

# Monday - Paid in Full

## In a Nutshell:

Colin taught us that Jesus' cry of "It is finished" (Tetelestai) on the cross was a victorious declaration that our debt of sin has been completely paid. This truth is the foundation for how we live every day.

## Anchor Verse:

John 19:30 (NIV) "When Jesus had received the drink, he said, 'It is finished.' With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit."

## Unpacking the Word:

The single phrase, "It is finished," uttered by Jesus in His final moments on the cross, carries a weight of significance that reverberates through eternity. The original Greek word, "Tetelestai," was not a cry of defeat, but rather a triumphant shout of accomplishment. Imagine a merchant stamping "PAID IN FULL" on a debt, a soldier declaring a mission "completed," or a servant announcing a task "fully accomplished." This was the essence of Jesus' declaration.

He wasn't merely saying that His earthly life was ending; He was proclaiming the complete fulfillment of His mission. This mission encompassed several crucial aspects. Firstly, it signified the full and final payment for our sins. The penalty that separated us from a holy God was fully satisfied by Jesus' sacrifice. There is no remaining debt, no further obligation for us to fulfill in order to earn God's favor.

Secondly, Jesus' cry marked the completion of all the Old Testament prophecies concerning the Messiah. From His miraculous birth to His sacrificial death, every detail foretold in Scripture found its fulfillment in Jesus. This confirms His identity as the promised Savior and validates the divine plan of redemption.

Furthermore, "Tetelestai" declared the culmination of Jesus' perfect life of obedience. He lived the sinless life that we could never achieve, perfectly adhering to God's law in every thought, word, and deed. This perfect obedience was offered as the acceptable sacrifice for our imperfections.

Finally, His declaration announced that the way back to God had been fully opened. The barrier of sin that separated humanity from their Creator was now removed. Through Jesus' finished work, we have access to the Father's presence, a privilege previously unattainable. The victory was won at the cross, laying the groundwork for the resurrection and our new life in Christ.

### **Pause and Reflect:**

What areas of your life do you still feel like you need to "pay off" or earn God's approval? How does understanding the fullness of "Tetelestai" change your perspective on your past mistakes and future anxieties? In what ways might you be unintentionally adding to the finished work of Christ in your pursuit of God?

### **Faith in Action:**

Today, take a moment to identify one area where you feel the need to strive for God's acceptance. Consciously release that burden, acknowledging that Jesus has already paid the full price. Throughout the day, when that feeling creeps back in, remind yourself, "It is finished."

### **A Moment With God:**

Father, thank You for the all-encompassing declaration of "It is finished." Help me to truly grasp the depth of this truth and to rest in the complete payment made for my sins.

# Tuesday - The Divine Receipt

## In a Nutshell:

Yesterday we reflected on Jesus' finished work on the cross. Today, we consider the resurrection as God the Father's powerful "Amen," His divine validation and acceptance of that completed payment for our sins.

## Anchor Verse:

Romans 4:25 (NIV) "He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification."

## Unpacking the Word:

Yesterday, we focused on the powerful declaration of "It is finished" on the cross. Today, let's consider the event that followed: the glorious resurrection of Jesus Christ. As Colin explained, while the cross was where the victory was won and the debt paid, the resurrection served as God the Father's resounding "YES!" It was the divine confirmation that the sacrifice was accepted, that justice was satisfied, and that death had been defeated.

Think of it like receiving a receipt after making a payment. The initial transaction signifies the exchange, but the receipt provides tangible proof that the transaction is complete and acknowledged. Similarly, Jesus' death on the cross was the complete payment for our sins. The resurrection is God's official receipt, His undeniable validation that this payment was not only made but was also fully accepted and effective.

Romans 4:25 beautifully articulates this truth: Jesus "was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification." The first part of the verse highlights the atoning sacrifice on the cross, where Jesus bore the penalty for our transgressions. The second part emphasizes the significance of the resurrection – it was for our justification, meaning to declare us righteous in God's sight. If Jesus had remained in the grave, it would have suggested that the payment was insufficient or rejected. But His resurrection powerfully declares that God accepted His sacrifice, and therefore, we can be declared righteous through faith in Him.

The resurrection is not just a historical event; it's the cornerstone of our faith. It provides the assurance that sin and death no longer have dominion over us. It guarantees our justification, our right standing with God. It's the ultimate proof that "it is finished" was not just an empty statement but a reality ratified by divine power. We can live with confidence and hope, knowing that our salvation is secure, not because of anything we have done, but because of what Christ has accomplished and the Father has validated through the resurrection.

