

## *Christ's Sixth Saying From The Cross*

*"When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, He said, It is finished: and He bowed His head and gave up the ghost" (John 19:30).*

Our oldest grandson, Thomas, decided that he would run track. He had been involved in several other sports and greatly enjoyed them. He listened to the coach, ran with the other boys, and prepared for the first long distance run. He had high hopes of doing well but finished way back in the group. When I called him to see how he did, however, he still was very positive about it. He said, "Pawpaw, I didn't win, but at least I finished the race."

Ah, I loved his attitude. "I didn't win, but at least I finished the race." I thought about a lot of my own experiences in my Christian life, experiences that left me way back in the group. I'm afraid I have had a defeated attitude in some situations. Perhaps you have had similar experiences when you came short of your own expectations. In spite of our limitations, may God help us to at least finish the race.

The words of the Lord Jesus, "It is finished," do not imply that He failed to win and merely finished the race. Rather, these three words, one word in the Greek (*tetelestai*), reveal that He did not fail! As well, they make it clear that He did win! The words imply that what He came to do was "completed, accomplished, or consummated." Several thoughts come to mind as we meditate on this sixth saying from the cross.

*This declaration says something to us about His Father's will!* The first recorded words of Jesus in the New Testament were, "Wist (Knew) ye not that I must be about My Father's business?" (Luke 2:49). In our present text we come to some of His last recorded words, "It is finished." The business, or the will of Him Who sent His Son to die, was accomplished. The great purpose of God was executed in Christ's death.

*This declaration says something to us about His faithful warfare!* From the beginning, Satan opposed the scheme of redemption. Beginning with Abel's death, he attempted to hinder the coming of the Chosen One. But the Lord Jesus was not ignorant of Satan's devices. Through His life and ministry, He fought the enemy with the Word. But in His death, glory be to God, the Seed of the woman crushed the head of him "that had the power of death, that is, the devil" (Heb. 2:14).

*This declaration says something to us about His finished work!* When Jesus cried, "It is finished," the redemptive work He came to accomplish was done. Nothing else needed to be added to it. As our Kinsman Redeemer, the Lord Jesus paid the exacted payment to set us free from the bondage of sin. Ah, may we sing with the great evangelist, D. L. Moody, who wrote, "Tis done: the great transaction's done! I am the Lord's and He is mine!"