said F.W. Krummacher.

*No more need altar smoke, nor victim bleed:
'Tis finished! The great mystery of love.
Ye sin condemned, by this blood, 'tis decreed.
Ye stand absolved; behold the curse removed!
O Christ! Thy deadly wounds, Thy mortal strife
Crush death and hell and give immortal life.*

*"Tis finished all: the veil is rent,
The welcome sure, the access free:
Now then we leave our banishment,
O Father, to return to Thee!*

Horatius Bonar

At this Lord's Supper Communion, please remember one truth that can carry you confidently to the Grave and beyond, IT IS FINISHED. Jesus finished all that needs to be done to get you to Heaven. All you need is to believe and receive Him.

Christ's entire ministry was culminated at this moment, all His work was done!

Trace the truth of this with me through just a few portions of Matthew:

Matthew 1:21 "Save people from sins"
Finished

"And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins."

Matthew 2:11 Object of human worship
Finished

And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Matthew 3:15 Fulfill all righteousness Finished

But Jesus answered and said to him, "Permit it to be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he allowed Him.

Matthew 4:10 "Be gone Satan" victory over Satan Finished

Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve.' "

Matthew 5-7 Sermon on the Mount: Power to live
Finished

Matthew 8:3 Power to cleanse
Finished

Then Jesus put out His hand and touched him, saying, "I am willing; be cleansed." Immediately his leprosy was cleansed.

Matthew 9:5-7 Power to forgive Finished

"For which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Arise and walk'?⁶ "But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins"—then He said to the paralytic, "Arise, take up your bed, and go to your house."⁷ And he arose and departed to his house.

Matthew 10:28 Authority to judge
Finished

"And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

Matthew 11:28 Comfort to the burdened
Finished

"Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

Matthew 12:40 The Ultimate sign to seekers Finished

"For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

Matthew 13:30 Power to redeem from hell Finished

'Let both grow together until the harvest, and at the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, "First gather together the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them, but gather the wheat into my barn." ' "

Matthew 14:30 Power to save eternally Finished

But when he saw that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, "Lord, save me!"

In fact, this is the central theme of all the Scriptures! Think of this, His FINISHED WORK is from cover to cover.

GENESIS 3:15 The one promised to crush the serpent did it – He was FINISHED!.

EXODUS 33:17 The one greater than the deliverer, Moses - was FINISHED!

LEVITICUS 1:2 The ultimate sacrifice to take away sin - was FINISHED!

NUMBERS 21:9 The one lifted up on the pole for the people's sin unlike the temporary brazen serpent. He was FINISHED!

DEUTERONOMY 5:29 The power to keep the covenant - was FINISHED!

JOSHUA 5:14 The way into the eternally promised land, by our Great Captain - was FINISHED!

JUDGES 21:25 The righteous and true judge - was FINISHED!

RUTH 2:12 The ultimate kinsman redeemer under whose wings we trust - was FINISHED!

I & II SAMUEL The perfect King was FINISHED!

I & II KINGS The perfect Prophet was FINISHED!

I & II CHRONICLES The perfect Priest was FINISHED!

EZRA The perfect Scribe, who was the Word was FINISHED!

NEHEMIAH The ultimate rebuilders was FINISHED!

ESTHER The perfect deliverer of His people was FINISHED!

JOB The one who is enough for His people was FINISHED!

PSALMS He who is the Object of all our worship was FINISHED!

PROVERBS He who is the Incarnation of all wisdom was FINISHED!

ECCLESIASTES The only hope to escape the brevity of earthly life was FINISHED!

SONG OF SOLOMON The one whom our soul loves, our beloved was FINISHED!

ISAIAH The Prince who paid for our Peace was FINISHED!

JEREMIAH The Eternal New Covenant Maker was FINISHED!

LAMENTATIONS The Great is Thy Faithfulness God was FINISHED!
EZEKIEL The giver of new hearts (30:26) was FINISHED!
DANIEL The Most High who rules heaven and earth (4:25) was FINISHED!
HOSEA The ultimate forgiver (3:1) was FINISHED!
JOEL Our Saviour who Keeps word (2:11) was FINISHED!
AMOS Our Creator (5:8) was FINISHED!
OBADIAH The One who rescues us from God's Wrath coming in the Day of the Lord (v. 15) was FINISHED!
JONAH The One who came to lay in a grave as our Son of Man - 3 days (1:17) was FINISHED!
MICAH The One who was from Eternity, born in Bethlehem was FINISHED!
NAHUM Our Lord who is Slow to anger (1:3) was FINISHED!
HABAKKUK Our Holy One (1:12) was FINISHED!
ZEPHANIAH The Seeker of humble (2:3) was FINISHED!
HAGGAI The One promised to be with us (1:13) was FINISHED!
ZECHARIAH The One who Gives His Spirit (4:6), and laid the heaven and the earth's foundations (12:1) was FINISHED!
MALACHI The One who writes the Book of remembrances (3:16-17) was FINISHED!

So Christ's work was FINISHED on the Cross. He is still answering forgiving sinners like you and me and then inviting us to remember that FINISHED WORK at this Table. Will you do that tonight?

Matthew 26:28 This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. (NIV)

Tonight we celebrate the cup of forgiveness because His body was broken for us and His blood poured out to FINISH the WORK of SALVATION!