

He Spoke a Word of Accomplishment

‡ **He finished all He came to do.**

‡ **He paid all the debt we owed.**

In the name of Jesus our suffering Savior, dearly redeemed believers:

Three most important words ever spoken: “It is finished.” Almost. In Greek this is one word in a present perfect form which means action completed in the past has results absolutely certain in the present. One evening service in New Life’s first three years in Snail Lake School was Good Friday, 1989. This word so impressed the half member, half unchurched congregation that people were asking about it for months and years afterward. I pray the depth of its meaning will impress us again tonight, so that it will bring you the comfort and peace God intended as the sixth word spoken by our Savior from the cross: Tetelestai – “It is finished.”

‡ **He finished all He came to do.**

A. One Greek word – so full of meaning.

1. Onomatopoeia – The word sounds like what it says.
 - a) Jesus had a job to do, a target for His careful aim.
 - b) He hit the bull’s-eye dead center like Jack Bauer, ultra spy for CTU in “24” TV series.
 - c) But instead of instant death, Christ’s double-pumped bull’s-eye brings everlasting life.
2. Imagine your boss coming in and telling you, “It is finished.”
 - a) Not, “You’re finished.”
 - b) But, “Your work is complete for you to be paid for life.”

B. Jesus knew all along exactly what work He came to do.

1. Angels proclaimed this work before He was born. Name: “Jesus” – Matthew 1:21; Luke 2:14
2. Twelve-year-old Jesus knew His work in spite of mistaken parents – Luke 2:49
3. Always kept His work in view as an adult.
 - In spite of unbelieving siblings coming to take Him away.
 - At little Zacchaeus’ house – Luke 19:10
 - In spite of Peter’s vehement objections – Luke 16:23ff
 - In spite of the long journey to Jerusalem – resolute in Luke 9:51 – 19:41
 - Just 24 hours earlier on Maundy Thursday – John 17:4

Transition: How many jobs have we left undone? Much easier to start something than to finish it. Some homes are in a constant state of disarray because of unfinished projects. The problem is the boredom and sometimes the pain involved with keeping at something until you can say, “It is finished.” What love unbounded Jesus has for us to finish His Father’s work in spite of all the pain and suffering – out of love for Him and love for us. He said, “Tetelestai” because

† He paid all the debt we owed.

A. “Tetelestai” – “Paid in Full” in the business world.

1. Jesus’ work is done in the past, but remember the results continue positively certain in the present.
2. Think what “tetelestai” would mean for...
 - a) ...your mortgage.
 - b) ...your car payment.
 - c) ...your student loan.
3. “Tetelestai” was used on legal documents as a stamp, meaning, “Paid in full.”

B. The debt we owed – “Tetelestai”

1. Impossible for us to pay for ourselves, much less for anyone else, not even our children.
2. But all our sins without except are “tetelestai” for Jesus’ sake.
 - a) John standing beneath the cross heard, “Tetelestai” – 1 John 2:12
 - b) Not just some, but “all sin” – 1 John 1:7
 - c) Forgotten ones too – Psalm 19:12
 - d) Dumb sins of wandering sheep – Isaiah 53:6
 - e) Stubborn, big, disgusting – everybody’s sins – Acts 16:31
 - f) Even our children – Acts 2:38ff

Conclusion: Would you keep paying on a mortgage marked, “Tetelestai”? If friends took you out for graduation dinner and paid your bill, would you insist on doing so again? Don’t ever try to substitute your works for those untarnished, holy works of our salvation in Jesus’ perfect life and innocent death. He alone could pay the debt we owed. For this was the work His heavenly Father sent His Son our Savior Jesus to do. It wasn’t just Jesus who said, “Tetelestai.” When the heavenly Father raised Jesus from the dead, He said, “Tetelestai” too! The Triune God is glad to give you this gift of eternal life “Paid-in-Full,” yes, the dear Holy Spirit is glad to bring it to your heart tonight. If you want to give Him thanks, mark the bills of all your debtors, everyone who has sinned against you, especially the big and ugly debts: “Tetelestai” for Jesus’ sake. Amen.