

#1771

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John 19:30¹

Jesus' Names of Wondrous Love –

Alpha and Omega

Good Friday

Northwestern Publishing House resources for
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Tenebrae

³⁰ When he had received the drink [the sour wine; or, wine vinegar], Jesus said, "It is finished!" With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

JESUS' NAMES OF WONDROUS LOVE – THE ALPHA AND THE OMEGA

I. JESUS HAS ALL WE NEED FOR SALVATION

II. JESUS HAS ALL WE NEED FOR HEAVEN.

In the Name of Jesus, our crucified, dead and buried, but ... but risen Savior, Dear Fellow-Redeemed,

During this Lenten Season, we have been examining Jesus' Names of Wondrous Love. On this Good Friday evening, we look at Jesus' Names – *Alpha* and *Omega*.

Concerning himself in the opening Chapter of the Book of Revelation, Jesus says, "I am the Alpha and the Omega ... who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty" (Revelation 1:8). The words Alpha and Omega are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet. Thus, Jesus explains this Name for himself – Alpha and Omega – when he says, "I am the First and the Last" (Revelation 1:17b). The fact that these phrases apply to Jesus is echoed by the writer to the Hebrews when he says: "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever" (Hebrews 13:8). So what does Jesus as Alpha and Omega have to do with Jesus' words from the cross – one word actually in the Greek – "It is finished"? (19:30).

The words Alpha and Omega describe that Jesus is all-sufficient. Jesus is all we need for salvation and eternal life in heaven. Jesus is stating this truth when he proclaims loudly from the cross: "It is finished!"

"It is finished!" JESUS' NAMES OF WONDROUS LOVE – THE ALPHA AND THE OMEGA I. JESUS HAS ALL WE NEED FOR SALVATION; II. JESUS HAS ALL WE NEED FOR HEAVEN.

¹ *The New International Version*, (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House) 1984. All Scripture references are taken from this translation unless noted otherwise.

JESUS' NAMES OF WONDROUS LOVE – THE ALPHA AND THE OMEGA
I. JESUS HAS ALL WE NEED FOR SALVATION

“It is finished!” It is a most important word. But what is finished? Was Jesus’ agony and pain finished? Yes. Was Jesus’ life finished? Yes. Most importantly, Jesus’ mission of bringing salvation to mankind was finished, completed, achieved. “Alpha and Omega” – there was and is nothing more to be done for the forgiveness of sins and salvation of mankind.

The Apostle Paul, using the term “justify” or “declared righteous” as synonyms for the forgiveness of sins, writes to the Romans,

22 There is no difference, 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. 25 God presented him [Jesus] as a sacrifice of atonement ... (Romans 3:22b-25a).

Carefully notice St. Paul’s words. “All have sinned” But, the same “all” that “sinned” “are justified” – sins forgiven, declared righteous before God. Why? Because Jesus is the “sacrifice of atonement” presented to God for the sins of the world.

Jesus is “The Alpha and The Omega” – the beginning and the end – all that is needed for salvation. His word from the cross, “It is finished,” means “paid in full.” The price for the sins of the world has been paid in full in Jesus’ blood. “It is finished!”

APPROPRIATION

So, what must I do to be saved? What must I do to have forgiveness of sins? What must I do to have salvation? Those questions are obsolete. What is necessary for our salvation and forgiveness has already been done. Jesus did it all – that is why he is The Alpha and The Omega – the beginning and the end. All that is necessary for our salvation and for us to have the forgiveness of sins has been done completely by Jesus. “It is finished!”

What does it mean in the long-term then for you and me who believe in Jesus as our Savior? Once again, we go back to Jesus’ word from the cross: “It is finished!”

JESUS' NAMES OF WONDROUS LOVE – THE ALPHA AND THE OMEGA
II. JESUS HAS ALL WE NEED FOR HEAVEN

How greatly different Jesus’ dying on the cross is from ours. The last part of John 19:30 states, that after Jesus had said, “It is finished,” “he bowed his head and gave up his spirit” (19:30b). Jesus “gave up his spirit”; Jesus “delivered over his spirit.” Jesus did this by an act of his own will.

Jesus delivered over his spirit to the heavenly Father of his own will. Jesus had spoken of this fact earlier when he described himself as the Good Shepherd in John Chapter Ten.

Jesus said,

¹¹ “I am the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd lays down his life for the sheep....

¹⁷ The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life—only to take it up again. ¹⁸ No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father (John 10:11,17&18).

Jesus says that no one takes his life from him, but that Jesus lays down his life of his own accord – of his own will. Jesus has authority to lay down his life – which he does on the cross when he breathes his last. Jesus also has the authority to take back his life again – which he does three days later on Easter Sunday morning when he arises from the grave. The Bible speaks of Jesus’ resurrection in both ways – that God raised Jesus from the dead, and that Jesus arose from the dead, in the sense that he took back again his life from death. Only Jesus, the God-man could do this. How different this is from the life and death of people!

The lives of people – men, women and children – are taken from them. The reason for that is because all people – men, women, children, babies – all people are sinful. You heard before that St. Paul wrote, “All have sinned” (Romans 3:23a). St. Paul also writes that “the wages of sin is death” (Romans 6:23a). St. Paul wrote further, “sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned” (Romans 5:12). If a person is ever so dense that he or she thinks he or she is no longer a sinner but has achieved some degree of holiness or perfection in this life, then simply ask the question: “Are you going to die some day?” The answer has to be an obvious, “Yes.” Death exists because of sin. Where there is death, there is sin; where there is sin, there is death. But Jesus breaks this rule or principle.

Jesus takes back his life from the grave and from death. Death, therefore, has no more power over Jesus, for Jesus has taken away the reason for death – Jesus has taken away sin. “It is finished!” “It is finished” indeed! Jesus has all we need for heaven.

APPROPRIATION

Death is not child’s play. Death leads us to stand before the judgment seat of a holy and righteous God, who says, “the soul who sins is the one who will die” (Ezekiel 18:4b). But in our place and as our substitute Jesus stands. Jesus has taken our condemnation, punishment and death upon himself. Through Jesus – by faith alone in Jesus – you and I have eternal life in heaven. This is in fulfillment of Jesus’ promise:

² In my Father’s House are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. ³ And if I go and

***prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me
that you also may be where I am (14:2,3).***

“It is finished!” Jesus has done everything necessary for us to enter heaven. Jesus is The Alpha and The Omega.

CONCLUSION

Jesus' Names of Wondrous Love – The Alpha and The Omega. First and Last, Jesus is our Savior and Redeemer. First and Last Jesus has done everything for us to have forgiveness of sins, salvation and eternal life in heaven. “It is finished!” Amen.