



IT'S

FINISHED!

This morning we conclude the study on the Seven Last Words from the Cross. We will be "finished" when we complete the last word. *So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!" And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.* John 19:30

In God's eyes, the work of the cross had already been finished, *Therefore, since a promise remains of entering His rest, let us fear lest any of you seem to have come short of it. . . . For we who have believed do enter that rest, as He has said: "So I swore in My wrath, 'They shall not enter My rest,' although the works were finished from the foundation of the world.* Hebrews 4:1 & 3

But, of course, it was now physically completed. Christ completed a great work on the Cross. Now, because His work is finished, and, this morning, as we look at the cross, it is empty. As we look at the tomb, it is also empty. Christ is risen and we celebrate that fact today.

Because we participate in this finished work of Christ, we too have work to complete. Paul wrote, *I have fought the good fight, **I have finished** the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.*

II Timothy 4:7-8

For the past three Sundays, we have looked at the trials and tribulations which Christ endured on the cross. No mere human could have stood such suffering but we all can stand some suffering and we all will, if we are to be able to say like Christ and like Paul, "It is finished." James wrote, *My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and **complete**, lacking nothing.*

James 1:2-4

Note that "complete" is a synonym for "finished."

*Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and **finisher of our faith**, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.*



Hebrews 12:1-2

Jesus is currently seated at the right hand of God the Father. Having accepted the finished work of Christ on the cross, we too, someday, will be in the presence of both the Father and Christ and the Holy Spirit as well.

Today, Easter Sunday, marks the day when the work of both the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit was fully complete. As Paul wrote, *Now if Christ is preached that He has been raised from the dead, how do some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ is not risen. And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching is empty and your faith is also empty.*

I Corinthians 15:12-14

Today, we may say with Christians around the world,

HE IS RISEN!

The tomb is empty, for, as Mary, Jesus's mother, and Mary Magdalene, and Salome discovered when they found the angel at the tomb, and he said to them, *"Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He is risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid Him.* Mark 16:6

Happy Easter, Wayne

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