

Tetelestai

(compiled by Jamie Johnson, <http://beacondeacon.com>)

1) Τετέλεσται

Tetelestai

had been accomplished

Source: <https://biblehub.com/text/john/19-28.htm>

2) It is among Jesus' last words from the cross.

[John 19:30 V-RIM/P-3S](#)

GRK: Ἰησοῦς εἶπεν **Τετέλεσται** καὶ κλίνας

NAS: He said, *It is finished!* And He bowed

KJV: he said, *It is finished:* and

INT: Jesus he said *It has been finished* and having bowed

Source: https://biblehub.com/greek/tetelestai_5055.htm

3) It can mean "Paid in Full" –

"The word *tetelestai* was also written on business documents or receipts in New Testament times to show indicating that a bill had been paid in full."

Source: <https://bible.org/question/what-does-greek-word-tetelestai-mean>

Jesus Christ paid for our sins.

4) It is finished – for all time, for good!

Later, knowing that everything had now been finished, and so that Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, "I am thirsty." A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus' lips. When he had received the drink, Jesus said, "It is finished." With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit. (John 19:28-30)

Meaning of "It is finished" as Tetelestai

"It is finished" is the English translation of the Greek word Tetelestai, which was the last thing Jesus' said before dying on the cross. Tetelestai comes from the verb teleo, which means "to bring to an end, to complete, to accomplish." It's a crucial word because it signifies the successful end to a particular course of action. It's the word you would use when you climb to the peak of Mt. Everest; it's the word you would use when you turn in the final copy of your dissertation; it's the word you would use when you make the final payment on your new car; it's the word you use when you cross the finish line of your first 10K run. The word means more than just "I survived." It means "I did exactly what I set out to do."

But there's more here than the verb itself. Tetelestai is in the perfect tense in Greek. That's significant because the perfect tense speaks of an action which has been completed in the past with results continuing into the present. It's different from the past tense which looks back to an event and says, "This happened." The perfect tense adds the idea that "This happened and it is still in effect today."

When Jesus cried out "It is finished," he meant "It was finished in the past, it is still finished in the present, and it will remain finished in the future."

Source: <https://www.christianity.com/wiki/jesus-christ/what-was-finished.html>

5) Four specific applications

"It is finished" is a translation of the Greek word *tetelestai*, the perfect indicative passive tense of the word *telos*, which means *to end; to bring to completion; to bring to a conclusion; to complete; to accomplish; to fulfill; or to finish*. One scholar notes that anything that has reached *telos* has arrived at completion, maturity, or perfection. There were many nuances to this word, but four of them have great significance with this defining moment of Christ's sacrifice. Here are four specific applications of the last words of Jesus on the cross.

1. This was Jesus' exclamation that He had finished the work the Father had sent Him to do.
2. The word *tetelestai* was the equivalent of the Hebrew word spoken by the high priest when he presented a sacrificial lamb without spot or blemish.
3. In a secular sense, the word *tetelestai* was used in the business world to signify the full payment of a debt.
4. In classical Greek times, the word *tetelestai* depicted a turning point when one period ended and another new period began.

Source: <https://www.crosswalk.com/faith/spiritual-life/it-is-finished-11571312.html>

6) What "It is Finished" means:

Although the redemption of mankind is the most important finished task, many other things were finished at the cross. The sufferings Jesus endured while on the earth, and especially in His last hours, were at last over. God's will for Jesus was accomplished in His perfect obedience to the Father ([John 5:30](#); [6:38](#)). Most importantly, the power of sin and Satan was finished. No longer would mankind have to suffer the "flaming arrows of the evil one" ([Ephesians 6:16](#)). By raising the "shield of faith" in the One who completed the work of redemption and salvation, we can, by faith, live as new creations in Christ. Jesus' finished work on the cross was the beginning of new life for all who were once "dead in trespasses and sins" but who are now made "alive with Christ" ([Ephesians 2:1, 5](#)).

Source: <https://www.gotquestions.org/it-is-finished.html>