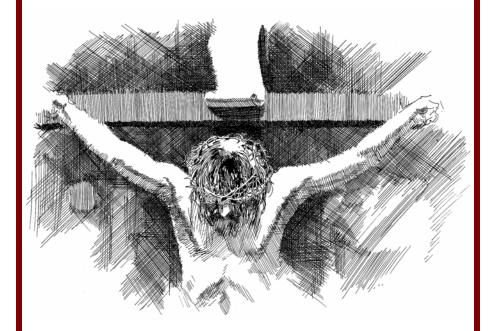


Present Truth Magazine www.PresentTruthMag.org (760)728-3333

"It is Finished"



All that is necessary to obtain our salvation has been accomplished by the doing and dying of the Lord Jesus Christ. He did this alone (Isa. 63:3), and finished it fully and completely (Heb. 1:3).

"I have trodden the winepress alone, And from the peoples no one *was* with Me" NKJ Isaiah 63:3

"who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high," NKJ Hebrews 1:3

No man or angel can add anything to His finished work (Eccl. 3:14; Gal. 3:1-17). All that Christ did was for us.

His incarnation was for us (Isa. 9:6).

For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. NKJ Isaiah 9:6

He never would have been the Son of Man but to make us the sons of God. He never would have been made in the likeness of sinful flesh but to raise us up into the likeness of God.

He was made a curse for us (Gal. 3:13),

Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, "Cursed *is* everyone who hangs on a tree"), NKJ Galatians 3:13

and died for us (2 Cor. 5:14).

For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died; NKJ 2 Corinthians 5:14

He was bruised for us and buried for us (Isa. 53:5; Heb. 2:14-15).

"But He was wounded for our transgressions. **He was bruised for our iniquities**. The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed." NKJ Isaiah 53:5

"Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that **by his death** he might destroy him who holds the power of death – that is, the devil." NIV Hebrews 2:14

He arose and ascended to heaven for us (Rom.4:25).

He was handed over to die because of our sins, and he was **raised from the dead** to make us right with God. Romans 4:25

And when He finally comes again, it is for us (John 14:1-3).

"Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. ² "In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to

It is he that has been forgiven much that loves much. If we examine the Scriptures, we will see that in one sense there is no such thing with God as being forgiven little or much. God either forgives all or nothing at all, and we either pay all in one lump sum or nothing at all. For in this matter there are no degrees with God. If Jesus sets us free, we are free indeed (John 8:36).

"Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed." NKJ John 8:36

The words of Paul to Philemon are but an echo of the words of Jesus to His Father concerning us: "If you count me therefore a partner, receive him as myself. If he has wronged you, or owes you anything, put that on my account...I will repay." Philemon 17-19.

Let us then hear His cry, "It is finished!" and come to God by and in Jesus Christ.

Then we will not only go away free, but new men and women in Him (2 Cor. 5:17).

All who repent of their sins and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord have the sure promise of the forgiveness of their sins and eternal life. Will you cast yourself upon the mercy of God in Christ? Pray this simple prayer to God now and He will in no way cast you away.

Lord, I know that my life has been full of sin and selfishness. Please forgive me of my sins and cover me with your own righteousness. From this point onward in my life may I begin to always trust in Christ as my personal Savior and Lord of my life. Daily let me call upon you for your forgiveness and mercy in Christ and let me begin to love and forgive others as you have loved and forgiven me and given Yourself for me on the cross. I pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

And because of Jesus, "You are complete in Him." (Col. 2:10). Though we cannot perfectly and fully satisfy the claims and demands of the law, yet Christ's complete obedience is imputed to us and stands us complete and without fault before God. Oh, what a complete and perfect thing is the righteousness of God in Christ! Let the searching eye of a holy and jealous God turn it every way, view it from every side, and He will not find the least flaw or defect in it. Let Him thoroughly weigh it and examine it, and it will ever appear pure and perfect, containing in it all that is necessary for our atonement.

Paying Our Debts

Because we are accustomed in this world to time payment (buying a thing and paying it off by degrees), in our blindness we bring that system over into our spiritual life. We think that by some keeping of the law – and that poorly done – and other services and reforms, we will satisfy the demands of the law. But it is all an abomination to God because it comes from a wicked heart of unbelief, for the debt has already been paid

and we are free in Christ. We are inclined to cry out like that poor man in Matthew 18:26, "Lord,

have patience with

me, and **I will pay thee all**." But, like that man, we have no just conception of the greatness of our debt or the greatness of our wretched poverty.

