

Intro.

- A. The completion of a major task brings with it a certain satisfaction & often a sense of relief.
  - 1. Finishing H. S. or college, completing a major project at home or office conveys accomplishment.
  - 2. Sometime the *accomplishments* of men are very significant. [*completion*]
    - a. On Dec. 31, this year's work will be finished!
    - b. Just last week, finishing touches on pking. lot were completed. When light go up, our pull-thru will be finished.
    - c. When worthwhile tasks have been ultimately finished,=>benefits = often far-reaching & long lasting.
- B. Most of the work you & I are involved have rather temporary benefits (*the nature of the temporal*).
  - 1. An education may serve for your life-time, or you may have to go *back to school* & retrain for diff. job.
  - 2. A building or road may be used for many years, but eventually it will deteriorate.
- C. When God finishes a work, His accomplishments are so much gter. than man's, ours pale in comparison.
  - 1. The Bible tells us of at least 3 works of God that have been finished, and the effects are phenominal!
  - 2. As we study about God's finished works, we should be impressed with:
    - a. Importance of completing the work God has for us to do.
    - b. The tremendous effect of that work either being accomplished, or left incomplete.
  - 3. Much is learned about a man by those things he chooses to make or do, the same is true of God.

Discuss.I. GOD'S WORK IN CREATION. Gen. 2:1-2

- A. The work of God in creation was the first of God's efforts, which produced tangible visible results.
  - 1. Gen. 1 & 2 describes the orderly progression of the first 144 hrs. of the earth's existence.
  - 2. Towards the end of that very first work -week, we read of a Divine council which took place.
    - a. That council would implement a previously formed plan (c. **Eph. 1:4** & **1 Pt. 1:20**) for mankind.
    - b. Made from dust of ground, & receiving the *breath of life*, man was created in God's image.
    - c. In God's image => ability to think abstractly, w/ understand of beauty & emotion, & capacity for recognition of God, thus loving & worshipping Him.
- B. When God's work of creation was ended, *EVERYTHING* was finished.
  - 1. In our finite minds, it is difficult to imagine the creation of the heavens & earth.
  - 2. To read about the sudden formation of mature vegetation & life forms is incredible!
  - 3. Intriguing to notice the language God used to communicate just how complete & finished things were.
    - a. In Hebrew, the concluding statement of 1<sup>st</sup> 5 days of creation = *evening & the morning* = a 5<sup>th</sup> day.
    - b. Description of 6<sup>th</sup> day is different, described w/ a definite article – *the sixth day*, shows completion!
    - c. Likewise, results of 1<sup>st</sup> 5 days of creation = **good**; at end of 6<sup>th</sup> day = **very good**.
    - d. *Very good* == completion & perfection (no imbalance in nature, no disease, no disorder or death)
  - 4. In **Exodus (20:11 & 31:17)** we read how God made everything in 6 days. (Also, see **Jn. 1:1-3**).

II. GOD'S WORK IN REVELATION.

- A. The process of revelation == the gradual uncovering of God's will for & to man. **1 Pet. 1:19-21**
  - 1. That progressive process is described in degrees in (**Heb. 1:1-2**), like a light growing ever brighter \\
  - 2. God's revelation to man is able.....
    - a. to make us wise to salvation, **2 Tm. 3:15**
    - b. perfect (complete – lacking in nothing), thoroughly equipped for every good work, **2 Tim. 3:17**
- B. When you study **1 Cor. 13:9-11** in context, come to see not only the gradual process of revelation and the development of a maturing church, but also anticipate a time of maturity, and completion of revelation.
  - 1. For revelation to truly be divine, it must be accurate, trustworthy & harmonious.
  - 2. Bible is accurate scientifically, geographically, historically & prophetically.
  - 3. Its writers write harmoniously, accurately => both of past history and predictive prophecy.

