

The Finished Work Of Calvary – All Sufficient!

by Anthony Gulyas

The last words which Jesus Christ spoke before He died on the cross, were;

- IT IS FINISHED - John 19:30 (past tense)

The last words which Jesus Christ spoke in the bible were;

- IT IS DONE – Revelation 21:6 (future tense)

The reason that He could make such a statement In regard to the completion and finality of the ‘salvation’ which He bought and purchased for the ‘elect of God’, is that God had already predetermined and finalized his entire plan of Salvation in eternity before He created the world;

‘... the works were finished from the foundation of the world’ - Hebrews 4:3

The complete and final finished work of calvary, was simply the fulfillment and bringing into time God's plan of salvation, which was already determined and finalized In eternity.

God had decided already in eternity who was to be saved before the foundation of the world. Yes, God can do this because He is God. God can do anything He wants, that is why He is God, even if this is an affront to our pride and carnal thinking.

God’s work of salvation was already completed and finished in eternity, but only realized and appropriated by man as a result of the finished work of Jesus Christ on Calvaries Cross, which He purchased for the elect with His own shed blood.

Absolutely nothing can be aided or taken away from this great work of salvation which God has wrought In Jesus Christ.

To miss the meaning of this statement ‘it is finished’ and it's application for ones life, is to miss everything of eternal significance.

Everything a Born Again Child of God has in Jesus Christ;

- atonement for sin,
- reconciliation to God,
- regeneration (spiritual birth)
- justification (our legal standing before God)
- sanctification (our separation from sin and evil)

... among the many works which Jesus has done for the believer, are all a result of what Jesus Christ did in His life ministry and death on Calvaries cross.

‘I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do’ – John 17:4 .. and what He did on the cross of Calvary by dying.

‘... we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ, once for all.’ – Hebrews 10:10

At this point an issue many have addressed and that is; Which aspect of Christ's ministry is more important in the salvation of the believer? Is it His Death or His Resurrection they ask?

This is absolutely incredible and unbelievable that anyone would even dare to ask the question which is more important. Religionists give ad infinitum arguments about the supremacy of Christ's Resurrection over Christ's death and crucifixion. This is like asking who is more important in the plan of salvation; God the Father or Jesus Christ? If this sounds divisive and evil, it is.. and that is exactly what Methodists and Pentacostal do when they emphasize Jesus resurrection and the false doctrine of 'entire sanctification' over His ministry of Justification for our sins at the cross. Reformed Calvinists take the other extreme and many of them claim that there is no 'progressive sanctification' and imparted righteousness of Jesus Christ in regeneration, only the imputed righteousness at the cross.

The crux of the matter is this: 'The Death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ' go hand in hand and cannot be separated, divided or broken up. You can't have one without the other. You'll never properly understand the Resurrection, if you don't realize what it is Christ did on the cross for you and likewise you'll never understand the death and crucifixion of Christ if He hasn't made it real to you by His Resurrection.

The feath of Christ brings us into union with Christ and consequently saves us, giving us a legal forensic standing before God the Father, but it is only the Resurrection that quickens and makes all of salvation real to the believer, due to the miracle of Regeneration where God the Holy Spirit imparts to a lost sinner the principle of 'new life' and the 'gift of saving faith'. It is true that the Apostle Paul preached much; strictly on the resurrection all through the book of Acts, but He also said;

'for I determined not to know anything among you, save Jesus Christ, and Him crucified.'
- 1 Corinthians 2:2

The preaching of the Gospel is outlined in that great chapter on the Resurrection; **Corinthians 15**. Even before he proceeds to go into his lengthy discourse on the Resurrection, he outlines what the preaching of the Gospel entails;

'by which ye are saved if ye keep in memory that I preached unto you, unless ye believe in vain. For I delivered unto the first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the scriptures'. – 1 Corinthians 15:2-4

Many get so wrapped up in the Resurrection that they forget what it was that brought them into the resurrected life in the first place; it was the death of Christ. Others get so all consumed in the crucifixion and death of Christ that they forget altogether what is the source of God's power and life; which is Christ's Resurrection, that is given to the regenerated christian through the a true conversion experience when the true gospel is preached.

