

THEN it is obvious that the Lord Jesus miserably failed to finish His work.

- b. **Option #2:** The Lord Jesus finished the work of **partial redemption for all mankind making it possible** for them to save themselves from their sins by exercising their freewills and spiritual abilities. IF this is true, THEN heaven would be empty of all mankind and hell would be full of all mankind.
- 1) **That is not what the Bible teaches.** the Bible plainly teaches that Jesus Christ did not come to earth to merely make it a possibility that some sinners would be saved, but that He came to earth **to make it a certainty** that specified some sinners would be saved.
  - 2) **Scriptures:** the angel told Joseph in Matt.1:21 "...you shall call His name JESUS, for **He will** (future tense) **save His people from their sins.**"; the Lord Jesus declared in Matt.18:11 "**For the Son of man has come to save that which was lost.**"; the Apostle Paul stated in I Tim.1:15 the purpose of Christ's coming – "...**Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners...**"
- c. **Option #3:** The Lord Jesus finished the work of **redemption for some of mankind pardoning them** from all their sins and **securing for them** a place in heaven. If this is true, THEN there would be some of mankind in heaven and most of mankind in hell. Just like the Lord Jesus taught in Matt.7:13, 14.
- 1) This is what the Bible plainly teaches. **Read John 17: 2, 6 (2x), 9, 11, 12, (13, 16) 24.**
  - 2) This is the only answer that make sense of what Christ Jesus meant when He said, "**It is finished!**"

#### IV. Applications

- A. **To Believers:** **Be conformed to the image of the Son of God! Be a work-accomplishing ambassador for Christ!** Be completing the work that God has given you to do – glorifying God and enjoying your relationship with Him. "...**be imitators of God, as dear children. And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.**" (Eph.5:1, 2)
- B. **To Unbelievers:** IF you earnestly desire to be one those designated recipients of the Lord Jesus' finished work of redemption THEN go to Him in prayer, pleading for His mercy and saving grace. This same Savior that said, "**It is finished!**", also said, "...**the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out.**" (Jn.6:37)

*"...It is finished!..."*

## The Work-Accomplishing Savior

*John 19:30; 17:1-26*

### I. What was "It" that the Lord Jesus finished?

- A. **A practical illustration:** : "the work" of cutting and edging a lawn
- B. **The spiritual parallel** – Now consider "the work" that was given to the Lord Jesus to do
1. According to Matt.1:21, it was "the work" of saving His people from their sins – "**And she (Mary) will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins.**"
    - a. Sin involves **guilt** and the death of the Lord Jesus **as a sacrifice**, is the provision for the guilt of God's chosen people. Rom.3:19; Jn.1:29
    - b. Sin evokes **the wrath of God** and the death of the Lord Jesus, **as the propitiation**, is that which appeases the wrath of God. Jn.3:36; I Jn.4:10
    - c. Sin **alienates from God** and the death of the Lord Jesus, is **the reconciliation** that is directed to resolve that pressing need arising from sin. Col.1:21, 22; 2 Cor.5:18
    - d. Sins **consigns to bondage**, bondage to sin and Satan. Redemption is the provision for this bondage, the death of the Lord Jesus is **the ransom price paid for His people's release**. Matt.20:28; I Pet.1:18, 19
  2. According John 17:1-4, it was "**the work**" that God the Father had given the Lord Jesus to do. – 17:2 **as You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given to Him. 17:3 And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom You have sent. 17:4 I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do.** [Grk. (teleioo > "I have finished") – aor. => Lex.: to execute fully]

### II. What does the word "finished" mean?

- A. It means "accomplished, completed", and is so translated in John 19:28. The verb "**finished**" is in the perfect tense, indicating completed action with the effect of that action still continuing.
- B. **A practical illustration:** (going back to our lawn service illustration)
- C. **The spiritual parallel:** It means that the whole work of redemption (not just a part of it) has been completed. It means that the Lord Jesus has not left anything for His people to do as far as the

redemption of their souls is concerned. The Lord Jesus has done it all!

