

CROSSWORDS | It Is Finished | Week 6 | April 5

John 19:30-37; Matthew 18:23-35; 1 Corinthians 15:52; Philippians 1:6

These study guides are designed for individual or group study but highly encouraged to be experienced in community with a small group or other friends on the journey with Jesus.

Context: Jesus lived into His Passion and death in ways we cannot imagine. We have been reflecting on the cross-words, as Jesus walked through the suffering. Today's words — It Is Finished — leave us asking, "What is finished?"

- We have all experienced the feeling of completion—it's finished, done. Share a time those words came to you. What was the event?
- If that was a negative experience, can you think of a positive comparison? We can use the same idea of completion, being finished, in both cases.
- Now think of a time you were pursuing a skill, like golf or high-jump; or mastering a medical operation—does the same phrase work? Are there things in this world where "it is finished" doesn't apply? Give an example of what comes to mind. Why are they not finished?

An End Allows a New Beginning: Pastor Dan cited a crucial takeaway, "Sometimes, the ending of one thing is a necessary step to a new beginning."

- Share or journal about an experience in your own life where this is true.
- What other experiences can you think of where this is the reality.

I will pay it back?: Read Matthew 18:23-35 with the view that Pastor Dan provides us of us being the one who owes an unpayable debt.

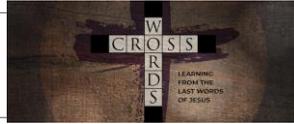
- Journal or share with the group you reflections on how this impacts your relationship with Jesus.

Hope Begins : Pastor Dan declared, "We can't afford to think of ourselves – even for an instant -- as pious and pretty good people, when we are carrying the virus of sin. It is only where that self-righteous delusion is truly finished, that genuine hope begins."

- What comes up in you as you consider this?
- How do you try to escape the "slave" identity in your life, your dependence on the master?
- Do you try to rationalize your debt (sin) as less bad, even as re-payable? How or when do you catch yourself?

Paid in Full: We learned that "Tetelestai" was a word of transaction meaning, "PAID IN FULL." It is the same word Jesus spoke translated in scripture as, "It is Finished."

- What perspective does this give to your relationship with God?
- Go back to your earlier ideas about "finished". What is finished?
- Christ's Passion? Humanity's Redemption? Other ideas?



Repaired to Perfection: Pastor Dan recounts Romans and compares the vivid picture of fallen humanity [Adam and Eve (us)] in contrast to Jesus who is the perfect picture of what humanity looks like when the damage done by sin is removed.:

Adam and Eve

Disobedient to God
Mistrusted God
Dodged Sin, blaming others
Stole and brought Sin & Death

Jesus

Lived in perfect obedience to God
Trusted God's will completely
Willing to take cost of sin for love of others
Gave life away to enable forgiveness and life

A Good Work: Read Philippians 1:6. Pastor Dan reminded us this is God's way of saying "I have given you my Son that you might see the sort of life I have in mind... and to give you confidence that, as far as eternity goes, the work is already done. Tetelestai. It is finished."

- With the promise that God is at work to transform us to be like Jesus (read the Jesus column as who you are becoming) how easy or hard is it for you to believe, receive, and embrace these truths in the everyday moments of your life?
- What is hindering God's transforming work in your life? What is helping it to progress?
- Knowing Jesus said, "It is finished" What does this do for your love for God? How can it grow hope, joy and peace in your life right now, no matter the circumstances you may find yourself in?

Practices for your week:

- Engage with this passage from a different perspective by using the corresponding Lenten Audio Devotional (ChristChurch.us/lentdevo20).
- In addition, look for on-going updates to Christ Church's COVID-19 Resource page: Christchurch.us/resources.

We'd love to hear from you!

If you have thoughts, questions, comments, ideas on how to make these study guides more meaningful for you or your small group, please let us know.

We also enjoy hearing how God is using these study guides in your lives.

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