

“Tetelestai”

Good Friday, April 10, 2009

{We begin by listening to the song, “The Death of a Son” by Michael Card}

It is finished. In the Greek, it’s one word – *tetelestai*; it is finished.

What is finished? His life? Certainly, for right after this word He says, Father into Your hands I commit my spirit. But it’s more than that.

What is finished? His suffering? Yes, with His death the pain would be over. The wounds His back endured during his whipping were opened and re-opened every time He had to raise Himself up on His cross to take a breath, and the spikes in His hands and feet were strategically placed to hit the major nerves and Achilles tendon to produce the most pain possible, but it’s more than that.

Tetelestai – it is finished. Ancient receipts for taxes have been recovered with the Greek word *tetelestai* written across them, meaning “paid in full.” This word on Jesus’ lips was significant. When He said, “It is finished”, He meant His redemptive work was completed. He paid our debt in full. 2 Corinthians 5:21 tells us that while on the cross Jesus had been made sin for us, and suffered the penalty of God’s justice that sin deserves.

Tetelestai – paid in full. No more debt to sin, no more sacrifices to *cover* sin. This sacrifice *took away* the guilt of sin, not just covered it. It paid the debt in full.

Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani? My God, my God, why have You forsaken me?

Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered Him stricken by God, smitten by Him, and afflicted. But He was pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon Him, and by His wounds we are healed...Yet it was the Lord’s will to crush Him and cause Him to suffer, and ... the Lord makes His life a guilt offering...For He bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

We are forgiven, He was made to take the punishment for our guilt.

We are healed, He was killed.

We can go to God the Father, He was forsaken by God the Father so we would not be.

He was forsaken for us. He was crushed for you and me, and now, because of Him we have unfettered access to the Father. The debt for our sins was paid in full through His blood.

Tetelastai – paid in full. Remember that word tonight. Remember that word tomorrow and the next day and every day after. The punishment for our sins was taken by Jesus, it was paid in full, and we are offered a literal ‘get-out-of-hell-free’ card.

Tetelastai. For you. For me. For anyone who would call on the name of Jesus, who gave His life in place of ours.

Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani? Thank You, Jesus.

Tetelastai. Now and forever.

Amen.