



WEEKLY SERMON

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Message #6 Seven Words of Christ at Calvary

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Text: John 19:30

“He Lives”

In I Corinthians 15:3-4 we read, **“For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; (4) And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:”**

It was Easter Sunday morning and the Rev. Alfred H. Ackley was getting ready for the service at his Presbyterian church in California. The year was 1932 and radio was the great communicator.

Rev. Ackley had tuned in and was listening to the various local programs when suddenly the announcer said, "We now join the complete red and blue networks (N. B. C. and A. B. C. they are called today) for a special program originating in New York City." The speaker introduced was a well-known preacher from New York City who was known for his liberal thinking, and this morning he greeted the radio audience with,

"Good morning it's Easter! You know, folks, it really doesn't make any difference to me if Christ be risen or not. As far as I am concerned His body could be as dust in some Palestinian tomb. The main thing is, His truth goes marching on!"

"It's a lie!" exclaimed Rev. Ackley forgetting that the speaker on the radio couldn't hear him and also oblivious to the fact that he was shaving with a straight razor and could cut himself. But Mrs. Ackley did hear and asked him, **"Why are you shouting so early in the morning?"** Mr. Ackley chuckled **"Didn't you hear what that good-for-nothing preacher said!"** as he replied. **"He said it didn't matter whether Christ be risen or not!"**

That morning Mr. Ackley preached as he had never quite preached before. For several weeks he had been talking to a young Jew who had asked, **"Why should I worship a dead Jew?"** Rev. Ackley had replied, **"That's the whole point. He isn't dead - He's alive!"** And now this preacher had dared, with one fell swoop, to try to destroy that which had given the early church its power and for which many had given their lives to proclaim a resurrected, living Saviour! **"When Sunday evening came around;"** said Mr. Ackley, **"I gave them the second barrel."**

And when that service was over and I had gotten home I still hadn't said all I had planned to say. His wife sized up the situation and said, **"Listen here, Alfred Ackley, it's time you did that which you can do best. Why don't you write a song about it and then maybe you'll feel better. Then you'll have something that will go on telling the story."**

Heeding her advice, Ackley went into his study, where he once again turned to the resurrection story as found in Mark 16:6 and reread the words “**He is risen; He is not here!**” A thrill filled his soul - a glorious experience he would never forget. As he thought of the reality of His ever- living presence right there in the room he could hold back no longer and began to write:

**I serve a risen Saviour, - He's in the world today.
I know that He is living, - Whatever men may say.**

On and on he wrote until within a comparatively short time, all the stanza lines and thoughts had fallen into place. Then as he sat down at the piano, the words and melody of the chorus followed immediately - just as they are today.

**I serve a risen Saviour; He's in the world today.
I know that He is living, whatever men may say.
I see His hand of mercy, I hear His voice of cheer,
And just the time I need Him He's always near.**

**In all the world around me I see His loving care,
And though my heart grows weary I never will despair.
I know that He is leading, thro' all the stormy blast;
The day of His appearing will come at last.**

**Rejoice, rejoice, O Christian! Lift up your voice and sing
Eternal hallelujahs to Jesus Christ, the King!
The Hope of all who seek Him, the Help of all who find,
None other is so loving, so good and kind.**

**Chorus:
He lives! He lives!
Christ Jesus lives today!
He walks with me and talks with me
along life's narrow way.
He lives! He lives!
Salvation to impart!
You ask me how I know He lives?
He lives within my heart.**

I close with this from Psalm 96:1-3, “**O sing unto the LORD a new song: sing unto the LORD, all the earth. (2) Sing unto the LORD, bless his name; shew forth his salvation from day to day. (3) Declare his glory among the heathen, his wonders among all people.**”

In *HIS* Amazing Grace,
Pastor David Miklas

"It is Finished"

INTRODUCTION: There was a day when Jesus made a Triumphal entry into Jerusalem. On this day called Palm Sunday, the crowds cried, "Hosanna blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord." Yet several days later, the scene changed and this same crowd cried out "Crucify Him, Crucify Him!" The Apostle Paul expressed it in I Corinthians 1:18 where we read "For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us who are saved it is the power of God." And since the message of the preaching of the cross has the power to save us, we can sing:

King of my life, I crown thee now, thine shalt the glory be.
Lest I forget thy thorn crowned brow, lead me to Calvary.
Lest I forget Gethsemane, Lest I forget thine agony,
Lest I forget thy love for me, lead me to Calvary.