## **Pause and Reflect:**

How does the reality of Jesus' resurrection strengthen your confidence in the forgiveness of your sins? In what ways does the resurrection impact your understanding of God's love and acceptance for you? How can you live more fully in the light of the resurrection victory today?

## **Faith in Action:**

Spend some time today reflecting on the significance of the resurrection. Perhaps read the resurrection accounts in the Gospels (Matthew 28, Mark 16, Luke 24, John 20). Thank God for raising Jesus from the dead and for the assurance of your justification.

## **A Moment With God:**

Heavenly Father, thank You for raising Jesus from the dead, confirming His victory over sin and death. Thank You for the gift of justification that comes through His resurrection. Help me to live in the power of this truth today.

# Wednesday - Applying the Victory

## In a Nutshell:

Following the victory won at the cross and validated by the resurrection, the ascension and the sending of the Holy Spirit are about applying the benefits of Jesus' finished work to our lives.

## Anchor Verse:

Ephesians 1:13-14 (NIV) "And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory."

## Unpacking the Word:

Yesterday, we considered the resurrection as God's affirmation of Jesus' finished work. Today, we explore the subsequent events: Jesus' ascension into heaven and the sending of the Holy Spirit. Colin explained that these events are crucial for the "application and implementation" of the victory won at the cross.

Imagine a grand victory in a war. The initial battle secures the win, but the subsequent actions involve establishing peace, implementing new governance, and ensuring the benefits of the victory reach all those who were fighting for it. Similarly, Jesus' death and resurrection were the decisive victory over sin and death. His ascension and the sending of the Holy Spirit are the means by which the fruits of that victory are distributed and experienced by believers throughout history.

When Jesus ascended to the right hand of the Father, He took His rightful place as Lord and King. From this position of authority, He sent the Holy Spirit, the promised Helper, to indwell and empower those who believe in Him. Ephesians 1:13-14 describes this beautifully. When we heard the gospel and believed, we were included in Christ and "marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit."

The Holy Spirit is not just a distant force; He is the very presence of God living within us. He is the one who applies the benefits of Jesus' finished work to our lives. He convicts us of sin, draws us to Christ, regenerates our hearts, and empowers us to live lives that honor God. He is described as a "deposit guaranteeing our inheritance," assuring us of the full redemption that awaits us.

Through the Holy Spirit, we experience the forgiveness purchased at the cross and the new life secured by the resurrection. He enables us to walk in the victory that Christ has already won. He provides the strength to resist temptation, the wisdom to make godly choices, and the love to serve others. The ascension and the sending of the Spirit are not afterthoughts; they are integral to God's plan of salvation, ensuring that the finished work of Christ transforms our lives from the inside out.

### **Pause and Reflect:**

How aware are you of the Holy Spirit's presence and work in your daily life? In what ways can you be more open to the leading and empowering of the Holy Spirit? How does understanding the Holy Spirit as a "guarantee" of your inheritance impact your sense of security in Christ?

### **Faith in Action:**

Take some time today to consciously acknowledge the presence of the Holy Spirit in your life. Pray for a greater awareness of His leading and for the strength to yield to His guidance. Consider reading passages in Acts that describe the coming of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2) and His subsequent work in the early church.

### **A Moment With God:**

Holy Spirit, I thank You for Your presence in my life. Help me to be more attuned to Your voice and to fully receive the benefits of Jesus' finished work through Your power.

# Thursday - Our Advocate in Heaven

## In a Nutshell:

Colin highlighted that Christ's ongoing intercession in heaven isn't about finishing the atonement, but about representing us and applying the benefits of His completed work based on the fully paid debt.

## Anchor Verse:

Hebrews 7:25 (NIV) "Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them."

## Unpacking the Word:

We've reflected on the victory of the cross, the validation of the resurrection, and the application through the Holy Spirit. Today, we turn our attention to another crucial aspect of Jesus' ongoing work: His intercession for us in heaven. As Colin clarified, Jesus isn't in heaven doing more work to complete the atonement. That work is definitively finished. Rather, He serves as our permanent representative, constantly advocating for us based on the perfect sacrifice He has already made.

Think of a lawyer who has won a landmark case for their client. Even after the verdict, the lawyer continues to represent their client, ensuring the terms of the victory are upheld and that their client receives all the benefits. Similarly, Jesus, having secured our eternal salvation through His death and resurrection, now intercedes for us before the Father.

Hebrews 7:25 assures us that Jesus "is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them." His intercession is not a sign that His sacrifice was insufficient, but rather a testament to its complete and eternal efficacy. He stands before the Father, presenting His perfect life and atoning death as the basis for our forgiveness and acceptance.

