

Sunday Morning Message

August 26, 2018

Do I Have To Do or Is It Done (Modified from a message preached on March 12, 2006.)

Topic – Faith or Works

Text – John 17:1 – 5; 19:28 - 30

Congregational Reading – John 19:28 - 30

Introduction – Explain the text

The phrase “It is finished” is a translation of a single Greek word (root word is tel-eh’-o – actual Greek Word is Τετέλεσται – tay-telestai) which means *done*; to end, to complete, to discharge as in a debt. When the Lord said “It is finished”, He really said quite a bit. What was finished? What was ended? What debt was discharged? And if Jesus did in fact “pay it all” why then are there so many religions in the world that teach us that we still have to do something or pay something ourselves in order to satisfy the debt that the Lord already paid in full. These are some of the questions that we will examine this morning.

What did Jesus mean when He said, “It is finished”?

- 1 It meant that the ceremonial law had come to an end. No more religious rituals needed to be performed in order to satisfy God. All the sacrifices; all the holy days; etc.
- 2 It meant that Jesus had completed or fulfilled completely every prophecy that needed to be fulfilled concerning Christ, including His birth, His life, and his death.

Born of a virgin

Born in Bethlehem

Betrayed by His people

Put to death on a cross

Etc. Dozens of O.T. prophecies were fulfilled

- 3 It meant that the debt for your sin and my sin was completely paid in full by the shed blood of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Illustrate – *The Lord Supper* – pictures this

Why then is there such confusion regarding religion in our world today? The Bible is very clear in its teaching regarding redemption. Yet all religions except Christianity (true Christianity) want to somehow add something to what Jesus paid in full on the Cross of Calvary.

All religions in the world can basically be narrowed down to two basic types. They are either “do” religions or they are “done” religions. Let’s examine the two basic types.

I Do

Goes by many different names – Buddhist, Hindu, Muslim, Jehovah’s Witnesses, Mormons, Catholicism, and many thousands more.

These religions are by no means the same in most areas; they are vastly different from each other in countless ways; but they are all united in the fact that they teach that in order for someone to go to heaven, they must **do** something to please God. There is some list of rules, regulations, or rituals that must be performed in order to please God enough to let you in. **You must do in order to go to heaven.** The list of do’s and don’ts may be different, but it is still a list that must be followed:

- 1 Some have easy lists – obey the golden rule; let your good outweigh your bad; don’t break any of the “big commandments”

Illustrate – This is where I was prior to being saved

- 2 Some have very extensive lists – including dress codes; dietary rules; extensive religious rituals; extreme sacrifice; etc.
- 3 Some have bizarre rules – self mutilation; murder of non-believers; etc.

Some of these are extreme; yet all are religions where the primary focus is placed upon the worshipper; not the one who is worshipped. In other words your acceptance with the one worshipped is dependent upon your adherence to “the list”. This is very unfortunate for those who follow these types of religion. Why? Because there is no one that is able to keep his particular set of rules and regulations perfectly. “There is none that doeth good, no not one.”

Illustrate – Have two people jump into Heaven and fall short.

II Done

Re-examine “It is Finished” – My sin debt was paid in full.

Let’s look at what the Bible says about our “done” religion.

Turn to Titus 3:1-7

Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin. (Romans 3:20)

Turn to Romans 4:1-8

Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified. (Galatians 2:16)

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. (Ephesians 2:8-9)

God wants you to give this some thought...

Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool. (Isaiah 1:18)

There are some here that are attempting to come to God through their adherence to Biblical principle. You are attempting to justify yourself through your obedience to the list of “Christian” do’s and don’ts. You can’t do it. You have a sin nature. You were born that way. “There is none righteous no not one.” God gave the law to teach us that we could not keep it. It forced us to turn to Christ. Christ paid it all when he died on that cross. It’s through his shed blood that we have redemption.

The Philippian jailor pleaded with the Apostle Paul, saying, “what must I do to be saved?” Paul’s answer was “you don’t have to do anything – you just need to believe”.

"And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house." (Acts 16:31)

III Do After Your Saved Not To Get Saved

But even after salvation, you’re doing needs to be motivated by love and grace, not debt or guilt.

Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. (2Corinthians 5:17)

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them. (Ephesians 2:10)

For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead: (2Corinthians 5:14)

Conclusion – Review “It is Finished” the debt has been paid in full

You do not owe God anything. You don’t have to pay him back for His love gift of grace and salvation. If you want to serve Him because you love Him, have at it – but you are not under contract to do so.