

## TETELESTAI-PAID IN FULL

### I. John 19:28-30

**A. John 19:28-30 (ESV) are among Jesus' last words on the cross: 28** *After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), "I thirst." 29 A jar full of sour wine stood there, so they put a sponge full of the sour wine on a hyssop branch and held it to His mouth. 30 When Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished," and He bowed His head and gave up His spirit.*

**B. During this past year and a half of COVID, we've gone to a lot of restaurants via their drive-thru window. On more than one occasion, we'd get to the window to pay and someone in front of us (usually a stranger) had already paid our bill. It's a small thing but the kindness of the act never ceases to bless...**

**C. In a few weeks from today we will celebrate being in this building 8 years. For 26 years we were a church without a building. In case you didn't know, this beautiful Chapel was given to us by the generous folks at Hoskinson-Schoedinger Funeral Home. This building was a gift we didn't deserve and could never afford. All we could do is receive it with gratitude. It's certainly analogous of the Gospel...**

**D. Many of you likely have stories of when a debt was incurred that you couldn't pay. Following some unfortunate event, accident, or tragedy, an invoice arrived that was beyond your ability to pay. And then someone intervened to pay it or write it off and that kind gesture left you stunned and humbled. Jesus outdoes all that!**

**E. Today's Message is titled, *Tetelestai-Paid in Full*. Tetelestai is an accounting term that means, "*Paid in Full!*" Listen once again to verse 30 of our opening text: 30 When Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished," (*Tetelestai*) and He bowed His head and gave up His spirit.**

**1) Charles Swindoll explains the word far better than I ever could:** "[Jesus] tilted His head back, pulled up one last time to draw breath and cried, "*Tetelestai!*" It was a Greek expression most everyone present would have understood. It was an accounting term. Archaeologists have found papyrus tax receipts with "*Tetelestai*" written across them, meaning "*paid in full*." With Jesus' last breath on the cross, He declared the debt of sin cancelled, completely satisfied. Nothing else required. Not good deeds. Not generous donations. Not penance or confession or baptism or...or...or...nothing. The penalty for sin is death, and we were all born hopelessly in debt. He paid our debt in full by giving His life so that we might live forever." **(The Bread & Cup are vivid reminders of this paid-in-full reality!)**

**2) Hudson Taylor, the renowned missionary to China, put it this way:** "There dawned upon me the joyous conviction that since the whole work was finished and the whole debt was paid upon the Cross there was nothing for me to do but to fall upon my knees, accept the Savior and praise Him forevermore."

**3) The great English preacher Charles Spurgeon expressed it even more eloquently:** "An ocean of meaning in a drop of language, a mere drop. It would need all the other words that ever were spoken, or ever can be spoken, to explain this one word. It is

altogether immeasurable. It is high; I cannot attain to it. It is deep; I cannot fathom it. *IT IS FINISHED* is the most charming note in all of Calvary's music. The fire has passed upon the Lamb. He has borne the whole of the wrath that was due to His people. This is the royal dish of the feast of love." **(Communion shouts all this out loud!)**

**F. While Jesus hung on the cross, listen to two passages that reveal how horribly He was mocked...**

**1) Mark 15:29-32 (ESV) says: 29** *And those who passed by derided Him, wagging their heads and saying, "Aha! You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, 30 save Yourself, and come down from the cross!" 31* *So also the chief priests with the scribes mocked Him to one another, saying, "He saved others; He cannot save Himself. 32 Let the Christ, the King of Israel, come down now from the cross that we may see and believe."* *Those who were crucified with Him also reviled Him.*

**2) Luke 23:35-37 (ESV) echoes: 35** *And the people stood by, watching, but the rulers scoffed at Him, saying, "He saved others; let Him save Himself, if He is the Christ of God, His Chosen One!" 36* *The soldiers also mocked Him, coming up and offering Him sour wine 37 and saying, "If You are the King of the Jews, save Yourself!"* **(So we have Jesus being viciously mocked by ordinary people, by Jewish leaders, by Roman soldiers, and even by the thieves being crucified with Him (though one of would turn). Yet Jesus kept silent. He just kept bleeding and suffocating in our place. Though we were sinners and enemies, He just kept on paying off our debt, paying it in full!)**