Return with me to the place we call Calvary, into which all the rivers of history empty. Again let us look at the cross on which Jesus, in the flesh, took upon Himself the **SINS** of the **WHOLE WORLD**, stood guilty and condemned before God and willingly paid the penalty for the sins of the entire world.

It was at Calvary where Jesus made **SEVEN** statements from 9:00 AM in the morning to 3:00 PM in the afternoon. **SEVEN** great statements were proclaimed by our Lord from the cross. These **SEVEN** statements become a marvelous demonstration of the person of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Three of these statements came during the first three hours of the crucifixion while the last four came at the end of the crucifixion.

First: the words of **FORGIVENESS**, "Father forgive them; for they know not what they do." Luke 23:34

Second: the words of **SALVATION**, "Today shalt thou be with me in paradise." Luke 23:43

Third: the words of **AFFECTION**, "Woman behold thy Son; Behold thy mother." John 19:26-27

After His third utterance from the cross there was silence. From the sixth hour, or noon time, until the ninth hour, which would have been at 3:00 PM in the afternoon, the sky was darkened. It was during this time that our Lord wrestled with all the forces of evil, the devil, and experienced an eternity in Hell. Beyond that, He experienced the rejection of His Father as He was bearing in His own body all the sins of all the world – past, present, and future.

In I Peter 2:24 we read, "Who His own self bare our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed." Thus we have:

Fourth: the words of **ANGUISH**, "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" Matthew 27:46
and

Fifth: the words of **SUFFERING**, "I thirst" John 19:28.

In this message, we come to the sixth statement of Jesus on the cross. The Gospel of John is the only one to record this sixth cry, "It is finished." Please follow me as we read John chapter 19 verses 25-30,

"Now there stood by the cross of Jesus his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Cleophas, and Mary Magdalene. (26) When Jesus therefore saw his mother, and the disciple standing by, whom he loved, he saith unto his mother, Woman, behold thy son! (27) Then

saith he to the disciple, Behold thy mother! And from that hour that disciple took her unto his own home. (28) After this, Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the scripture might be fulfilled, saith, I thirst. (29) Now there was set a vessel full of vinegar: and they filled a sponge with vinegar, and put it upon hyssop, and put it to his mouth. (30) When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost."

Again notice verse 30, "When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished..."

In the first book of the Bible, after God had completed the work of creation in Genesis 2:1 we read, "Thus the heavens and the earth were FINISHED, and all the host of them." Essentially, God on the sixth day declared, "It is finished."

In the last book of the Bible we read of the final cry, coming out of the temple in heaven when the final judgment of God is poured upon the earth in Revelation 16:17, "And there came a great voice out of the temple of heaven, from the throne saying, It is done." Essentially he said "It is finished."

Two thousand years ago came one of the greatest statements ever spoken by the Lord, "It is finished." Please notice Jesus did not say "I am finished." He said, "It is finished." I'm sure some who stood by the cross thought he meant, "I am finished, this is the end of me." But let's be sure that we understand Jesus' sixth statement on the cross:

**It was not the despairing cry of a helpless martyr.
It was not the last gasp of a worn-out idol, or a cry of anguish.**

This was the cry of the Triumphant Redeemer; it was a declaration of victory. He had reached the goal and was able to say, "It is finished. Mission accomplished." Now as we read through the Gospel of John, we pick up a thread of that goal, time and time again:

In John 4:34, "Jesus said unto them, My meat is to do the will of Him that sent me, and to **FINISH His work.**"

In John 5:36 Jesus said, "But I have greater witness than that of John: for the works which the Father hath given me to **FINISH...**"

In John 17:4 Jesus prayed, "I have glorified thee on the earth; I have **FINISHED** the work which thou gavest me to do."

In Hebrews 10:4-7 we read,

"For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins. (5) Wherefore when he cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but a body hast thou prepared me: (6) In burnt-offerings and sacrifices for sin thou hast had no pleasure. (7) Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me) to do thy will, O God."

