

OUR SALVATION IS A COMPLETED TRANSACTION

Romans 3:21-26



LEGAL Transaction: our **JUSTIFICATION** is complete.

Justification was a commonly used legal transaction term of that day. At judgement God will open the file on us. He will not see any of our sins and unrighteousness but will only see Christ's righteousness which has been transferred to us. Romans 4:3

FINANCIAL Transaction: our **REDEMPTION** is complete.

Redemption was a commonly used financial transaction term of that day. Under Roman law, when a slave was purchased, he/she was considered redeemed by the new owner. We have been redeemed from alien possession by Christ.

"for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are justified freely by His grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus." Rom 3: 24

SACRIFICIAL TEMPLE Transaction: our **ATONEMENT** is complete.

Atonement was a well understood O.T. sacrificial temple transaction of that day. An animal without a blemish was sacrificed, and its blood was shed to pay for the sins of the people. The blood of the sacrificial lamb/bull/goat was thrown onto the alter in the temple to complete the atonement transaction. The righteousness anger of God was removed and Christ became the forever sacrificial atonement for any who believe in His name and accept Him as their Lord and Savior.

"God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of His blood—to be received by faith." Rom 3: 25

"IT IS FINISHED" All transactions are fully satisfied & complete.

With these words, Jesus the lamb of God, crucified, bleeding, dead & buried declared all transactions required for our salvation were fully satisfied and completed.

OUR BEHAVIOR does not undo or improve the status of these transactions.

But we are now called to live a life of worship and to give honor to God as empowered by the H.S. so our influence and relationship with Jesus Christ will grow and point others to Him.

IT IS FINISHED

John 19:28-30



Jesus knew that his mission was now finished, and to fulfill Scripture he said, "I am thirsty." A jar of sour wine was sitting there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put it on a hyssop branch, and held it up to his lips. When Jesus had tasted it, he said,

"It is finished!" (Tetelestai). Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit....John 19:28-30

TETELESTAI – THE SACRIFICE IS ACCOMPLISHED

Every Jewish person there would have instantly recognized this word as the that was used in the Old Testament sacrificial system. Each year, on The Day of Atonement, the High Priest would enter into the temple and make a special sacrifice for the sins of the people of Israel. **As soon as the priest had killed the animal, he would emerge from the place of sacrifice and declare to the waiting crowd "it is finished" in Hebrew.**

Through this sacrifice, all the sins of Israel were symbolically placed on the lamb that was killed and punished in their place. But the Bible teaches that this sacrificial system was never really complete or finished because the sacrifice of that lamb was imperfect and temporary. When Jesus died on the cross, he became the perfect and final sacrifice for all sin. Jesus was the ultimate Lamb of God and by his sacrifice, the work of forgiveness was finally complete.

He did not enter by means of the blood of goats and calves; but he entered the Most Holy Place once for all by his own blood, having obtained eternal redemption...But now he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to do away with sin by the sacrifice of himself.

....Hebrews 9:12, 26

By saying "it is finished" Jesus was signaling to the Jewish world that there was no more need for sacrifices or temples because that his work brought ultimate fulfillment to what their sacrificial system foreshadowed.

TETELESTAI – THE WORK IS COMPLETE

In New Testament times, when an employee had completed a day's work or finished a project, he would tell his boss "Tetelestai." This was to signal that whatever it was that he was assigned to do was now completed. Similarly, when an artist would complete a piece of art, he would have a moment of unveiling where he would declare "Tetelestai." This too was to signal that his masterpiece was complete. No more touch-ups or adjustments are necessary, the work is done. When Jesus came to this world, he told us what his job was: to provide salvation to a lost and broken world.

For the Son of Man came to seek and save those who are lost...Luke 19:10

In his last words, Jesus was communicating that the work he came for was accomplished. The task of earning the salvation of the world was completed in his work on the cross. No more additions or adjustments were necessary – salvation was completed.

TETELESTAI – THE DEBT IS PAID IN FULL

Maybe the most common use of "Tetelestai" in Jesus' day was in debt collecting. When a person finally paid off a loan, they were issued a receipt that was stamped with the word "Tetelestai". This was verification that they were no longer responsible for any of that debt, that everything they owed was completely and permanently paid for.

The Bible says that our sin created a debt to God, and one that we could never pay back on our own. But when Jesus died, he was paying off our debt of sin once and for all. Again, the Book of Hebrews describes the finality of Jesus' payment for our sin.

But our High Priest offered himself to God as a single sacrifice for sins, good for all time. Then he sat down in the place of honor at God's right hand...And when sins have been forgiven, there is no need to offer any more sacrifices. Hebrews 10:12-13, 18

IT IS FINISHED

All of these nuances of Tetelestai converge together to communicate a beautiful truth – that Jesus completed the work of salvation once and for all. That means it is not up to us to add anything, complete anything, finalize anything when it comes to our salvation – Jesus did it all. So now, when we have put our trust in the finished work of Jesus, we can rest in confidence of our salvation and pursue God with our whole hearts.