1. We should not be satisfied with hearing the Lord Jesus say, “I have finished My part of the work of redemption; now it is up to you to do your part.” WHY?
  - a. First, because sinners do not have a part in Christ’s work of redemption! Biblical salvation is all of God’s grace! Eph.2:8, 9
  - b. Second, the result of thinking in terms of “God’s part” and “fallen man’s part”, diminishes God and elevates fallen man. This false teaching gives the impression that the work of redemption is “a planned cooperation” involving God and fallen sinners. Such is not the case! He alone is active! His people’s part in this work, is non-existent!
  - c. Third, if by the phrase “do your part”, reference is being made to a sinner receiving Christ’s redemptive work through their individual repentance of sin and saving faith in Christ Jesus, THEN 2 things need to be made clear:
    - a) That there is a difference between Redemption Accomplished and Secured by Christ alone and Redemption Applied by the Holy Spirit in His work of effectual calling
    - b) Furthermore it needs to be emphasized that sinners do not naturally have the desire or the ability to repent and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ. In fact, every aspect of fallen mankind’s being is in rebellion against God. (Rom.3:13-20; Jer.17:9; Jn.8:44; Rom.8:7, 8; Jer.13:23)
2. We should not be satisfied with hearing Christ say, “I have finished all the work of redemption that I can do, the rest is up to you.” WHY?!
  - a. First, Because sinners do not have a part in Christ’s work of redemption! Biblical salvation is all of God’s grace! Eph.2:8, 9
  - b. Second, Because it degrades to God and exalts fallen mankind. This false teaching gives the impression that the work of redemption requires “the necessary involvement” of fallen man. It insinuates that Almighty God needs fallen man’s help to get the work of redemption done. And it implies that God cannot get the work of redemption done without man’s input.
  - c. Third, it again needs to be emphasized:

- a) That there is a difference between Redemption Accomplished and Redemption Applied.
- b) That sinners are dead in trespasses and sins, Eph.2:1
3. We should only be satisfied with hearing Christ say, “*It is finished!*”; “I have **completely and absolutely finished** the work of redemption, **leaving absolutely nothing** for you to do regarding the redemption of your soul.”
  - a. NOW that is good news!! It is good news to hear of such a capable and all-sufficient Savior!!
  - b. This is the hope that the gospel holds out to every sinner - what you cannot accomplish in the flesh; Christ has forever accomplished and secured for His (elect) people!!

### III. For Whom was “*It*” finished?

- A. A practical illustration: (going back to our lawn service illustration)
- B. The spiritual parallel: The work of saving God’s elect people from their sins and imparting to them eternal life, was the work that the Father had given to the Son. When the Lord Jesus says, “*It is finished*”, FOR WHOM was this work of redemption finished?
  1. The Answer: It was finished primarily for the One who had given the Lord Jesus the work to do; namely, God the Father, Jn.17:4. It was finished secondarily for those whom the Father had specifically designated should receive the benefit of the Son’s redemptive work – cf. Jn.17: 2, 6 (2x), 9, 11, 12, (13, 16) 24
  2. The Clear Teaching of the Bible: the Lord Jesus finished His work of redemption for some of mankind paying the eternal penalty of all of their sins. This is what the Bible plainly teaches! This is the only answer that makes sense of what the Lord Jesus meant when He said, “*It is finished!*”
  3. Consider the only 3 possible answers to this question:
    - a. Option #1: The Lord Jesus finished the work of redemption for all mankind pardoning them of all their sins and securing for them a place in heaven. IF that is true, THEN heaven would be full of all mankind and hell would be empty of all mankind.
      - 1) That is NOT what the Lord Jesus taught. The Lord Jesus plainly taught that all mankind will not be saved and will not be in heaven, but that most will be condemned to an eternal hell because of their sins (Matt.7:13, 14, 21-23; Jn.17:12)
      - 2) IF it was the Lord Jesus’ mission to accomplish and secure redemption for all mankind without exception,