Either extreme is unbalanced and will prevent a believer from realizing the depth and the riches he or she has in Jesus Christ. At times the Apostle Paul had to preach specifically on resurrection and other times specifically on the death and crucifixion, but only to correct false understandings and unbalanced views of God's plan of salvation.

In Jesus Christ we have everything which pertains to life and death, we are united with Him in His death, crucified with Him and we are also raised to newness of life; **Romans 6:5-10**

It's useless talking about the crucifixion or resurrection, unless it is a fact and reality being lived out in our lives spiritually by the Holy Spirit. In essence, this is what salvation is; it is God's covenantal plan for His elect; which He is bringing into sinful man's reality;

‘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’. – Hebrews 10:16

From all this, it is obvious that God who is Spirit, cannot be divided up in any way; He is ONE in unity and purpose. Therefore His plan and work of salvation cannot be divided up or separate into different aspects or parts.

It is amazing how many through the ages have missed the import of its doctrine of Christ's **‘FINISHED WORK on Calvary’**.

John Wesley, a world famous preacher who was the forefather of the ‘holiness movement’ seems to have missed this doctrine entirely. He was leaning heavily on teachings regarding ‘perfection and sanctification’; and he himself taught by using his **‘sanctification experience at Aldersgate, London, England’** as proof and evidence that there was a further experience of ‘entire sanctification’ after ‘conversion.

This really opened a can of worms and literally a pandora's box, as the Holiness Movement afterwards and it's major offshoot; the Neo-Pentacostal movement with the now Charismatic movement have been reeling and staggering ever since in this false doctrine.

The ‘Nazarene Church’ made famous by Phineas F. Bresee, today still holds fast to this doctrine of ‘entire sanctification’, as a further experience after regeneration (being Born Again).

Sanctification (holiness) cannot be a second definite work of grace, there is only ‘one work of grace’, which the believer appropriates at his or her spiritual birth with ongoing results, and it is the result of ‘justification at the cross; Romans 5:1 and all that because of the FINISHED WORK OF JESUS CHRIST on Calvary’s cross. Christians are Justified so that they can be sanctified, there can be no separation between justification and sanctification.

The ‘finished work of Calvary’ provided not only for forgiveness or sins, but for the justification of the believer before God the Father. Thus, for true holiness sanctification, the believer need only appropriate the benefits of the ‘finished work of calvary’, that was already received at the moment of the New Birth (Regeneration).

Sanctification is a gradual process *of* appropriating the benefits of Christ's finished work, and not a second distinct instantaneous work of grace subsequent to conversion.

To restrict sanctification even to the moment of regeneration (new birth) or to any other particular subsequent moment in the christian experience is heresy.

The doctrine of ‘entire sanctification’ circumvents the need for an ongoing sanctification process in the life of the believer.

The benefits of Calvary for God's elect are therefore appropriated or sanctification over the entire period of the Christian's life, rather than at a single subsequent moment after conversion.

It is obvious from studying this, that one can now see where this further false doctrine and claim of the Neo-Pentacostal baptism in the Holy Ghost comes from. They also say that this baptism is a further work of grace after conversion for the purpose of empowering believers. The truth is that elect believers in Christ received power to become sons of God, by their new birth; **John 1:12**.

True Christians will not seek another second work of grace such as entire sanctification or grace of 'being baptized in the Holy Ghost'.

There are some Pentacostal churches who even teach that there is still a work of grace even after spirit baptism; namely 'being baptized in fire'. What are these carnal unenlightened, uninstructed apostates and reprobates going to come up with next?

God have mercy on us, when we start preaching and teaching reprobate rubbish such as that man's sin nature can be entirely sanctified through a 'mystical' experience.

It's amazing, all this false doctrine which has evolved from the departure of the truth of God's word; Jesus Christ.

If only we would hold fast onto the 'FINISHED WORK' doctrine of what Jesus Christ has ALREADY accomplished for His Elect. God has already settled this in eternity before He started the whole process of history rolling anyways. Of course only God's elect will be able to see this, as it is only God who gives faith to open the eyes of those who are spiritually blind.