“IT IS FINISHED”

‘tetelestai’

The expression "It is finished", or ‘tetelestai’, was a part of everyday Greek language.

When Jesus spoke those final words he wasn’t just saying, "This is the end of me" as if there was nothing else to do but to give in to his enemies and die.

These words don’t tell us that Jesus was dead now and that’s all there is to it. He is finished. That’s not what he is saying.

All those who heard the word tetelestai would have understood that Jesus is saying that the job his father gave him to do has been completed. He has finished the task given to him, and nothing can be added to what has been done. Jesus has paid the price in full – he has cancelled all debt. His sacrifice has been a perfect one, acceptable to the heavenly Father.

‘Tetelestai’ – it is finished. Everything is complete!

1. WHAT HAS JESUS FINISHED?
What was the job that Jesus was given to do? Reconciliation.

The word ‘reconciliation’ is as common a word in Australia today as Tetelestai was to the Greeks. It is part of our common language that we all know and understand.

We all know what an effect our poorly chosen words, and lack of consideration, have on our relationship with family members and friends. We know how greed and selfishness destroy friendship and separate people and nations.

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They are all just symptoms of our disease. The disease of sin.

Sin has an effect on our relationships with other people, but it has a devastating effect on our relationship with our creator God.

Sin separates us from God. Someone had to deal with sin to restore our relationship with God.

So God sent his Son, his only son, into the world for this very purpose.

John 3:16. “For God SO loved the world that he gave his only Son.”

Jesus died on the cross to get rid of the power of sin to condemn us. His death bridges the deep gulf between God and us.

“Tetelestai” "Salvation is finished”, Jesus cried.

The restoration of the friendship between God and humanity, reconciliation has been finished. The task for which God's Son came to earth has been completed. He has won forgiveness for all people.

Nothing else needs to be done. Nothing needs to be added. Nothing else can be done or added. Salvation is complete. "It is finished".

2. WHY WAS GOOD FRIDAY NECESSARY?
Isaiah 53:5. “But he was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the punishment that made us whole, and by his bruises we are healed.”

"Good Friday" wasn’t a good day for Jesus. He endured pain and agony, hanging by the nails in his hands for hours, death on a rough wooden cross, for our sakes.

The cross is proof of the powerful love that God has for each of us. No one, not even God, would do something like that unless he truly loved us. Here we see a love that was prepared to endure the ultimate in order to rescue us.

God the Father sent his dearly loved only Son into dangerous territory. He allowed his Son to be treated disgracefully, cruelly.
God the Father stood by and watched his innocent Son be nailed to a cross, and to hang there in agony. He could have rescued him. He could have cursed those who were treating him so brutally and maliciously.

He allowed his Son to carry the sin of all humanity and in doing so become absolutely repulsive even to his own Father.

We can’t fully appreciate what it meant for the Father to abandon the Son and let him die at the hands of evil people.

Matthew 27:46. "My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?"

We sense something of the terror of bearing the weight of the sin of all humanity.

3. TETELESTAI AND US.

God did all this because of his love for us.

Romans 5:8-10. "God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life."

That’s how much God loves us – Jesus died for us even though we don’t deserve it.

His death has enabled us to be God's friends.

Jesus has completed his task.
The reason why he came as a human has been fulfilled.
He came so that you and I can have forgiveness and salvation.
He came to give us the victory.
He came to ensure that we could enter his kingdom and live forever.

CONCLUSION.

Think about what Jesus has done for you through his death on the cross.
Think about the love that God has for you, and thank him.
Ask God to wrap you tightly in his love – forgiving you, watching over you, guiding you.
If you feel that Jesus and his love for you are not real, ask for his help.
If you have never said sorry to Jesus for what you have done wrong, for living without him, do it now.
Ask him to forgive you. Thank him for dying for you.
Commit to following him for the rest of your life.

L Gaulton.