THE SIXTH WORD

John 19: 30 "It is finished."

When the death-marked lips of Jesus spoke the sentence, "It is finished," He was proclaiming an infinitely vital message. This cry of our Lord meant that now His humiliation and self-denial were ended, that now the Scriptures were fulfilled, that now the intense suffering that brought our redemption and salvation were accomplished, FINISHED!

His whole earthly life -- from His lowly birth in poverty and rags in Bethlehem's stable to His death of shame upon the Cross -- had now at long last come to an end. Oh, what joy He must have felt now, in the prospect of being delivered from it! Now He could again return to the full and uninterrupted enjoyment of that glory which He had with the Father from the beginning.

IT IS FINISHED -- Gethsemane, with its bloody sweat; Gabbatha, with it cruel mockery and scourging; Golgotha, with its thousand tortures and agonies; all is now over. The last drop of His atoning blood was shed, the last bitter dregs in the cup of shame were drained. By this "one sacrifice for sins forever" in the temple of Calvary, on the altar of the cross, Jesus, as both High Priest and atoning Sacrifice, paid the full price for all sins.

Now at the utterance of this cry all the Old Testament types and prophecies concerning Him were fulfilled, from the first promise of redemption given to our first parents immediately after the fall, on down to the very last. Now the serpent's head was crushed, redemption obtained, peace and reconciliation with the Father secured. IT IS FINISHED. In the blood of the Lamb there is complete victory over sin, death, and the devil.

Listen to some of the Old Testament prophecies now completed here on the sacred hill of Calvary. There is Zechariah's prophecy: "So they weighed for my price thirty pieces of silver." There is David's prophecy: "They parted

My garments among them, and upon My vesture they cast lots." There is Isaiah's prophecy: "He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement of our peace was upon Him, and with His stripes we are healed." Again, another prophetic word: "A bone of Him shall not be broken." "They shall look on Him whom they have pierced." Must we not marvel at how these predictions were fulfilled, even to the smallest detail?

With the entrance of sin into the world men were taught to come to God by sacrifice. These sacrifices pointed forward to that sacrifice of the promised Redeemer on the altar of the cross. On the Great Day of Atonement, corresponding to our Good Friday, two goats were selected, one of which was slain and its blood taken by the high priest into the Holy of Holies, the most sacred part of the Tabernacle and the Temple, and there it was sprinkled on the mercy-seat, the top of the Ark of the Covenant; the other goat, after the sins of the people had been confessed over its head by the high priest, was led out into the wilderness to typify the carrying away of sins. And now the true ark of salvation was prepared. In the tragedy of Calvary the foreshadowing of these sacrifices was completed, finished! Our sins have been carried away.

Friends, the whole Old Testament has but one purpose -- to point forward to the salvation of Calvary. Behold Moses lifting up the serpent of brass in the wilderness on a pole with a cross-beam, having the exact shape of a cross. Those who would look upon it would not be harmed by the deadly snakes. And now, as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so the Son of Man is lifted up. Look upon Him and be saved!

Behold Abraham climbing up Mount Moriah, binding his son, his only son, his beloved son, Isaac, upon an altar in sacrifice, yea, raising his hand to smite him. And now the real Isaac of God's love had b een offered by the Father that spared not His only Son.

All the prophecies and predictions, all the types and foreshadowings --

everything had come to an end with the Savior's triumphant cry, "IT IS FINISHED." Complete and absolute salvation has been obtained for all men, at all places, in all ages. Nothing can or could be added to the supreme sacrifice of the Savior. Our merciful Mediator has done everything completely. To make the salvation which He has wrought for us ours, ours to have, to hold, and to cherish, we need only to cling in sincere faith to His blood-drenched Cross. Then the angel of death will pass over us, even as He passed over the homes of the children of Israel who had the blood of a spotless lamb sprinkled on the door posts. "There is no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus."

Think of it -- SALVATION FREE AND COMPLETE! As we behold His infinite and incomprehensible love, let our hearts be melted to true repentance, and let our faith prove its sincerity by a life of Christian devotion and service. Is there anything that we can begrudge our Lord and Savior or withhold from Him? Should we ever fail to do anything that would please Him? Nay, let us rather crucify our sinful flesh with its affections and lusts, and live henceforth unto Him who died for us. God grant it for Jesus' sake.

Amen.

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