

Statement #7 "It is finished!"

John 19:30 When Jesus therefore had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!" And He bowed His head, and gave up His spirit.

- There are seven utterances that Jesus mentions from the cross and we have reached the last one, "It is finished!" There are many that say the account from Luke is really the last thing that Jesus said, for it states in Luke 23:46 And Jesus, crying out with a loud voice, said, "*Father, into Thy hands I commit My spirit.*" And *having said this, He breathed His last.*" I have tried to harmonize it in that way and it does not seem to fit. It is likely that Luke's account was leading to what John was saying that Jesus used His last breath which He took into His lungs. Jesus said, "Into Thy hands I commit My spirit", took one more breath and let the words "It is finished!" roll off His tongue. This appears to be the best fit. Either way, both phrases are only a moment apart.
- Notice the text states that "He bowed His head, and He gave up His spirit." Jesus was the One that was in control, not the Jews. Jesus was in the driver seat, not the Romans. Multiple times they tried to have Jesus killed in the past, but they were running contrary to the timing of Jesus, for He was on God's plan!
 - Herod and the devil tried to fillet infant Jesus with a sword (Mt 2:21; Rev 12), but that was not the plan.
 - The hometown Jews tried to throw Jesus off a cliff (Luke 4:28-30), but that was not the plan.
 - The Jewish leaders wanted Jesus to be stoned (John 7:30; 8:59; 10:39; 11:53), but that was not the plan. *John 7:30 They were seeking therefore to seize Him; and no man laid his hand on Him, because His hour had not yet come.*
 - The plan was for Jesus to go to that cross and for Jesus to die for our sins. He was the One that was in control and that is what we see in the very end, "HE bowed His head" and "HE gave up His spirit"!
- On another thought, we have a concept from Hollywood and crucifixes that Jesus dropped His head in a battle with gravity when coming to this part, but the evidence is sweeter. The base word used for "he bowed" is *kliino* -"to slant or slope". The verb is deeply significant in the context. Here are some few examples of the usage of this word from the New Testament.
 - Matt 8:20 and Luke 9:58 And Jesus said to him, "The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air {have} nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head."
 - Luke 9:12 And the day began to decline, and the twelve came and said to Him, "Send the multitude away, that they may go into the surrounding villages and countryside and find lodging and get something to eat; for here we are in a desolate place."



- Luke 24:29 And they urged Him, saying, "Stay with us, for it is {getting} toward evening, and the day is now nearly over." And He went in to stay with them.
- What is indicated in the statement "He bowed His head," is not the helpless tug of gravity on Jesus' head after His death, but appears to be a deliberate positioning of His head into a point of rest. He just spoke with a loud voice just prior, indicating that He probably had the strength to hold up His head. Also scripture states that He positioned His head prior to giving up His spirit, not the other way around.
- The Son of man had nowhere to lay His head during His earthly ministry, but found comfort at the point of death on the cross. Finally there is comfort, for IT IS FINISHED!

I am persuaded this is what Jesus experienced at that moment. He was saying, "I MADE IT; IT IS FINISHED!"

- No longer will Jesus have hunger pangs, IT IS FINISHED!
- No longer will Jesus have thirst, IT IS FINISHED!
- No longer will Jesus experience tears, IT IS FINISHED!
- No longer will Jesus feel the physical pain, IT IS FINISHED!
- No longer will Jesus go without sleep, IT IS FINISHED!
- No longer will Jesus have the hot sun blazing on His back, IT IS FINISHED!
- No longer will He have the cold night to shiver in, IT IS FINISHED!
- No longer can the devil tempt Him, IT IS FINISHED!
- No longer will He have to suffer on the cross, IT IS FINISHED!

It Is Finished! #369 Songs of Faith and Praise

There's a line that's been drawn thru the ages, On that line stands the old rugged cross;

On that cross a battle is raging, For the gain of man's soul or his loss.

On one side march the forces of evil, All the demons and devils of hell;

On the other the angels of glory, And they meet on Golgotha's hill.

In my heart the battle was raging, Not all pris'ners of the war have come home;

They were battlefields of my own making, didn't know that the war had been won.

Then I heard that the King of the ages Had fought all the battle with me;

And the victory was mine for the claiming, And now, praise His name, I am free.

Chorus

"It is finished!" The battle is over,

"It is finished!" There'll be no more war;

"It is finished!" The end of the conflict,

"It is finished", and Jesus is Lord.

