

# Tetelestai!

“It is finished” is the translation of this one Greek word into English. It was Christ’s last word before He gave up His life on the cross.

He had hung on the cross for six hours. Before He was crucified He had been offered mixed wine but had refused. Now just before He is to die He croaks “I thirst.” He is offered mixed wine again. He drinks it to clear and moisten his throat for one last word and then shouts “tetelestai.”

Why did He shout that one word and then bow his head and die? He did not say “I am finished”, the result of the beatings and the ordeal of the crucifixion. This was the “it is finished” of the marathoner crossing the finish line. It is the cry of the victor.

**What was finished?** Christ took up a work in eternity past which He had now completed. Christ had taken up responsibility for the rebellion of His people and the punishment that their treasonable actions, thoughts, and words should suffer under God’s justice. The prospect of this final phase of clearing His guilty people from all condemnation for their rebellion has been a reality for Him until this point in time. His people had stood under this awful threat of retribution for their rebellion but now it was finished. Christ has taken upon Himself in His body and soul their just deserts, and has emptied the cup of their terrible debt to God’s justice to the last drop. It is finished. The sacrifice has been offered. God’s justice is satisfied. Christ’s people are free. One final and complete sacrifice has been offered. No other sacrifice of any kind is needed, to make all who put their confidence in Christ able freely to come into the presence of God, both now and when they leave this life.

Have you put your confidence for acceptance with God in Christ’s finished work, or are you relying on some other kind of “sacrifice” to stand in God’s smile? Christ’s sacrifice is the only one which is acceptable. It is finished!

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