

A Done Deal

By Dave Bunnell

**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**

It was a very simple declaration. With three words, there on the cross before He died, Jesus announced that the purchase of our salvation was a done deal: "It is finished!"

Unfortunately, many people try to "finish" Christ's already-finished work for Him. They fast, make sacrifices, and "offer up" their own suffering in an attempt to atone for their sins, make them right with God, and earn them eternal life in heaven.

Don't be deceived into trying that. Despite what anyone has ever taught you, there is absolutely no need for you to do or sacrifice anything to earn God's grace. There is nothing you *need* to add to His finished work. And there is nothing you *can* add to it. Nothing. It is finished.

You can't buy salvation with gifts to the church. You can't earn it by fasting or sacrificing or offering up to Him the difficulties you go through in this life as penance. Your suffering and pain don't please God. And they don't impress Him.

The only sacrifice that impresses God the Father is the one Jesus made that day at Calvary. Jesus lived a perfect, sinless life. Then, in our place, He endured every ounce of the punishment and suffering you and I deserved for breaking His law. So there is nothing you can do to supplement Jesus' sacrifice, and no sense trying.

Jesus meant what He said: It is finished. The Father is completely satisfied with His sacrifice. Nothing is required of you except faith.

Believe that Jesus died to take away your sins, and ask Him for the free forgiveness He promises You. He cannot lie, so His promise is trustworthy. If you believe, He will take away all of your sins and guarantee you eternal life in heaven.

But if you don't believe, heaven will never be your home. A church or religious leader might have promised you that you could go to heaven if you are good enough and follow their rules closely enough. But God in His Word hasn't promised heaven to anyone except those who accept His sacrifice on the cross to take away all of their sins.

Read the Gospel of John, and see for yourself. Your salvation has already been earned by Jesus. It is finished. It's a done deal. All you must do is believe and receive His wonderful gift.

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