This truth brings immense comfort and security. We have a constant advocate in the highest court, one who understands our weaknesses and temptations because He Himself was tempted in every way, yet without sin (Hebrews 4:15). His intercession ensures that when we stumble, when we face accusations, when we doubt our standing with God, we have a powerful and compassionate representative who speaks on our behalf.

His intercession is not about persuading a reluctant Father to be merciful. Rather, it is the ongoing application of the mercy and grace that were fully manifested at the cross. It is a constant reminder that the debt has been paid, the victory has been won, and we are forever accepted in the Beloved. Knowing that Jesus is continually interceding for us empowers us to approach God with confidence and to live in the assurance of His unfailing love.

## **Pause and Reflect:**

How does the knowledge of Jesus' ongoing intercession impact your prayer life and your relationship with God? In what situations do you find comfort in knowing that Jesus is advocating for you before the Father? How can you live today in a way that reflects your trust in Jesus as your perfect intercessor?

## **Faith in Action:**

Take some time today to consciously bring your needs and concerns before God, knowing that Jesus is your advocate. Pray with confidence, remembering that your access to the Father is secured by Christ's finished work and His ongoing intercession.

## **A Moment With God:**

Heavenly Father, I thank You for the gift of Your Son, Jesus, who not only died for me but now lives to intercede on my behalf. Thank You for His constant advocacy and for the assurance of Your complete salvation.

## **Invitation:**

To read the entire devotional, please visit us at [ghapm.org/devotions](http://ghapm.org/devotions).



# Friday - Living in Purchased Freedom

## In a Nutshell:

Because Jesus declared "It is finished," we are freed from the burden of trying to earn God's love, work off our guilt, or clean ourselves up before being accepted by Him. We are invited to live in the freedom He purchased.

## Anchor Verse:

Galatians 5:1 (NIV) "It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery."

## Unpacking the Word:

Throughout this week, we've delved into the profound meaning of Jesus' declaration, "It is finished." We've explored how it signified the complete payment for our sins, validated by the resurrection, applied through the Holy Spirit, and continually represented by Christ's intercession. Today, we focus on the direct impact of this finished work on our daily lives: freedom.

As Colin powerfully stated, because Jesus said, "It is finished," we don't have to keep trying to earn what He already paid for. This is a liberating truth that often struggles to take root in our hearts. We are so accustomed to a performance-based world, where worth is often tied to achievement, that we can unconsciously carry this mindset into our relationship with God.

We might find ourselves striving for perfection, fearing God's disapproval when we fall short, or feeling the need to constantly prove our worthiness. But the message of the cross is clear: Jesus has done it all. He has paid the penalty, satisfied God's justice, and opened the way to the Father's presence. Our acceptance is not based on our efforts but on His finished work.

Galatians 5:1 declares, "It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery." This verse underscores the purpose of Christ's sacrifice: to liberate us from the bondage of sin and the legalistic attempts to earn God's favor. When we try to add to Christ's finished work through our own efforts, we are essentially denying its completeness and placing ourselves back under a yoke of slavery.

Living in this purchased freedom means releasing the need to perform for God's love. It means accepting His forgiveness as a free gift, not something we have to work for. It means walking in the confidence that we are accepted and loved unconditionally because of what Jesus has done, not because of what we do. This freedom is not a license to sin, but an invitation to live in gratitude and obedience out of love for the One who has set us free.

### **Pause and Reflect:**

What "yokes of slavery" – such as guilt, fear of failure, or the need for approval – might you still be carrying? How would your life change if you truly believed that God's love and acceptance for you are not based on your performance? What practical steps can you take today to embrace the freedom that Christ has purchased for you?

### **Faith in Action:**

Identify one area where you feel the pressure to earn God's approval. Consciously release that pressure today, reminding yourself that you are loved and accepted because of Jesus. Perhaps write down Galatians 5:1 and meditate on its meaning throughout the day.

### **A Moment With God:**

Father, thank You for the incredible gift of freedom that comes through Jesus' finished work. Help me to truly live in this freedom, releasing any burdens of performance and resting in Your unconditional love.

# Saturday - Embracing the Finished Victory

## In a Nutshell:

Throughout this week, we've journeyed through the profound implications of Jesus' cry, "It is finished," realizing it signifies complete payment, divine validation, practical application, heavenly representation, and ultimately, our liberation to live in His purchased freedom.