4. **Ex: Isaiah (44-45)** wrote of Kg. Cyrus of Persia, by name 150 yrs. prior to his being kg. (not yet born)!
- C. Numerous false claims of “inspiration” & “revelation from God” have been made.
1. Joseph Smith, Bk. Of Mormon, Doct. Of Covenants, & Pearl of Gt. Price offers numerous grammatical & language errors, AWA numerous contradictions between it’s own “Inspired” creeds, & with the Bible.
  2. 7<sup>th</sup>-Day Adventists’ Ellen G. White claims continuous revelation, following after Wm. Miller’s inaccurate & failed prophecies re: 2<sup>nd</sup> coming of Christ, & offered doct contradictory to **Col. 2:14-16...**
  3. Mary Baker Eddy in her *Christian Science* religion, claimed later revelation, but proved to be false.
  4. Roman Catholicism claims divine authority for the Vatican, & successive heads of the Catholic church
- D. When God finished His work of Revelation, His Word is sufficient. **2 Pet. 1:3; 2 Tim. 3:17 – Jude 3**

### **III. GOD’S WORK IN REDEMPTION.**

- A. Divine council centering on man had 1<sup>st</sup> taken place long before creation.
1. Before the world was, God devised a plan to save man whenever he would sin, Eph. 1:4
  2. God’s plan required Jesus to become a man, **Phil. 2:6-8**
- B. From early on in Jesus’ earthly existence, He knew His purpose to execute the Father’s plan,
1. In **Lk. 2:49** Jesus explained to His mother that there was a special work for Him to accomplish.
  2. **Jn. 9:4** Christ expressed the urgency of His work, and that time was critical.
  3. Earlier He had expressed how His *time was not yet full come*, **Jn. 7:6, 8.**
  4. Holy Spirit spoke thru Paul, declaring that God sent His Son at precisely the right moment, *when the fulness of the time was come*, **Gal. 4:4**
- C. When Jesus was nearing the end of His work on earth, He prayed to His Heavenly Father, saying...
1. *I have finished the work which you gave me to do.* **Jn. 17:4**
  2. Later that same week, we hear Him as He hangs on the cross....*It is finished*, **Jn. 19:30**
  3. Some 52 days later, on the Sunday of Pentecost, the apostles would unlock the church, and the disciples of Christ would be added to the church, God’s redemptive work was complete. (c. **Ac. 2:40**)

#### Concl.

- A. It will be observed, when God finished a work, it does not have to be redone, fixed, modified, or adjusted.
1. His work in creation has served time & history well, & it will continue to do so as long needed.
  2. The Bible is all we need as our guide of faith & practice. We merely study it & obey it.
  3. God’s part in our salvation – His grace extended through Christ perfect sacrifice for our sin – can abundantly pardon all of our transgressions.
- B. Still, sin, when it is finished brings forth death, **Jas. 1:17 & Rom. 3:23**
1. God assures us that it is up to us to obey His word, **Mt. 7:21ff**
  2. God’s plan of salvation
  3. A 2<sup>nd</sup> law of pardon given for Christians who fall back into serving sin & Satan, **1 Jn. 1:9**

## **“Finished”**

**(Gen 2:1 KJV) Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them.**

**(Exo 39:32 KJV) Thus was all the work of the tabernacle of the tent of the congregation finished: and the children of Israel did according to all that the LORD commanded Moses, so did they.**

**(Exo 40:33 KJV) And he reared up the court round about the tabernacle and the altar, and set up the hanging of the court gate. So Moses finished the work.**

**(Deu 31:24 KJV) And it came to pass, when Moses had made an end of writing the words of this law in a book, until they were finished,**

**(Josh 4:10 KJV) For the priests which bare the ark stood in the midst of Jordan, until every thing was finished that the LORD commanded Joshua to speak unto the people, according to all that Moses commanded Joshua: and the people hastened and passed over.**

**(Ruth 3:18 KJV) Then said she, Sit still, my daughter, until thou know how the matter will fall: for the man will not be in rest, until he have finished the thing this day.**

**(1 Ki 6:9 KJV) So he built the house, and finished it; and covered the house with beams and boards of cedar.**

**(1 Ki 6:14 KJV) So Solomon built the house, and finished it.**

**(1 Ki 6:22 KJV) And the whole house he overlaid with gold, until he had finished all the house: also the whole altar that was by the oracle he overlaid with gold.**

**(1 Ki 6:38 KJV) And in the eleventh year, in the month Bul, which is the eighth month, was the house finished throughout all the parts thereof, and according to all the fashion of it. So was he seven years in building it.**

