

**Easter Weekend  
It Is Finished  
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April 4 & 5, 2026**

**Prayer Points for Prayer Time:**

- **Pray to live with confidence in what Jesus has already finished for you.**
- **Thank Jesus for bringing light, hope, and life through His resurrection.**
- **Pray that Brookwood will boldly share the hope of Easter with others.**

**A. Introduction**

(John 19:30b)

There is a power in words. Think about words that have lasted throughout generations.

For instance...

Let me test your knowledge a little...

One small step for man, one giant leap for..... **mankind.**

Give me liberty... or give me... **death.** (Happy Easter.)

The only thing we have to fear is... **fear itself.** (and spiders, let's be honest.)

May the force.... **be with you.**

To infinity and.... **beyond.** (You guys watch a lot of TV.)

Near, far, wherever you are, I believe that... **my heart will go on.** (Heard a whole lot of men's voices on that one.)

These are words that have stood the test of time... words that have shaped our society. (Maybe besides the Titanic one.)

Today, I want to share with you these simple words... words that have shaped human history. Three words that are the reason we are here this morning.

*"It is finished!" Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.*

## **John 19:30b (NLT)**

Those words, **It Is Finished**, changed everything...

See, all throughout human history, people have been trying to get rid of Jesus and silence Him. But on Easter weekend, we celebrate that no one can defeat Him... that not even sin, death, Satan, or hell can hold Him back... **(show pic of Garden Tomb)** When Christians visit Israel, this is where they best estimate Jesus was buried. It's the only tomb in the world that is famous for what is NOT in it! The **resurrection** and the **empty tomb** distinguish Christianity.

Think about it... this was a story 2,000 years ago. Jesus said, *It is finished*, then rose... conquering the grave over 2,000 years ago... but this story is still impacting our culture today...

Do you realize Christianity is growing faster than at any time in human history? Do you realize that 65 million people every year are giving their lives to Jesus? For perspective, that would be like taking the population of the 85 largest cities in the United States and all of them coming to Jesus. 65 million people are bowing the knee to Jesus every year.

Church attendance in the UK has grown by 50% in the last six years. And what's crazy is that Gen Z and Millennials are the largest demographic of growth... in the U.S., Bible sales are up 40%... Why? Because something is stirring. This story is still impacting people.

So what I want you to understand is why these three words are the greatest words ever spoken... and why the story of Jesus is still transforming people today.

## **B. It Is Finished**

### **1. It is finished, not it WAS finished.**

(Luke 15:19)

Here's what happens for some people: you give your life to Jesus, you start to follow Him, and then after a while you drift away, or you make some sort of mistake, and you think God won't forgive you... that you've messed it all up.

This is true of so many people, myself included... we think God did forgive us... it was finished... but then you think... *I really messed it up now, and I'm not so sure anymore...*

There is a story in the Bible of a prodigal son, a son who makes a huge mistake... and because of that mistake, listen to what he says...

*“and I am no longer worthy of being called your son. Please take me on as a hired servant.”*

**Luke 15:19 (NLT)**

Because he believed he was a son but doesn't believe he is a son now. He fails to understand the Father's heart. And maybe you don't think your past is finished because you fail to see the Father's heart.

Parents, can I tell you... it doesn't matter if your child is six or sixty, you will always be mom and dad. Weekly, when I put my kids to bed, I will say to Tristan, *Son, if I could only choose one boy in the whole world, you know who I'd choose...* now, he's close to a teenager, so he says, *Dad, I know... you tell me all the time...* and I say, *Who?* He says, *Me...* and I say, *Do you know why? Because you're mine.*

My two daughters have different colored hair, so I had to get creative. I say, *If I could only choose one blonde-haired or brown-haired girl...* Now, some of you have like six children, so I don't know what you do... you can say, *If I could only choose one child with this social security number or blood type...* 😊. I did say it to one of my girls the other night, and she said, *But Dad, if you could only choose one daughter, it would be me, right?*

But I want them to know I love them not because of what they do, but because they're mine...

I don't want them to think anything they do or anything in their past disqualifies them from my love.

For some of you, let's be honest... it's not finished... you carry the guilt, weight, the shame of something in your past. For you, you think, ***I'm finished because of my past. Jesus says your past is finished.***

Like I speak over my kids... *I choose you...* God is saying, *Your past is finished. I choose you because you are mine.*

But some of you wonder why you don't feel it...

{Bottle of water... Hold onto it... Why couldn't you take it?... Because I was still holding onto it.}

Let me just say this... why are you holding onto your past when God isn't? God can't take what you won't let go of.