## Unpacking the Word:

This week, we have unpacked the multifaceted truth embedded in Jesus' final words on the cross: "It is finished." On Monday, we established that "Tetelestai" was a victorious declaration that our sin debt is completely paid, fulfilling prophecy and God's righteous demands. Tuesday brought us to the resurrection, the Father's powerful affirmation, the divine receipt validating the completed transaction and guaranteeing our justification. Wednesday explored the ascension and the sending of the Holy Spirit, the practical means by which the victory is applied to our lives, empowering us from within. Thursday highlighted Jesus' ongoing intercession in heaven, not as a continuation of the atoning work, but as our constant advocate, representing us based on His finished sacrifice. Finally, on Friday, we focused on the result of all this: the freedom we now possess, no longer bound by the need to earn God's love or work off our guilt.

These five aspects are not isolated events but interconnected threads in the grand tapestry of God's redemptive plan. The cross was the central act of love and sacrifice. The resurrection was the triumphant declaration of victory over death and sin. The Spirit empowers us to live out this victory daily. Christ's intercession ensures our continued access to the Father's grace. And the result is the glorious freedom to live as God's beloved children.

It's easy to intellectually grasp these truths, but the real challenge lies in allowing them to permeate our hearts and transform our daily living. We often revert to old patterns of striving, fearing, and doubting, forgetting the solid foundation of Christ's finished work. Today is an opportunity to consciously embrace all that Jesus has accomplished for us. It's a day to actively reject the lies that tell us we need to do more, be more, or earn more to be accepted by God. Instead, let us rest in the profound truth that in Christ, we are already complete, already forgiven, and already loved beyond measure. Let the victory of the cross shape our thoughts, guide our actions, and fill us with unwavering hope.

## **Pause and Reflect:**

Reflecting on this week's devotionals, what is one aspect of Jesus' finished work that resonates most deeply with you today? In what specific area of your life do you need to more fully embrace the freedom that Christ has won for you? How can you carry the truth of "It is finished" with you into the coming week?

## **Faith in Action:**

Spend some time in quiet reflection, reviewing the key points of this week's devotionals. Choose one truth about Jesus' finished work that you want to focus on in the coming week. Write it down and place it somewhere you will see it regularly as a reminder.

## **A Moment With God:**

Father, thank You for the comprehensive and complete victory won for us through Jesus Christ. Help us to internalize these truths and to live every day in the fullness of the freedom and grace You have so generously given.

# Sunday - Draw Near to God

## Anchor Verse:

Hebrews 10:22 (NIV) "Let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water."

## Unpacking the Word:

As we prepare to gather this Sunday morning, Hebrews 10:22 offers a powerful invitation: "let us draw near to God." This call resonates through the ages, beckoning us to enter into His presence with sincerity and confidence. It reminds us that worship is not a passive attendance but an active drawing near to our Creator and Redeemer.

The verse speaks of approaching God "with a sincere heart." This implies a posture of honesty and authenticity before Him. As we prepare to worship, let us examine our hearts, laying aside any pretense or distraction. Are we truly seeking to connect with God, or are we merely going through the motions? A sincere heart is one that is open, willing to listen, and ready to respond to God's leading.

Furthermore, we are called to draw near "with the full assurance that faith brings." This assurance is rooted in the finished work of Jesus Christ, which we have reflected on throughout the past week. Because of His sacrifice, the barrier of sin has been removed, and we have been made righteous in God's sight. Our faith in His completed work gives us the boldness to approach the throne of grace without fear or hesitation.

The imagery of "our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience" points directly to the atoning blood of Jesus. His sacrifice purifies us from the stain of sin, freeing us from the burden of guilt and shame. This cleansing is not a one-time event but an ongoing reality for those who trust in Christ. As we come to worship, we can be confident that our consciences are clear because of His grace. Similarly, "having our bodies washed with pure water" can be seen as a reference to baptism, symbolizing our new life in Christ and our commitment to follow Him.

As we anticipate encountering God together, let us each prepare our hearts by reflecting on His goodness and grace. Let us lay aside the concerns and distractions of the past week, focusing our minds on His presence. Let us come with a spirit of expectation, ready to hear His voice, to offer our praise, and to be renewed by His Spirit. This morning is an opportunity to draw near to the One who has drawn near to us through Jesus Christ. Let us embrace this invitation with sincere hearts and the full assurance of faith.

## A Moment With God:

Spend some time in quiet reflection, preparing your heart for worship. Consider what it means for you to "draw near to God" today. Pray for a sincere heart, a confident faith, and a renewed awareness of the cleansing power of Jesus' sacrifice.

We look forward to worshipping with you this morning. Join us at 10am for coffee and fellowship and 10:30am for our weekly Sunday gathering. You can find us on Level 8 at Tanjung Point, here in Tanjung Tokong, Penang, Malaysia. To read this entire devotional, or more information, please visit our website, [ghapm.org](http://ghapm.org).