**\* So consider your debt of sin and hear this: Tetelestai-paid in full!**

**G. Isaiah 53:4-7 (NIV) is so incredibly powerful: 4** *Surely He took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered Him punished by God, stricken by Him, and afflicted. 5* *But He was pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on Him, and by His wounds we are healed. 6* *We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all. 7* *He was oppressed and afflicted, yet He did not open His mouth; He was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so He did not open His mouth.* **(Isaiah saw it 7 centuries in advance-Jesus on the cross, quietly dying in our place!)**

**\* Pray and Officiate Communion...**

**\* Benediction: John Piper says it well:** "One of the greatest things Jesus ever said was, *"It is finished"* (John 19:30). My obedience is finished and perfect, and you need it. My suffering is finished, and you need it to cover all your sins. I have finished removing the wrath of God from My people. I have finished striking Satan with a death blow. I have established the New Covenant for My people. It is finished. And because it is finished, the mission begins."

**\* Isaiah 53:12 (NIV) takes us home today: 12** *Therefore I will give Him a portion among the great, and He will divide the spoils with the strong, because He poured out His life unto death, and was numbered with the transgressors. For He bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.* **(Tetelestai-paid in full!)**

## **Scriptures, Videos, & Bonus Stuff**

### **John 19:28-30 (ESV)**

**28** After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), "I thirst." **29** A jar full of sour wine stood there, so they put a sponge full of the sour wine on a hyssop branch and held it to His mouth. **30** When Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished," and He bowed His head and gave up His spirit.

### **Mark 15:29-32 (ESV)**

**29** And those who passed by derided Him, wagging their heads and saying, "Aha! You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, **30** save Yourself, and come down from the cross!" **31** So also the chief priests with the scribes mocked Him to one another, saying, "He saved others; He cannot save Himself. **32** Let the Christ, the King of Israel, come down now from the cross that we may see and believe." Those who were crucified with Him also reviled Him.

### **Luke 23:35-37 (ESV)**

**35** And the people stood by, watching, but the rulers scoffed at Him, saying, "He saved others; let Him save Himself, if He is the Christ of God, His Chosen One!" **36** The soldiers also mocked Him, coming up and offering Him sour wine **37** and saying, "If You are the King of the Jews, save Yourself!"

### **Isaiah 53:4-7 (NIV)**

**4** Surely He took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered Him punished by God, stricken by Him, and afflicted. **5** But He was pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on Him, and by His wounds we are healed. **6** We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all. **7** He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet He opened not His mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so He opened not His mouth. **7** He He was oppressed and afflicted, yet He did not open His mouth; He was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so He did not open His mouth.

### **Isaiah 53:12 (NIV)**

**12** Therefore I will give Him a portion among the great, and He will divide the spoils with the strong, because He poured out His life unto death, and was numbered with the transgressors. For He bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

### **Quote by Charles Swindoll**

"[Jesus] tilted His head back, pulled up one last time to draw breath and cried, "Tetelestai!" It was a Greek expression most everyone present would have understood. It was an accounting term. Archaeologists have found papyrus tax receipts with "Tetelestai" written across them, meaning "paid in full." With Jesus' last breath on the

cross, He declared the debt of sin cancelled, completely satisfied. Nothing else required. Not good deeds. Not generous donations. Not penance or confession or baptism or...or...or...nothing. The penalty for sin is death, and we were all born hopelessly in debt. He paid our debt in full by giving His life so that we might live forever.”

#### **Quote by Hudson Taylor**

“There dawned upon me the joyous conviction that since the whole work was finished and the whole debt was paid upon the Cross there was nothing for me to do but to fall upon my knees, accept the Savior and praise Him forevermore.”

#### **Quote by Charles Spurgeon**

“An ocean of meaning in a drop of language, a mere drop. It would need all the other words that ever were spoken, or ever can be spoken, to explain this one word. It is altogether immeasurable. It is high; I cannot attain to it. It is deep; I cannot fathom it. IT IS FINISHED is the most charming note in all of Calvary’s music. The fire has passed upon the Lamb. He has borne the whole of the wrath that was due to His people. This is the royal dish of the feast of love.”

#### **Quote by John Piper**

"One of the greatest things Jesus ever said was, “It is finished” (John 19:30). My obedience is finished and perfect, and you need it. My suffering is finished, and you need it to cover all your sins. I have finished removing the wrath of God from My people. I have finished striking Satan with a death blow. I have established the New Covenant for My people. It is finished. And because it is finished, the mission begins."