It is finished... not it was finished... it is finished right now.

Give it to Him. Trust Him.

## 2. It is finished, not it's MOSTLY finished.

(Galatians 3:3)

Sometimes I think we struggle with really believing it is finished because, can we be honest... grace seems too good to be true. To be saved, you bring one thing...Sin... and God gives you His righteousness. So we try to add grace because it seems too good to be true.

And again, we struggle because we have seen things promised that did not deliver...

Like, how many of you have seen this...

- **Ab rollers-** here's the slogan: *Five minutes a day and you've got rock hard abs...* I can promise you that you aren't getting rock-hard abs using this five minutes a day... I can also promise you that if you use it, you won't be able to sit down for a week.
- **Thigh masters-**
- **Shake weights-** *Just shake it and you get toned arms...* you know what I promise you've never heard... someone say, *You look great... What did you use?...A shake weight?...* it may burn a few calories, but it burns a whole lot of dignity.

When things seem too good to be true, they often are... but when Jesus promises **It Is Finished**, he really means it... you don't have to work or perform to earn His love...

See, for so many Christians, we feel like we must do something to pay God back or keep Him happy with us. So we say, *It is almost finished, I just need to work a little for it. I need to read my Bible, or share my faith, or act a certain way, or pray the right way...*

*"Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh?"*

**Galatians 3:3 (ESV)**

The Galatians didn't deny grace. They just added to it:

Jesus plus rules.

Jesus plus religious efforts.

Jesus plus moral perfection.

And that's still our temptation today. But church, the three greatest words are, **It Is Finished**. Your past is finished, your present is finished... but also, so is your future..

## 3. It is finished, not it WILL be finished.

In English ,we have three tenses, right? But let me show you something pretty amazing...

## Greek

- 1.) Past
- 2.) Present
- 3.) Future
- 4.) Perfect

And when you understand what perfect tense is... it literally means a past action that has a present effect.... Said another way... it covers the past, present, and future...

And why do I tell you this? Those three words, **It Is Finished**, in Greek is actually this word...

### Tetelestai

When you meet someone, what is the first question you usually ask them... *What do you do?*

And this is important, because some of us struggle with our past... but some of us struggle with the future... and we think God and others would love a future version of ourselves more...

I had a friend that worked at a grocery store... and he was a cashier, so he would bag people's groceries... when he would tell people what he did, some people would almost look down on him... So, he decided to change his job title. One day, when someone asked him what his job was, he said, *Paper and plastic technician*. And they would go, *Wow, that seems important...*

To a degree, everyone has a future version of themselves that they think God and others will really love and value. And guess what? Right now, for many of us, we see what we are or where we are, and it just seems like something is missing.

Think how much pressure you put on yourself... to be better, to accomplish more...

I didn't want kids... I told Steph they would be more proud of me down the road...

This is so important: if you don't understand that you are loved and accepted now... you will spend your life trying to earn what you already have.

I meet with people all the time who are trying to find their value in a job, in a relationship, in money, in the number on a scale, in pleasure, or in comfort... and none of those things really fill you up.

**It Is Finished** means you are loved and accepted right now because of Jesus' death and resurrection on the cross... if you are a child of God.

Transition...

- 1.) **Business-** if someone in ancient times owed a debt, they would draw up a receipt and keep it on file... but when the debt was paid in full, watch this: they would take out the receipt and, at the top, they would write one word: Tetelestai- meaning paid in full.
- 2.) **Judicial-** if someone was convicted of a crime, they would keep a record of their actions and the penalty that person had to pay in the present tense. But when they had served their sentence, they would take the record and write one word: Tetelestai- meaning it is finished.
- 3.) **Military-** when cities would go to war, often times the soldiers would go to fight. But what would often happen is that one warrior from each side would fight and decide that army and that cities fate. So if the soldier lost, that would be imputed to the city... but if they won, that victory would be imputed, or given to, the city. So if they won the battle... the strongest guy from their army- who, by the way, was called an evangelist because he was bringing good news... would come to the city and shout, *It is finished-* He would say, *Tetelestai- the victory is ours.*

So here is what **It Is Finished** means: the debt of all of your sin is forgiven... the judgement for your sin has been served... and on the cross He is saying there is victory over sin, death, Satan, and hell that has been applied to you.

Time of Reflection...

{all at once}

**Hell... It Is Finished**

**Shame... It Is Finished**

**Fear... It Is Finished**

**Emptiness... It Is Finished**