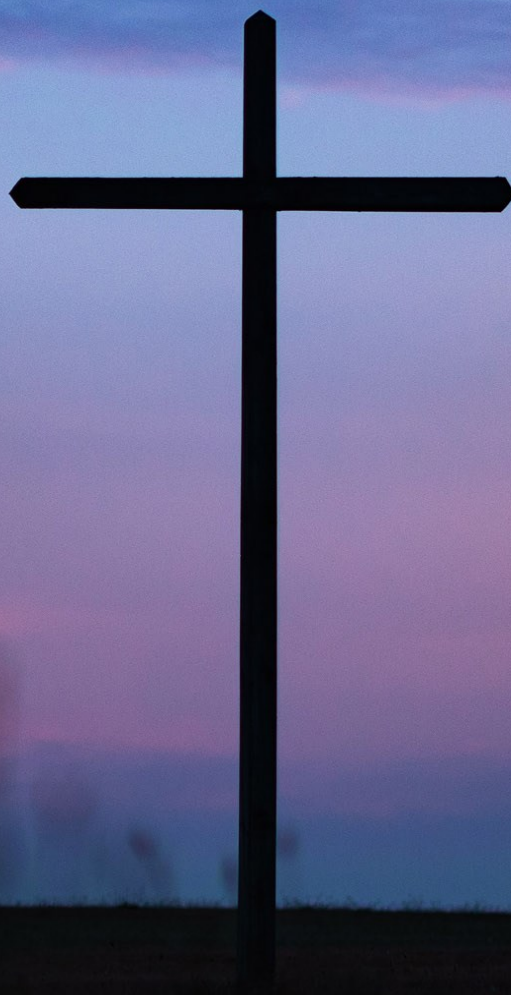


# THE CROSS

## FAMILY DEVOS



# It Is Finished

**Scripture:** John 19:28-30

**Memory Verse:** Ephesians 2:8-9

“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.”

## For My Family

If you were standing before God the Father and He asked you, “Why should I let you into Heaven?”, what would you say? Maybe you think God would let you into Heaven because you had been a good person, or maybe you think the good things that you had done in your life might just weigh more than the bad things. Maybe you would talk about how many times you went to church, or how you had given money to the poor, or even just how you had been good to your mom and dad. Sadly, there are many people who are trying to earn their way into Heaven by *doing right thing*, or by doing enough right things, but this is not the way.

Ephesians 2:8-9 tells us this: “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.” The gates of Heaven are not opened to us because of what we do, but instead because of what Jesus has already done. We *cannot* do enough good to cover up our sin. We can’t be made right with God through our own strength and work. We can only be made right because of what Jesus did.

When Jesus was on the cross, He looked down at those around Him and cried out that He was thirsty. The people had already struggled to understand Him when He cried out, “My God why have you forsaken me?,” and Jesus wanted to make sure that every single person for all eternity would be able to clearly hear the words that He was about say. The soldiers placed some sour wine on a sponge and lifted it up to Jesus’ mouth. After wetting His tongue and summoning His strength, Jesus spoke what might be the most important words ever spoken in all of history, “It is finished.” *Tetelestai*, the work is done.

Jesus had done it. He had finished the work that He came to do on earth. All of the sin of mankind had been poured out on Him instead of us, and it now it was over. It is finished. There is no more work to do. When we stand in front of the Lord and He asks us why He should let us go into Heaven, we can boldly say to Him, “Because of Jesus. He paid the price, the penalty for my sin, and I stand before You, O Lord, not according to what I have done, but because of what Your Son Jesus already did. I am clothed in His righteousness, death has no claim on me.” And do you know how God will respond to that? He will say, “Well done, My good and faithful servant, welcome into My rest!”

## Questions for Young Children:

Jesus said, "It is finished." What was finished? What did He mean?

What do we have to do to go Heaven? (Nothing, simply accept the work of Jesus on our behalf)

## Questions for Teens and Pre-teens:

Does God love us because we do good things? Why does God love us?

Jesus said, "It is finished," about 2000 years ago, but people have messed up and made all kinds of terrible decisions in the last 2000 years. How do Jesus' words apply to everything that has happened after Jesus died?

How is the sacrifice that Jesus made kind of like the sacrifices that people gave of sheep and goats in the Old Testament? Why don't we make sacrifices like that anymore?