

It Is Finished: Love's Triumphant Cry

Good Friday April 3rd, 2026

John 19:16–18 (NLT) Then Pilate turned Jesus over to them to be crucified. So they took Jesus away. ¹⁷ Carrying the cross by himself, he went to the place called Place of the Skull (in Hebrew, Golgotha). ¹⁸ There they nailed him to the cross. Two others were crucified with him, one on either side, with Jesus between them.

John 19:28-30 (NLT) Jesus knew that his mission was now finished, and to fulfill Scripture he said, "I am thirsty." ²⁹ A jar of sour wine was sitting there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put it on a hyssop branch, and held it up to his lips. ³⁰ When Jesus had tasted it, he said, "It is finished!" Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

On the day Jesus was crucified, three crosses stood on the hill called Golgotha.

They looked the same. Each held a condemned man. But only one cross carried the sins of the world.

The sin of the world is everything broken in us and around us, every wrong, every failure, every way we fall short of who God created us to be. (Romans 3:23)

It's choosing our own way instead of God's and living outside the life He designed for us.

When Jesus hung on that cross and cried, "It is finished," He settled what no man could ever fix.

The Cross Is Not About the Symbol, It's About the Savior

The cross itself has no power but

But **there is power in the message of the One who hung on that cross.**

1 Corinthians 1:18 (NLT) The message of the cross is foolish to those who are headed for destruction! But we who are being saved know it is the very power of God.

Salvation is the way back to God, the restoration of a broken relationship between us and Him.

The power is not in the object; the power is in the "good news about Jesus Christ".

The Cross Declares: It is finished

The cross of Christ is not a symbol of defeat; it is the declaration of victory.

When Jesus said, "It is finished," it wasn't a dying whisper of defeat, it was a shout of victory. **He was not a Victim but a Victor. He was not overcome, He overcame. His life was not taken from Him; it was willingly laid down by Him.**

John 10:18 (NLT) No one can take my life from me. I sacrifice it voluntarily. For I have the authority to lay it down when I want to and also to take it up again. For this is what my Father has commanded.

On that cross:

- Sin was not just forgiven, it was defeated
- Shame was not just covered, it was broken
- Death was not just delayed, it was conquered

What looked like loss was victory. What looked like the end was the turning point of history. Because Jesus didn't just carry our sin, He crushed its power.

We are not fighting for victory; we are living from the victory Jesus has already won. He is not leading us to triumph; He is leading us from triumph.

2 Corinthians 2:14 (NLT) But thank God! He has made us his captives and continues to lead us along in Christ's triumphal procession. Now he uses us to spread the knowledge of Christ everywhere, like a sweet perfume.

And the resurrection shows us this wasn't just a moment of sacrifice; it was a moment of victory. Because if Jesus stayed in the grave, there would be no proof. But He didn't. He rose. And that means the victory is real.

Jesus wasn't just the lamb of God He is the conquering King who leads us in triumph.

When Jesus cried, "It is finished" (John 19:30), He wasn't saying "I lost" he was He was declaring "I won". He was declaring His triumph over sin, death, and everything that stood against us.

- The debt of sin, paid in full
- The power of sin, broken
- The grip of death, shattered
- The way to God, opened

Nothing needs to be added. Nothing can be improved. Nothing is left undone.

The cross doesn't offer partial salvation; it provides complete redemption, being bought back, restored, given a fresh start.

It is finished. The cross settles it once and for all.

Because of the cross:

- Sin is forgiven
- Shame is removed
- Grace is available
- Salvation is secure

Three crosses stood on that hill, but only one Savior could say, "It is finished."

And because He finished it, you can receive it.

The Cross Declares Salvation by Grace Alone

Grace is God giving us what we don't deserve instead of what we do deserve.

Romans 5:6 (NLT) When we were utterly helpless, Christ came at just the right time and died for us sinners.

At the cross:

- The innocent died for the guilty
- The sinless took the place of sinners
- The price was paid in full

May we never boast in anything except the cross of Christ.

Galatians 6:14 But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Cross Forces a Decision

At Calvary, we don't just see three crosses, we see two responses.

Luke 23:39-43 (NLT) One of the criminals hanging beside him scoffed, "So you're the Messiah, are you? Prove it by saving yourself and us, too, while you're at it!" ⁴⁰ But the other criminal protested, "Don't you fear God even when you have been sentenced to die? ⁴¹ We deserve to die for our crimes, but this man hasn't done anything wrong." ⁴² Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your Kingdom." ⁴³ And Jesus replied, "I assure you, today you will be with me in paradise."

Two men saw the same Jesus. One saw a powerless man on a cross. The other saw a King who was still in control. One mocked, One defended. One rejected Him, One trusted Him.

Same moment, different response, different outcome. One enters paradise, the other doesn't. The message if the cross still stands today and it still demands a response.

And today, you have the same choice: Will you walk away or will you trust the One who already won the battle for you?

You don't have to fix yourself, just come to Jesus.

And the same Victor who conquered sin and death, will meet you with mercy.

So, let me ask you, what will you do with Jesus?

This is your moment.

The same Jesus who rose from the grave is offering you life. There is power in His blood power to forgive, to heal, to make you new. (The blood represents the giving of His life)

The door is open. Not because of what you've done, but because of what He finished.

So don't just admire it, Respond to it.

Step into the life He's offering.

Because this is the moment that changes everything.

Let me lead you in a prayer.