Make no mistake about it. The coming of Jesus to this planet was no random afterthought on God's part. Jesus' mission was clear: to do the Father's will, nothing more, nothing less, and nothing else.

Here in John 19, please notice the word "accomplish" in verse 28 and the words, "It is finished" in verse 30. Both words come from the same Greek word "TETELESTAI."

In Matthew 11:1 the word is translated "**When Jesus MADE AN END OF commanding His twelve disciples...**"

In Matthew 17:24 the word is translated "...Doth not the master PAY tribute?"

In Luke 2:39 the word is rendered "**And when they had PERFORMED all things...**"

In Luke 18:31 the word is translated, "**All things that are written...concerning the Son shall be ACCOMPLISHED.**"

By including all four of these translations in which Jesus cried, "TETELESTAI," on the cross, Jesus was saying, "It is made an end of," "It is paid," "It is performed," "It is accomplished." Now

the questions are:

What was "MADE AN END OF?" It was our sins, the sins of the whole world – past, present, and future.

What was "PAID?" It was the price of our redemption.

What was "PERFORMED?" This was the utmost requirement of the law.

What was "ACCOMPLISHED?" It was the work which God the Father had given God the Son to do.

Perhaps the phrase in John 19:30 could be rendered, "**IT STANDS FINISHED FOREVER.**" Another way of saying it would be, "**THE DEBT OF SIN IS PAID, IN FULL, FOREVER.**" Our Lord viewed His work on Calvary as a **FOREVER, FINISHED WORK.**

Nothing could be added to it.

Nothing could be taken away from it.

When Jesus was hanging on the cross and said, "It is finished," He meant He had completed the will of God for His earthly sojourn. From this sixth statement, there are many truths to help us better understand the Lord's cry "It is finished." But in this message, we will look at **THREE** truths.

NUMBER 1. The Completion of Christ's suffering was finished.

In Hebrews 12:2 we read that Jesus, "for the joy that was set before Him **ENDURED** the cross, **despising the SHAME, and was set down at the right hand of the throne of God.**"

In Luke 24:46 we read, "... thus it is written, and thus it behooved Christ to **SUFFER ...**"

Peter, who we believe was an eyewitness to the crucifixion, wrote in I Peter 2:21, "**For even hereunto were ye called because Christ also SUFFERED for us...**"

And in I Peter 3:18 he said, "**For Christ also hath once SUFFERED for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God being put to death in the flesh, but quickened (made alive) in the Spirit.**"

I wish I had the vocabulary and the ability to paint for you an adequate picture of the suffering of Christ. If an adequate picture could be painted of how much Christ suffered in order for us to be saved, I do not think that one sinner would stay away from the Savior a moment longer. When Jesus shouted from the cross, "It is finished," we now understand that His suffering was finished.

No more the shameful traitor's kiss.

No more the mockery in Pilate's court.

No more the false trials before the Sanhedrin.

No more the blindfolding, the plucking out of His beard, the spittle in His face.

No more the crown of thorns and the borrowed purple and scarlet robe.

No more the walking the Via Dolorosa, the way of sorrows, to the place called Calvary.

No more the sharp pain of the spikes through His hands and through His feet.

No more the cursing of the thieves, the railing of the Priests, and the mockery of the crowd.

No more the three hours of darkness during which He was hidden from His Father.

No more the awful thirst, and the taste of bitter gall, and the sting of vinegar.

No more suffering! "It is finished!"

Man and Satan had tried to do their worst.

The cup had been drained.

The awful storm of God's wrath had been spent.

The darkness and the separation from the Father had ended.

The sword of Divine justice had been sheathed.

The wages of sin had been paid.

The cross had been endured.

Divine holiness had been satisfied.

"It is finished." Hallelujah, what a Savior! The famous blind hymn writer, Fanny Crosby,

wrote:

Jesus keep me near the cross, There a precious fountain
Free to all a healing stream, Flows from Calvary's mountain.
Near the Cross! Oh Lamb of God, bring it's scenes before me;
Help me walk from day to day, With its shadows o'er me.
In the Cross, In the Cross, Be my Glory ever...

