

IT IS FINISHED!

“Finish what you start!” was a cultural philosophy of life for those growing up in the 40 and 50’s in America.

This philosophy of life was brought back to me recently with the Greek word, tetelestai, for the English word finished in John 19:30.

“When Jesus therefore had received the sour wine, He said, ‘It is finished (tetelestai/ perf.p.ind 3ps/ teleo)!’ And He bowed His head and gave up His spirit.”

What a wonderful feeling of accomplishment when you can say, “It is finished!” How much more when the assignment has come from your heavenly Father as in the case of John 19:30.

How wonderful to hear authority say, “job well done!” (Matt.25:21) In psychology, we call it positive reinforcement.

**This lesson will study four aspects of “It is finished!”
This lesson will remind us that God wants us to cycle His will by faith to completion or to the finish.**

1. The Greek word tetelestai is deprived from the perfect tense of teleo. Teleo refers to bringing something to an end or completion.

The perfect tense shows that it was finished in Jesus’ heart by faith **before** it was finished on the cross of Golgotha.

Paul reminds each us to “Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus.” (Phil.2:5)

“And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient (hupekoos / to the Father’s will) to the point of death, even death on a cross.”

Notice the journey of **THE ATTITUDE** of “becoming obedient.”

Matt.16:21	“I must go.”
Matt.17:22	“The Son of man is going.”
Matt.20:18	“We are going.”
Matt.26:2	“After two days, the Son of Man is to be delivered up for crucifixion.”
Matt.26:39	“Yet not as I will, but as Thou wilt.”
Matt.27:46	“About the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, My God, My God, why hast Thou forsaken Me?”
John 19:30	“It is finished!”

2. It is interesting that receiving the sour wine while on the cross occurred at the moment of declaring, “It is finished!” (John 19:28-30)

The Greek word for received is lambano (a.a.ind). The aorist tense emphasized the exact point in God’s timing for this messianic prophecy to be fulfilled in history according to the plan of God. “They put gall in My food and gave Me vinegar for My thirst.” (Ps.69:21)

Jesus was right on cue in the plan of God amidst unbelievable suffering and pain of crucifixion when He drank the sour wine and said, “It is finished!” (John 17:4) (teleioo / a.a.ptc / nsm) [I am on schedule to finish His work]

THE ATTITUDE

“I have been crucified with Christ, and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me, and delivered Himself up for me.” (Gal.2:20)

“Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.” (Gal.5:24)

“But may it never be that I should boast, except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.” (Gal.6:14)

3. The indicative mood of tetelestai (finished) brings the reality of this exact moment and experience to the fulfillment of the plan of God in human history. (John 4:34) (teleioo / a.a.subj.1ps) [finish His work]

It was at this exact moment that Jesus Christ paid off the sin debt for the entire human race (Rom.6:23).

“But now once at the consummation of the ages He has been manifested to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself.” (Heb.9:26)

“It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am foremost of all.” (1 Tim.1:15)

“Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.” (John 1:29; 3:16-17)

“By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.” (1 John 4:9-10)

4. It is at this exact moment on the cross that Jesus Christ went from victim of sacrifice to victor of sin.

When **Paul was facing martyr’s death**, he cycled by faith what he wrote in Phil.2:5 -“have this attitude in yourself that was also in Christ Jesus” (finish His work).

“For I am already being poured out as a drink offering (spendo / p.p.ind.1ps) (Phil.2:17), and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, **I have finished (teteleka / perf.a.ind.1ps / teleo)** the course, I have kept the faith.” (2 Tim.4:6-7)

John the Baptist - “And while John was completing his course.” (Acts 13:25)

Paul the preacher – “But I do not consider my life of any account as dear to myself, in order that I may finish my course, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify solemnly of the gospel of the grace of God.” (Acts 20:24)

Spiritually Mature Believer – “Let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and **perfecter (finisher / teleiotes) of faith**, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.” (Heb.12:1-2)

The will of God is finished when we take it through the completion stage of the faith cycle
(James 2:22) (teleioo / a.p.ind 3ps) (Rom.4:21).