



The Monthly Beacon

"When Jesus spoke to the people again, He said, I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

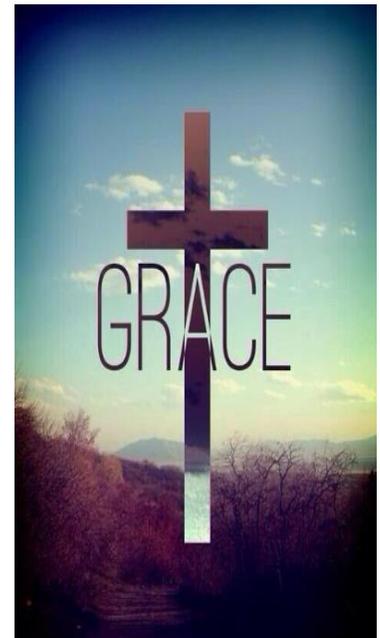
- John 8:12

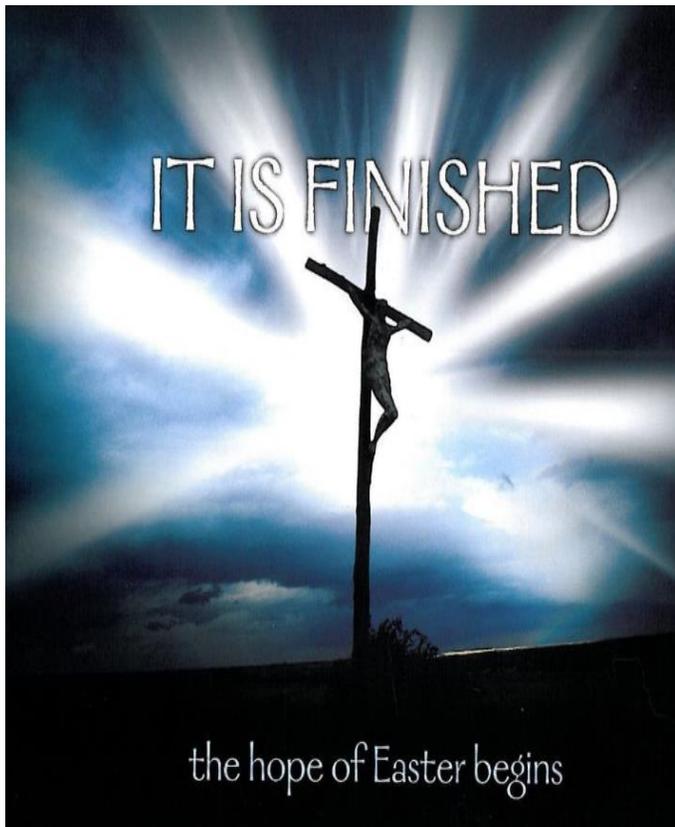
Just Three Words

There is a saying often attributed to St. Francis of Assisi, which says; "Preach the Gospel at all times and when necessary, use words." As you can see, words are vital in communicating to and with others and Jesus used many words in sharing His message to the world but one of the most profound use of words was when at the cross He said, "It is finished"! What is finished? The Greek translation for this phrase is "teleo", meaning to bring to a close, to finish, to end. It was on the cross that Christ satisfied God's justice, His plan to redeem us, He paid for all our sins. Those three words reconciled us back to God, these three little words offered us salvation through Jesus Christ, and we are now able to go directly to God with our prayers and our petitions as God now sees us through the blood of His Son, the debt has been paid. Because of His obedience and selfless act, we have the opportunity to once again be one in Him. Paul summarizes Christ work well with His words found in Ephesians 2:1-13.

As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath. But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus.

In order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.





Jew and Gentile Reconciled Through Christ. Therefore, remember that formerly you who are Gentiles by birth and called “uncircumcised” by those who call themselves “the circumcision” (which is done in the body by human hands)—remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

He completed the fulfillment of the prophecies of the Old Testament in just three words, “It Is Finished”!

Be Glad They Come at Easter

Avid churchgoers often chide those who don’t see the importance of regular church attendance. However, Easter is a day that those who only stop by for occasional worship join in celebration of the risen Savior. Rejoice and be glad because this may be the only opportunity that someone will hear the message of salvation and hope. May all who come experience the true meaning of Easter!