NUMBER 2. The ceremonial sacrifice of Israel and the priesthood were finished.

From the book of Hebrews Chapter 10 verses 11-18 we read,

“And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins: (12) But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God; (13) From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool. (14) For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified. (15) Whereof the Holy Ghost also is a witness to us: for after that he had said before, (16) This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them; (17) And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more. (18) Now where remission of these is, there is no more offering for sin.”

When Jesus died, there was no more use for priestly ceremonies and animal sacrifices. Christ the High Priest has Himself become our mediator. Christ, the Lamb of God, Himself, paid for our sins.

I wish I had the time to discuss in detail the three phenomenon that took place on the day Jesus was crucified. They show that the Jewish priesthood, their ceremonies and sacrifices had ended. Nevertheless here they are in summary.

First: During the Lord's second mock trial, before the High Priest Caiaphas, in Mark 15:61-63 we discover that:

The High Priest Caiaphas asked Jesus, “**Art thou, the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?**” In response, Jesus answered, “**I am.**”

The High Priest then “**tore his garments**” which was absolutely forbidden in the law for a High Priest to do, thus ending the Levitical priesthood.

Now as you carefully read the Scriptures, you will discover that they began to put the colors of the High Priest's robe on Christ. At one point it was the scarlet robe, at another point it was the purple robe, then it was a white garment, along with a seamless robe, which we believe to be the color blue. At that point, the Levitical priesthood ended and unbeknown to them, they inaugurated the Great High Priest, Jesus!

Second: In John 1:29, John the Baptist seeing Jesus for the first time called out, “**Behold the LAMB of God which taketh away the sin of the world.**” In I Corinthians 5:7 we read, “**...For Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.**” Jesus became their **PASSOVER LAMB**. Remember, each year on the 10th day of the month Nissan, each Jewish family would select a lamb to die on Passover. Their most passionate desire was for a Messiah, a Savior, to come. Jesus' arrival on this particular day was as if God was saying: “**Here's My Lamb, will you choose Him?**”

Could the similarity between the Passover lamb and Jesus' destiny to become God's sacrificial Lamb for the sins of the world be just a coincidence? Traditionally, the daily sacrifice was slaughtered at 3:00 pm in the afternoon, including the day of Passover. At that time, the priest stood at the pinnacle of the temple and blew the **SHOFAR**, or the ram's horn.

As Jesus hung on the Cross, He no doubt heard the piercing blast of the **SHOFAR** carry across the city. Jesus recognized the hour of His sacrifice had come when the knife was scheduled to slit the throat of the Passover lamb. At that moment Jesus looked up to heaven and said, "**It is finished.**" The **GREAT PASSOVER LAMB**, God's substitute, our Passover lamb, Jesus, died at 3:00 PM. Jesus became the **Passover Lamb of God** who now took away your sins and my sins and the sins of the whole world.

Third: As soon as Jesus made His seventh cry, "**Father, into Thy hands I commend my spirit.**" we read in Matthew 27:51, **that the great veil in the Temple that separated the Holy Place from the Holy of Holies was ripped in two.** Because of its size, no one could have torn it but God. Now, because of Christ's blood atonement at Calvary and the tearing of the temple veil the way has been made possible for us to personally go into the presence of God.

Notice again in Hebrews 10:18, "**Now where remission of these is, there is no more offering for sin.**" Praise God,

I need no Jewish priest at a smoking altar, offering lambs and bullocks and goats and pigeons.
I need no priest in a church to "**elevate the host**" and think that sacrifice is acceptable to God.
Christ, my High Priest, offered His own blood in the Holy of Holies in heaven, and now sits at the right hand of God.

Because the last lamb has been slain, because there is no veil between us and God, because the blood has been placed on the Ark of the Covenant in heaven, and because we now have our great High Priest, Jesus, we can rejoice as we read in Hebrews 4:14-16,

"Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. (15) For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. (16) Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need."

**Lifted up was He to die, "It is finished," was His cry.
Now in Heaven exalted High,
Hallelujah what a Savior!**

NUMBER 3. The completion of our eternal salvation was finished. Today, in churches all over the world, people are trying to **DO** something for their salvation, trying to pay their way to heaven, trying to appease God. This is contrary to the Word of God!

