



This week we looked at Jesus' penultimate words, "It is finished" in John 19v30. We've spent 6 weeks so far investigating what Jesus has done for us on the cross. We've seen the physical pain he went through, we've seen the spiritual desertion he experienced. Jesus dying in place for our sin so that we can be forgiven is the big picture lesson. In Jesus' words today we see that that work of rescuing his people from sin is complete. But we noted that sometimes we can be guilty of thinking that it either isn't complete and we have to add to our salvation or that it is not sufficient enough for the 'quantity' or 'quality' of our own sin. But when Jesus says, 'It is finished' he means it's complete and it's enough.

There's nothing we can do to add to Jesus' work

All other religions in the world tell us that to get to God we must keep laws, make sacrifices, or follow certain rituals. The gospel of Jesus Christ is a gospel of grace but in our struggle to accept that, we often feel more secure in our faith when we do good works; thinking that God is extra pleased with us for doing them. Jesus' work is complete. He has finished the task of winning for us eternal life. Jesus, the God-man, lived a sinless life and died as a perfect sacrifice. He did what was required by his Father in Heaven, so he could say 'It is finished'. None of our good works will ever be able to match up to what he has done for us.

There's nothing more Jesus needs to do to improve his work

It is one thing accepting that Jesus' work has finished when he died on the cross. But sometimes we can think that his death is not quite sufficient for our own sin. We all have sins that keep crawling back into our lives. Sins that we struggle to conquer. Whatever they may be we can believe that Jesus' death will only cover us to a certain point. Or perhaps there is one big sin that we are ashamed of and we feel that it is too great for God to forgive. Again we reduce the cross to being

unable to cover our sin. However, Hebrews tells us that there is no need for us to keep making sacrifices again and again for sin because Jesus has died once for all and it is enough.

Here are some questions to get some discussion started...

When are you tempted to think that Jesus' work on the cross is not complete? In what situations do you feel more secure in your faith because of your effort? Why do we do this?

Are there times when you feel that your sin is too great or too much for God to forgive you? Why do you feel like this?

How do the words of Jesus, 'It is finished' help with these two situations? – Read the passage and work through Jesus' finished work. **John 19v28-30.**

Look at these passages, what was the work of Jesus to complete? **John 4v31-36, 17v1-4**

How was Jesus qualified to complete this work? **John 12v20-32**

How do these verses help you when tempted to add to Jesus' work by your own works, or to feel more secure in your faith by good works?

Read **Hebrews 9v1,6-12, 24-28; 10:11-12** How is Jesus' death enough? Is your sin really too big for God? How can these verses encourage you to look to Jesus when feeling overwhelmed with guilt and shame?