

Saint Timothy Lutheran – Edmonds, WA

Good Friday, April 2, 2010

Rev. Craig A. Patterson (Based upon the sermon
Series “Words of Life from the Cross”)

“The Fulfilled Word”

(Text: John 19:30)

Context: Eye-witness John writes his account of the crucifixion. As the strength was waning from our Jesus’ body, He saw that all was accomplished. All of His work was done. In order to fulfill the Scriptures and in order to be able to, loudly, cry out for those gathered to hear, He said, “I thirst,” and a soldier gave him some sour wine to drink. Then, Jesus “cried out in a loud voice,” (records Matthew), “uttered a loud cry” (writes Mark), “crying out in a loud voice” (Luke informs us) and “He said, “It is finished!” writes John who was there to see and to hear exactly what happened. His mission had been completed, fulfilled.

I. The Mission Of Jesus Was And Is Still Debated.

- A. By unbelievers who think that Jesus was a popular rabbi who drew a following, had many wise sayings to share with people, drew the dislike of the Jewish leaders, and fell victim to their anger and was killed in Jerusalem.
 - 1. They discount Jesus’ claims to be the Son of God and Savior of the world.
 - 2. Modern skeptics number Jesus of Nazareth as only one among many religious figures who may have taught some wise things, but certainly was not God.
 - 3. They explain away the so-called miracles that Jesus, supposedly performed.
 - 4. They speak of a plot to steal His body by His disciples and so claim to disprove the claim of Jesus’ bodily resurrection.
 - 5. Others say that He must not have been completely dead.
 - The Roman soldier who pushed the spear into His side thought differently.
 - Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus who asked for the body of Jesus and brought with them current-day embalming spices thought differently.
 - The Jewish leaders who asked Pontius Pilate that guards be posted at Jesus’ tomb thought differently.
- B. Even by believers who disagree with the claim that Jesus has done all things, sufficiently, in order to save sinners.
 - 1. Some teach that God, in Jesus, did His part, now we must do our part.
 - 2. Some teach that Jesus came to teach us how to live, now we must live the way that Jesus taught in order to earn salvation.

II. Victoriously, Jesus Declared That He Had Fulfilled (Completely) His Mission In The Words, “It Is Finished!”

- A. Jesus lived the perfect life, perfectly, in our place (without sin).
- B. In Jesus, God and Man are reconciled. (His perfection becomes our perfection.)
- C. There is nothing more to add.
 - 1. “We dare not add anything to this word (“It is finished!”) of fulfillment. Not with our prayers, our pieties, our religious sentiments. These add nothing to what He alone has finished. Yet, we are ever prone to do that.”
 - 2. “The world of religion is built on this sinking quicksand—the notion that God has not done enough and that we must add to and finish what Jesus only started....Christ plus something more. These are recipes for heresy and disaster. What God in the flesh has finished, let not man add to it...” (“Words of Life from the Cross,” CPH, 2010 – Good Friday sermon, “The Fulfilled Word”).
- D. The paradoxical tension we live in is: we are justified by Christ’s finished work & we live in an unfinished mortal and fallen creation impacted by sin.
 - 1. We are saint and sinner at the same time.
 - 2. As we remember Christ’s finished work, our own baptism, we daily die and rise with Christ. (Confession and Absolution)
- E. As forgiven and justified sinners, we’re enabled to serve and love our neighbors to God’s glory.
 - 1. Each day given to us, we can share the Good News of the finished work of Jesus.
 - 2. Because He finished, completed, His salvation mission, sinners are still being saved from sin, death, and the devil.