We are not called to Mount Sinai, to the covenant of works, but to Mount Zion, "to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaks better things than that of Abel" (Heb. 12:18, 22-24). It speaks not a debt to be paid, a life to be forfeited, but of a debt <u>already</u> paid and a life already given.

prepare a place for you. ³ "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.

He who intends to build high must lay the foundation broad and deep. The plan of salvation is founded on the infinite humiliation of the Son of God. He was the brightness of God's glory (Heb. 1:1-3),

(God)...has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; ³ who **being the brightness of His glory** and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, Hebrews 1:2-3

yet was so humbled in the form of humanity that He looked not like Himself, nor scarcely like a man (Ps. 22:6; Isa. 52:14-15).

But I **am a worm, and no man**—a reproach of men, and despised by the people. ⁷ All those who see Me ridicule Me. They shoot out the lip, they shake the head, saying, ⁸ "He trusted in the LORD, let Him rescue Him; Let Him deliver Him, since He delights in Him!" Psalm 22:6-8

Just as many were astonished at you, so **His visage was marred more than any man**, And His form more than the sons of men; So shall He sprinkle many nations. Isaiah 52:14-15

His humiliation was real and voluntary before God and man. It is not said that He was humbled, but that "He humbled Himself." Phil. 2:8.

And being found in appearance as a man, **He humbled Himself** and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. Philippians 2:8

He came to this earth in the body of our humiliation and was made "under the law," yet He was "God blessed for ever." Rom. 9:5.

The eternal God was born in time. The Creator became a creature. He who was equal to the Ancient of Days became an infant of days. For the sun to fall from its sphere and become a wandering atom, for an angel to be turned out of heaven to be converted into a worm, would be no such great abasement; for they were but creatures before, and so they would abide still, though inferior creatures. The distance between the highest and lowest species of creatures is a finite distance.

But for the infinite Creator of all to become a creature is a mystery exceeding all human understanding. The distance between God and the highest angel is an infinite distance.

Yet Christ became a man, not an angel. He humbled Himself, and the world scorned Him (Isa. 53:2, 3).

He has no form or comeliness; And when we see Him, **There is no beauty that we should desire Him.** ³ He is despised and rejected by men, a Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him. Isaiah 53:2-3

He was called Beelzebub, an illegitimate child or just "the carpenter's son." At His trial one could only refer to Him as "this fellow." (Matt. 26:61).

"For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might be rich." 2 Cor. 8:9.

He came into this world, and there was no place to lay the infant. He walked the earth, and there was no place to lay His head. He died, and there was no place to lay the body. When He took our place, He had nothing. As one has said, "He went lower and lower until there was no lower place to go." We may be humiliated in this life, but irrespective of how low we go, there is always a lower place. But not so with this Man. The infinite God, who is all wisdom, could truly say, I can search heaven and earth, but I cannot find a lower place to go.

Did man offend and violate the law of God? Behold. God Himself became man to repair the breach and to satisfy for the wrong done. The highest honor that ever the law received was to have such a One as the man Christ Jesus stand before its bar and make reparation to it. This is more honor and far more glory to the law than if it had poured out all our blood and vindicated itself upon the ruins of the whole creation. It is not so much to see the stars overcast as to see the sun eclipsed. The greater Christ was, the greater was His humiliation; and the greater His humiliation was, the more full and complete was His satisfaction; and the more complete His satisfaction, the more perfect and steady is our consolation. If He had not stooped so low, our joy and comfort could not have been exalted so high. The depth of the foundation is the strength of the super-structure, and "you are God's building" which is built upon that "foundation" (1 Cor. 3:9-11).

In the light of the cross, the heart can cry out to Jesus, "The condemnation was Yours, that the justification might be mine—the agony was Yours, that the victory might be mine—the pain was Yours, that the ease might be mine—the stripes Yours, that the healing balm issuing from them might be mine—the vinegar and gall Yours, that the honey and the sweet might be mine—the curse was Yours, that the blessing might be mine—the crown of thorns was Yours, that the crown of glory might be mine—the death was Yours, that the life purchased by it might be mine—You paid the price, that I might enjoy the inheritance."