It is time to recognize that your eternal redemption is finished, completed, **DONE**. When Jesus said "**It is finished,**" He said, in a literal sense, "**PAID IN FULL!**" Jesus paid the price of your sins at Calvary.

"It is finished!" That is what Jesus meant in John 5:24, "**He that heareth my word, and believeth on Him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment; but is passed from death unto life.**"

"It is finished!" That is what Paul meant in Ephesians 2:8-9, "**For by grace are you saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, It is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.**"

"It is finished!" There is nothing more to pay, nothing more to do. Jesus paid for your salvation in full on the cross. God is not trying to sell salvation. He is offering it free. God is offering you the eternal, everlasting, forever paid in full salvation, the finished work of Christ. When Jesus died, the entire transaction was settled, "**The wages of sin is death,**" and Jesus paid that wage. Now all you have to do is believe.

"It is finished," My friends, do you believe it? Or are you trying to add something of your own to the finished work of Christ to secure the favor of God? The moment you believe God's testimony

concerning His beloved Son, that moment every sin you have ever committed is blotted out, and you stand accepted in Christ!

On the cross, two eternities met - eternity past and eternity future.

**Jesus reached out with one hand and took all the sins from Adam to Calvary.
With the other hand, Jesus reached to the end of the ages and took all the future sins
of mankind, and nailed them all to His cross.**

Therefore, it is no longer the **SIN-QUESTION** but the **SON-QUESTION: "WHAT THINK YE OF CHRIST?"** My friends, the way you answer that question will determine where you spend eternity, for salvation depends upon believing as we read in John 3:36, **"He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him."**

Rest not on your feelings and experiences, but on the written Word of God which says in John 1:12,

"But as many as receive Him, to them gave He the power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name."

**Jesus paid it all, all to Him I owe.
Sin hath left a crimson stain,
He washed it white as snow.**

Perhaps you are here this Lord's day, and you have heard the Gospel story over and over and over again. You have read your Bible. You have gone to church somewhat regularly. In your mind, you are as good as you can be. But my friends, without Christ you are 100% lost and on your way to an eternity in Hell.

You may reject the Savior today, but one day **"You will look on Him whom they pierced."**

You may reject Jesus today, but one day **"at the name of Jesus every knee shall bow ... and every tongue shall confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father."**

I beg you in Jesus name, if you have not already done so that today you will cry unto God, **"Be merciful to me a sinner and save me for Jesus' sake."**

**You must either Love Him or Hate Him.
You must either Be for Him or Against Him.
You must either Accept Him or Reject Him.
You must either Crown Him or Crucify Him.
You must either Confess Him or Deny Him.**

Again hear from Romans 10:9, **"If thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved."** Hallelujah for **"The Old Rugged Cross."**

**On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross,
The emblem of suffering and shame;
And I love that old cross where the dearest and best
For a world of lost sinners was slain.
In the old rugged cross, stained with blood so divine,
A wondrous beauty I see;
For 'twas on that old cross Jesus suffered and died
To pardon and sanctify me.
So I'll cherish the old rugged cross, ...
Til my trophies at last I lay down;
I will cling to the old rugged cross, ...
And exchange it someday for a crown.**

If God has spoken to your heart after reading the sermon on the Sixth Words of Christ at Calvary" **"It is**

Finished.” then right now talk to God about what He has spoken to you.

Do you have the assurance that one day you will go to heaven? If you have no assurance that you know Jesus Christ, then I trust you will decide to accept Him as your personal Savior. The Bible tells us in

Acts 16:31, “**...Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved...**”

Romans 10:13, “**For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.**”

This prayer is here for those who need to ask Jesus to be their personal Savior: “**I do want to go to Heaven. I know I am a sinner, and I do believe Jesus Christ died for me. I realize I cannot buy this great salvation, nor can I earn it. Knowing Jesus died on the cross and arose from the grave to pay my sin debt and to purchase my salvation, I do now trust Him as my Savior, and from this moment on I am completely depending on Him for my salvation.**”

If you made the decision to accept Jesus Christ as your personal Savior let me know. Please send an e-mail to pdmikBBM@aol.com and I will send you some literature that will help you in your Christian life.

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