#### **Bonus Rations for Further Nourishment**

"It is Finished" (Tetelestai) - Jimmy Needham

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BmYMFulc1iA>

"It is Finished" An Animation - Full of Eyes

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nnAoUYdsJKU>

Hudson Taylor - Missionary to China - Christian History

<https://www.christianitytoday.com/history/people/missionaries/hudson-taylor.html>

Charles Spurgeon (1834 - 1892) - Christian History

<https://www.christianitytoday.com/history/people/pastorsandpreachers/charles-spurgeon.htm>

"Jesus Paid It All" - Kim Walker-Smith

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ymkl0t0FOcw>

#### **Romans 5:6-8 (AMP)**

**6** While we were still helpless [powerless to provide for our salvation], at the right time Christ died [as a substitute] for the ungodly. **7** Now it is an extraordinary thing for one to willingly give his life even for an upright man, though perhaps for a good man [one who is noble and selfless and worthy] someone might even dare to die. **8** But God clearly shows and proves His own love for us, by the fact that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

### **Romans 8:1-3 (NLT)**

**1** So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus. **2** And because you belong to Him, the power of the life-giving Spirit has freed you from the power of sin that leads to death. **3** The law of Moses was unable to save us because of the weakness of our sinful nature. So God did what the law could not do. He sent His own Son in a body like the bodies we sinners have. And in that body God declared an end to sin's control over us by giving His Son as a sacrifice for our sins.

### **Quote by J.C. Ryle**

"It is surely not too much to say, that of all the seven famous sayings of Christ on the cross, none is more remarkable than TETELESTAI."

### **Quote by A.W. Pink**

"Eternity will be needed to make manifest all that TETELESTAI contains."

### **Quote by Andrew Murray**

"Every day that our confidence grows fuller in Christ's FINISHED WORK must see our heart more entirely yielding itself like Him, a whole burnt offering in the service of God and His love."

### **Quote by Martin Luther**

"Learn to know Christ and Him crucified. Learn to sing to Him, and say, 'Lord Jesus, You are my righteousness, I am your sin. You have taken upon Yourself what is mine and given me what is Yours. You have become what You were not so that I might become what I was not.'"

### **Quote by Charles Spurgeon**

"The general religion of mankind is "DO," but the religion of a true Christian is "DONE." IT IS FINISHED is the believer's conquering word. INCARNATE LOVE has fulfilled His self-imposed task. Jesus, as the Substitute for sinners, was condemned to die, and He died that He might finish the work of our redemption. Your sins have sustained their death-blow, the robe of your righteousness has received its last thread (cf [1Cor 1:30-note](#), [2Cor 5:21-note](#)). It is done, complete, perfect. It needs no addition; it can NEVER suffer any diminution. Oh, Christian, do lay hold of this precious thought. I may not be able to state it except in weak terms, but let not my weakness prevent your apprehending its glory and its preciousness. This thought is enough to make a man leap, though his legs were chained with irons, and to make him sing, though his mouth were gagged. We are PERFECTLY ACCEPTED in Christ, and our justification is not

partial (cf [Ro 5:1-note](#), [Ro 5:9-note](#), [Ro 8:30-note](#)). It does not go to a limited extent, but goes the whole way. Our unrighteousness is covered. From condemnation we are entirely and irrevocably free. 'Consummatum est. The work is done, redemption is accomplished; the salvation of My people is forever secured. Sin will never be mentioned against them anymore, forever. Oh, wondrous deed of Deity! Oh, mighty feat of love accomplished once for all!"

### **Jesus Paid It All**

Words by Elvina M. Hall, 1865; Tune by John T. Grape, 1868 - Public Domain

I hear the Savior say,  
"Thy strength indeed is small;  
Child of weakness, watch and pray,  
Find in Me thine all in all."

Refrain:

Jesus paid it all,  
All to Him I owe;  
Sin had left a crimson stain,  
He washed it white as snow.

For nothing good have I  
Whereby Thy grace to claim;  
I'll wash my garments white  
In the blood of Calv'ry's Lamb.

And now complete in Him,  
My robe, His righteousness,  
Close sheltered 'neath His side,  
I am divinely blest.

Lord, now indeed I find  
Thy pow'r, and Thine alone,  
Can change the leper's spots [\*leopard's]  
And melt the heart of stone.

When from my dying bed  
My ransomed soul shall rise,  
"Jesus died my soul to save,"  
Shall rend the vaulted skies.

And when before the throne  
I stand in Him complete,  
I'll lay my trophies down,  
All down at Jesus' feet.