

Opening Thoughts

The moment of Christ's crucifixion has resonated around the world for more than 2000 years. Is there any moment in history that has had a comparable level of influence? What do you observe about God's wisdom and power from the impact and durability of Christ's sacrifice?

Time in the Word

Read Matthew 27: 50-54

What words or phrases stand out to you?

When did you have a "centurion moment" and, for the first time, truly realize this was the Son of God!?

Discussion Questions

How many things in life are:

- Given with no real or implied requirements/conditions?

- Given with absolutely no cost at all?

- Really finished when they're finished?

The term **power** is often used when believers discuss the things that influence our behavior and choices. Do you believe and conduct your daily life under the premise that there is an active influence from a spiritual power? Why or why not? Do you see evidence around you that there are spiritual powers battling? Explain. What is your response to someone saying they're in a spiritual battle? Have you ever been in one?

What does Christ's last phrase, **It is finished**, mean to you? What implications of that phrase are encouraging to some and challenging to others?



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Our Purpose

why we exist

The purpose of the church is to bring glory to God.

Our Mission

what we do

Love God • Love People • Make Disciples

Our Core Values

how we do it

Worship - lifting up the name of the Lord Jesus Christ
Connect - living in community, loving and supporting one another
Grow - equipping believers to live in obedience to God's Word
Serve - helping people discover and use their God-given talents
Reach - transforming lives and communities with the good news of Jesus Christ

Contact Information

Church Address: 4040 Tully Road
Modesto, CA 95356

Office Hours: Monday - Thursday: 9 A.M. - 5 P.M.
Friday - Sunday: Closed

Phone Number: 209.577.1604

Website: www.bigvalleygrace.org

THE POWER OF ONE

May 19/20, 2012

VICTORY

John 19:30
Pastor Rick Countryman

When Jesus had tasted it [the sour wine], he said, "It is finished!" Then he bowed his head and released his spirit. John 19:30 (NLT)

Then Jesus shouted out again, and he released his spirit. At that moment the curtain in the sanctuary of the Temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, rocks split apart, and tombs opened. The bodies of many godly men and women who had died were raised from the dead. They left the cemetery after Jesus' resurrection, went into the holy city of Jerusalem, and appeared to many people. The Roman officer and the other soldiers at the crucifixion were terrified by the earthquake and all that had happened. They said, "This man truly was the Son of God!" Matthew 27:50-54 (NLT)

What was Jesus saying when He said "It is finished"?

1. The _____ for my _____ was finished.

God has freed us from the power of darkness, and he brought us into the kingdom of his dear Son. The Son paid for our sins, and in him we have forgiveness. Colossians 1:13-14 (NCV)

The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" John 1:29 (NIV)

Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; He is Christ the Lord. Luke 2:11 (NIV)

She [Mary] will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins. Matthew 1:21 (NIV)

For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. John 3:1 (NIV)

Application: Never forget _____ to forgive me.

For you know that God paid a ransom to save you from the empty life you inherited from your ancestors. And the ransom he paid was not mere gold or silver. It was the precious blood of Christ, the sinless, spotless Lamb of God. 1 Peter 1:18-19 NLT)

2. The _____ that _____ had over me is finished.

He who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work. 1 John 3:8 (NIV)

For he has rescued us from the kingdom of darkness and transferred us into the Kingdom of his dear Son, who purchased our freedom and forgave our sins. Colossians 1:13-14 (NLT)

When you were spiritually dead because of your sins and because you were not free from the power of your sinful self, God made you alive with Christ, and he forgave all our sins... God stripped the spiritual rulers and powers of their authority. With the cross, he won the victory and showed the world that they were powerless. Colossians 2:13, 15 (NCV)

God took away Satan's power to accuse you of sin and God openly displayed to the whole world Christ's triumph at the cross where your sins were all taken away. Colossians 2:15 (LB)

Application: Never forget that _____ in me is far greater than Satan's power.

My dear children, you belong to God and have defeated them; because God's Spirit, who is in you, is greater than the devil, who is in the world. 1 John 4:4 (NCV)



Monday – Begin the day in prayer.

Read Genesis 3:1-15. In verses 14-15, God curses the serpent for deceiving Adam and Eve.

Passage Study Help from *The Bible Knowledge Commentary*

Genesis 3:14-15 God's words to the serpent included (a) the announcement that the snake, crawling and eating dust, would be a perpetual reminder to mankind of temptation and the Fall, and (b) an oracle about the power behind the snake. God said there would be a perpetual struggle between satanic forces and mankind. It would be between Satan and the woman, and their respective offspring or "seeds." The "offspring" of the woman was Cain, then all humanity at large, and then Christ and those collectively in Him. The "offspring" of the serpent includes demons and anyone serving his kingdom of darkness, those whose "father" is the devil (John 8:44). Satan would cripple mankind (you will strike at his heel), but the Seed, Christ, would deliver the fatal blow (He will crush your head).

For further information, go to a Bible dictionary or an online resource such as Biblegateway.com or biblestudytools.com

Explain each phrase of verse 15. See also Romans 16:20 and Hebrews 2:14.

- I will put enmity between you and the woman
- And between your offspring and hers
- He will crush your head
- And you will strike His heel

How was Christ's death on the cross and resurrection the fulfillment and the victory of this prophetic curse?

Tuesday – Begin the day in prayer.

Read Genesis 3:21 with 4:7. Why is blood the payment for sin?

Read Leviticus 22:21, Romans 3:25, 5:9-11 and 1 Peter 1:18-19. What are the differences between the Old Testament animal sacrifices and the sacrifice of Jesus Christ?

What are the similarities?

Read John 1:29. What is your response to the truth that your sins are not just covered, but are taken away by the shed blood of Jesus?

Wednesday – Begin the day in prayer.

Read Romans 6:1-23. Who can say they are free from sin?

Explain how a person is freed from sin?

Explain how a person becomes a slave to righteousness? From where does obedience come (v. 17)?

Thursday – Begin the day in prayer.

Read Colossians 1:13, 21-29 and 2:13-15. How does this passage address doubts you may have that Christ's work on the cross finished the work of securing your salvation?

How does Christ's victory on the cross accomplish the believer's victory over sin?

Friday – Begin the day in prayer.

Read Acts 26:18, Romans 8:31-39, 1 John 4:4 and 5:5. What encouragement do you receive that might help you have victory over sin?

How do these verses encourage you when going through a trial?

Personal Reflection & Application

What do you sense God saying to you from the sermon or the study this week?

How can remembering that God's power in you is far greater than Satan's power help you overcome a current struggle and live in victory?

Reaching Out

From John 6:28-29, share God's victory and assurance with someone who is struggling to believe that faith alone is the work God requires.