

Last Words: Sayings from the Cross and from Beyond the Grave (The Word of Victory) John 19:30

INTRODUCTION

Do you ever feel like your life is littered with half-completed projects? Even though I value being able to complete what I start, my days are often filled with unfinished business. **We all know what it's like, don't we?** All of us have unfinished things cluttering up the highway of life: —the half-mowed lawn —the half-read book —the letter started but never sent —the abandoned diet —the emails needing replies —the phone calls never returned. Sadly, and perhaps tragically, my **“to-do”** list reads more like a **“never-done”** catalog of broken commitments. Don't lose heart...we are not alone!

Did you know that the granite depiction of the four American presidents at **Mt. Rushmore is an uncompleted project?** That's right...the world's greatest mountain carving is not finished and probably never will be. The sculptor had originally planned for the figures to be depicted to their waist. Even Michelangelo, who is considered one of the greatest artists of all time, would often begin a project only to abandon it in a fit of anger. Amazingly, when he died, he left more unfinished works than ones that were completed.

All of us go through life leaving behind a trail of unfinished projects and unfulfilled dreams. How few there are who can come to the end of life and say, **“I finished exactly what I set out to do.”** Only one person in history never left behind any unfinished business. His name is Jesus Christ.

I invite you to turn in your Bible to **John 19:30**. This morning we will consider the sixth Cross Word: **The Word of Victory**.

Let's go ahead and take a closer look at this **Word of Victory (John 19:30)**.

Please note with me the following...

I. It is Finished: _____ (19:30)

A. _____ – The meaning of the word

Have you ever stopped to think about the words we use? If you could pick the most popular phrases in the last few years in our country, what would it be? Undoubtedly, some of us would list **“We're in this together,”** & **“Heroes work here”** near the top.

I'd like to submit to you that the greatest word ever spoken in all of history is **“Tetelestai.”** While it might not be common in our culture today, it is profoundly powerful. In English this sixth saying contains three words: **“It is finished.”** In Greek only one word is used: **“Tetelestai!”** The Greeks loved to say a lot using as few words as possible. And this one word is filled with meaning. **It's truly the greatest word ever uttered by the greatest man who ever lived!**

Let's unpack the meaning of this one word and allow it to impact our lives in a fresh way today. We know from the other gospel accounts that **“Tetelestai”** was said in a loud voice. It wasn't a whimper but the cry of a conqueror. It was a shout of victory, a word of triumph. **Tetelestai** comes from the verb **teleo**, which means **“to bring to an end, to complete, to accomplish.”** It's a crucial word because it signifies the successful end to a particular course of action. It's the word you would use when you climb to the peak of Mt. Everest; it's the word you would use when you make the final payment on your new car; it's the word you use when you cross the finish line of your first 10K run. The word means more than just **“I survived.”** It means **“I did exactly what I set out to do.”**

It's important to know that this verb is in the perfect tense. That's significant because it refers to an action that has been completed in the past with results continuing into the present. The past tense says, **“This happened.”** The perfect tense adds the idea that **“this happened, and it is still in effect today.”** It literally means, **“It was finished and as a result it is forever done.”** Or **“It was finished in the past, and it is still finished in the present, and it will continue to be finished in the future.”** We could say it this way: **“All has been done that needed to be done.”**

B. _____ – The mission of Jesus

Let's take a brief walk through the Gospel of John to see how Jesus focused on finishing what He started.

- **John 4:34:** *“My food is to do the will of Him who sent me and to finish His work.”*
- **John 5:36:** *“...For the very work that the Father has given me to finish, and which I am doing, testifies that the Father has sent me.”*

C. _____ – The use of the word in Jesus' day

Please note with me...

II. It is Finished: _____ (19:30)

Jesus' words, **“It is finished”** provide for us **3 glorious benefits:**

A. Atonement for sin

Warren Wiersbe, writes, *“None of the Old Testament sacrifices could take away sins; their blood only covered sin. But the Lamb of God shed His blood, and that blood can take away the sins of the world (John 1:29; Heb. 9:24–28).”*

1. Jesus' death _____ sin

2. Jesus' death _____ reconciliation
with God

B. _____ by God

C. _____ of salvation

1. Jesus' death _____ full assurance
of salvation

2. Jesus' death _____ full
assurance of salvation

CONCLUSION

What can you and I take with us today? There is a powerful, relevant, vital and significant message in these words for you and me.

1. Jesus _____ the demands of God's justice.

2. Justification is by faith _____ in Christ _____.