Closing Story:

Douglas Maurer, of Creve Coeur, Missouri, a young man in high school, had been feeling poorly for several days. His temperature was ranging between 103 and 105 degrees, and he was suffering from severe flu-like symptoms. Finally, his mother took him to the hospital in St. Louis. Douglas Maurer was diagnosed as having leukemia. The doctors told him in frank terms about his disease and the aggressive treatment to be taken. They said that for the next three years, he would have to undergo chemotherapy, resulting in several negative side effects. They told Him that he would go bald and that his body would most likely bloat from the treatments. Upon learning this, he went into a deep depression.

The hospital staff and his parents assured him that only the best equipment and doctors that money could buy would be used. They gave him a tour of the hospital facilities, charted out a good strategy and gave this 15-year old some good odds. Still, his depression grew and his family grew weary.

His aunt called a floral shop to send young Douglas an arrangement of flowers to cheer him up. She told the clerk that it was for her teenage nephew who was suffering from leukemia. When the flowers arrived at the hospital, they were beautiful! The young man read the card from his aunt and was somewhat cheered up. Glancing down at the flowers, he saw a second card nestled in the top. It said: *"Douglas--I took your order. I work at Brix florist. I had leukemia when I was 7 years old. I am now 22. Good luck, My heart goes out to you. Sincerely, Laura Bradley."*

His face lit up as he saw a glimmer of hope on the horizon. Douglas Maurer was in a hospital filled with millions of dollars of the most sophisticated medical equipment known to the medical world. Expert doctors and nurses were treating him with a medical training experience totaling in the hundreds of years. But it was a salesclerk in a flower shop, a woman making \$170 a week, who--by taking the time to care, and by being willing to go with compassion and understanding--gave this young man the hope and the will to carry on.

Conclusion from Statement #7

- Jesus has blazed a trail of understanding and hope for us. The world offers many things to pacify our minds, but it does not offer true comfort in a time of great distress. The world can offer temporary pleasures, sins for a season, but it cannot offer what the soul needs when this life is over. All the comfort that anyone in the world could ever want was provided in the sacrificed body of a frail carpenter two millennia ago. It went exactly according to plan, including the resurrection from the dead.
- What are you struggling with? Is it your health? Is it your finances? Is it your job? Is it your family? Is it your mind? It really does matter when you place it on the backdrop of that final moment when we can finally say, "It is

- finished!" We have an escape hatch from our struggles and His name is Jesus.
- All problems become "not problems" when we throw in the Jesus factor. Surrender it to Jesus today. Just as He faded from the hurts of this world, so shall we also be able to do the same; and in this we are more than conquerors.
 - Matt 11:29 "Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart; and you shall find rest for your souls.
 - Rev 7:16-17 "They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore; neither shall the sun beat down on them, nor any heat; 17 for the Lamb in the center of the throne shall be their shepherd, and shall guide them to springs of the water of life; and God shall wipe every tear from their eyes."
 - 2 Tim 4:6-8 For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. 7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith; 8 in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing.

No longer will we have hunger; No longer will we have thirst; No longer will we have tears; No longer will we have pain; No longer will we be tired; No longer will we suffer through heat and cold; No longer will the devil be able to tempt us, IT IS FINISHED!

Is this going to be the thought on your mind when you take that last breath? Are you able to look death in the face with a smile on your mouth and joy in your heart, knowing IT IS FINISHED! This is the goal of Christ, knowing that comfort is on the way!

In Closing:

ALAS! AND DID MY SAVIOR BLEED? (AT THE CROSS) Song #324

Alas! and did my Savior bleed And did my Sovereign die?
Would He devote that sacred head For sinners such as I?

Thy body slain, sweet Jesus, Thine— And bathed in its own blood—
While the firm mark of wrath divine, His Soul in anguish stood.

Was it for crimes that I had done He groaned upon the tree?
Amazing pity! grace unknown! And love beyond degree!

Well might the sun in darkness hide And shut his glories in,
When Christ, the mighty Maker died, For man the creature's sin.

Thus might I hide my blushing face While His dear cross appears,
Dissolve my heart in thankfulness, And melt my eyes to tears.

But drops of grief can ne'er repay The debt of love I owe:
Here, Lord, I give my self away 'Tis all that I can do.

Refrain

At the cross, at the cross where I first saw the light,
And the burden of my heart rolled away,
It was there by faith I received my sight,
And now I am happy all the day!