

Let’s look at John 19:28-30 --- The Death of Jesus --- Jesus knew His mission was finished, and to fulfill an old, old Scripture He said, *“I am thirsty.”* A jar of sour wine was sitting there, so they soaked a sponge, put it on a hyssop branch, and held it up to His lips. When Jesus tasted it, He said, *“It is finished!”* He then bowed His head and released His spirit.

Now, let’s define the mission one more time. Sometimes we only really learn to apply something after we’ve known it for a long, long time. So, let’s review again what was and still remains the “mission” accomplished when the words *“It is finished”* were spoken during that excruciating time on the CROSS???

Do we understand spiritual authority? Do we know and seriously apply the meaning of this brief statement, *‘It is finished’*? The need for Christ’s mission began at Genesis 3:6 when humanity made a free will choice to surrender their possession of our Lord’s Holy Spirit with its incredible wisdom and precise counsel. The absence of God’s provisions initiated a new lifestyle motivated by selfishly driven fear replacing the ‘unconditional’ life giving, purpose directed love they had experienced in their ‘Garden of Eden’ environment.

Think about this; can you imagine living in an environment where God’s Holy Spirit with its all encompassing wisdom and counsel prevailing within everyone? None were motivated by fear; everyone lived with unconditional, purpose driven love, an action verb, not just an emotion. Everyone lived for the welfare of others.

Simply stated, Jesus’ mission on the cross accomplished the defeat of Satan’s evil control over humanity by severing his destructive provocation to cause us to think and speak fear and doubt driven destruction. Proverbs 13:3 *Those who guard their lips preserve their lives, but those who speak rashly will come to ruin,* and 18:21 *Death and life are in the power of the tongue.* Many other Scriptures too, both OT & NT tell us to watch our thought and tongue. It’s true, the mission to re-establish God’s ‘relationship’ with us is finished; however, it is obvious that humanity’s behavior has not completely reflected Jesus’ accomplishment yet!

The problem: We are, along with our ancestors many times, living defeated lives, as though Satan remains in complete control. Think about this: If the entire world’s population were to embrace hope driven by faith (Hebrews 11:6), the results accomplished by the finished mission would be realized in amazing ways.

Remember this; our Christianity is not a religion. NO!!! All “religions”, name any, Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, Islam, etc. These and others too, are all based on works, fear, or a combination of both. Simply stated, the term “Religion” defines humanity seeking a belief in something. Anything!!! “Christianity” defines the personal “Relationship” resulting from God, our Creator, reaching out to reclaim humanity after that bad choice described in Genesis 3:6.

Yes, *‘it is finished!’* However, are our lives reflecting the fact? If we had to watch videos of our lives, what would our thoughts and our tongues reveal? How many times might we all echo what Job said in verse 3:25? It’s just a thought.