

Reading: John 19:30-42

“It is finished !” (Jn 19:30)

All the demands of a holy and righteous God were perfectly satisfied when Christ offered His body without any blemish, and shed His blood without any spot. His was the perfect offering. There is nothing we can add to it because it is just not necessary. Man thought that Jesus was finished, but He shouted victoriously that the work was finished!

Salvation comes to us as a free gift because of the finished work on the Cross. A gift cannot be earned, it must only be received. On God’s side salvation is all of grace, and on our side it is all of faith. We are not saved “by” good works but “for” good works. Boasting is totally out (Eph 2:8-10). The gospel is a Good News for those who have done their best but failed!

The problem of the natural man with human reasoning is in understanding how the greatest of all gifts can be received by simple faith. In his pride and prestige he wants to “do” something and earn it. But God declares, “Done!” The message of the Cross is simply profound and profoundly simple. That’s where the religionist stumbles.

When certain teachers from Judea urged the early Christian believers to be circumcised besides their faith in Christ, Paul and Barnabas had “no small dissension and dispute” with them (Acts 15:1,2). Yes they violently reacted to adding anything to the Cross.

In Galatia the believers wanted to add Law to Grace. Paul said this very attempt was their fall from grace! (Gal 5:4). He also said that Christ had to be formed in them again! (4:19). Law and Grace cannot coexist, Ishmael and Isaac cannot dwell together. “To be on the safer side, let’s do that also!” This sounds good but is opposed to the Cross wherefrom Christ shouted, “It is finished !”

Read Paul’s Epistles again and again to understand the meaning of salvation by grace. We are what we are by the grace of God. We shall be what we should be by the grace of God. This Good News is exclusively for those who have failed miserably though they have tried all means.

*It is finished, Man of Sorrows,
From Thy Cross our frailty borrows
Strength to bear and conquer thus!*

(Frederick H. Hedge, 1805-1890)

"It is finished!"

Father God,

We thank You for the Cross of Calvary on which Your Son offered Himself as a sweet-smelling sacrifice to You. We thank You for His body that was broken for us. We thank You for His blood that was shed for the remission of our sins. Thank You that He finished the great work of redemption to Your satisfaction. Thank You, Jesus, for taking on You the penalty for our sin.

We wasted so many years thinking that we could be saved by our religious rites and so-called good works. Our eyes were blind to see the finished work of Christ. We never realized that our so-called goodness and uprightness cannot stand before Your awesome holiness. Our so-called righteousness is filthy rags before You, Lord.

The hands of Jesus were nail-pierced because of the sins of my hands. His feet were nail-pierced because I went to places where I ought not go. His head was crowned with thorns because of my evil imaginations and corrupt mind. His side was pierced with a spear because every thought of my heart was evil. I thank You, Father, Your Son took my place on the Cross. I bow down and take Him as my Substitute and Saviour. I am eternally indebted to His sacrifice and Your love.

Father God, we come to You for the millions of Christians in our Churches who have not understood the substitutionary death of Christ. They trust in their Church membership and religious rituals. We pray that our Pastors and Preachers teach them the glorious truths of Salvation. Remove the scales from the eyes of our unsaved fellow-Christians so they may get a personal revelation of Your Salvation. Salvation belongs to You, O God!

O Jehovah God, we pray for the Israelites, even Your covenant people. They have a zeal for You, but not according to the knowledge of Your plan of Salvation. Being ignorant of Your righteousness, they have not submitted to it but are seeking to establish their own righteousness. Like Paul, with our heart's desire we pray unto You that they might be saved. We beseech You, Lord, to raise preachers among them like the early apostles to prove from the Scriptures that Jesus is the Messiah. Do it, Lord, before He returns.

In the Name of Jesus the Saviour, Amen!

(Eph 5:2; Isa 53; 64:6; Jn 19:30; Mt 26:26-28; Lk 22:19,20; 1 Cor 11:24,25; Isa 64:6; Tit 3:4,5; Gen 8:21; Jonah 2:9; Rom 9:1-5; Rom 10:1-3; Acts 5:42; 17:3; 18:5,28)