**(1 Ki 7:1 KJV) But Solomon was building his own house thirteen years, and he finished all his house.**

**(1 Ki 7:22 KJV) And upon the top of the pillars was lily work: so was the work of the pillars finished.**

**(1 Ki 9:1 KJV) And it came to pass, when Solomon had finished the building of the house of the LORD, and the king's house, and all Solomon's desire which he was pleased to do,**

**(1 Ki 9:25 KJV) And three times in a year did Solomon offer burnt offerings and peace offerings upon the altar which he built unto the LORD, and he burnt incense upon the altar that was before the LORD. So he finished the house.**

**(1 Chr 27:24 KJV) Joab the son of Zeruiah began to number, but he finished not, because there fell wrath for it against Israel; neither was the number put in the account of the chronicles of king David.**

**(1 Chr 28:20 KJV) And David said to Solomon his son, Be strong and of good courage, and do it: fear not, nor be dismayed: for the LORD God, even my God, will be with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee, until thou hast finished all the work for the service of the house of the LORD.**

**(2 Chr 4:11 KJV) And Hiram made the pots, and the shovels, and the basins. And Hiram finished the work that he was to make for king Solomon for the house of God;**

**(2 Chr 5:1 KJV) Thus all the work that Solomon made for the house of the LORD was finished: and Solomon brought in all the things that David his father had dedicated; and the silver, and the gold, and all the instruments, put he among the treasures of the house of God.**

**(2 Chr 7:11 KJV) Thus Solomon finished the house of the LORD, and the king's house: and all that came into Solomon's heart to make in the house of the LORD, and in his own house, he prosperously effected.**

**(2 Chr 8:16 KJV) Now all the work of Solomon was prepared unto the day of the foundation of the house of the LORD, and until it was finished. So the house of the LORD was perfected.**

**(2 Chr 24:14 KJV) And when they had finished it, they brought the rest of the money before the king and Jehoiada, whereof were made vessels for the house of the LORD, even vessels to minister, and to offer withal, and spoons, and vessels of gold and silver. And they offered burnt offerings in the house of the LORD continually all the days of Jehoiada.**

**(2 Chr 29:28 KJV) And all the congregation worshipped, and the singers sang, and the trumpeters sounded: and all this continued until the burnt offering was finished.**

**(2 Chr 31:1 KJV) Now when all this was finished, all Israel that were present went out to the cities of Judah, and brake the images in pieces, and cut down the groves, and threw down the high places and the altars out of all Judah and Benjamin, in Ephraim also and Manasseh, until they had utterly destroyed them all. Then all the children of Israel returned, every man to his possession, into their own cities.**

**(2 Chr 31:7 KJV) In the third month they began to lay the foundation of the heaps, and finished them in the seventh month.**

**(Ezra 5:16 KJV) Then came the same Sheshbazzar, and laid the foundation of the house of God which is in Jerusalem: and since that time even until now hath it been in building, and yet it is not finished.**

**(Ezra 6:14 KJV) And the elders of the Jews builded, and they prospered through the prophesying of Haggai the prophet and Zechariah the son of Iddo. And they builded, and finished it, according to the commandment of the God of Israel, and according to the commandment of Cyrus, and Darius, and Artaxerxes king of Persia.**

**(Ezra 6:15 KJV) And this house was finished on the third day of the month Adar, which was in the sixth year of the reign of Darius the king.**

**(Neh 6:15 KJV) So the wall was finished in the twenty and fifth day of the month Elul, in fifty and two days.**

**(Dan 5:26 KJV) This is the interpretation of the thing: MENE; God hath numbered thy kingdom, and finished it.**

**(Dan 12:7 KJV) And I heard the man clothed in linen, which was upon the waters of the river, when he held up his right hand and his left hand unto heaven, and swore by him that liveth for ever that it shall be for a time, times, and an half; and when he shall have accomplished to scatter the power of the holy people, all these things shall be finished.**

**(Mat 13:53 KJV) And it came to pass, that when Jesus had finished these parables, he departed thence.**

**(Mat 19:1 KJV) And it came to pass, that when Jesus had finished these sayings, he departed from Galilee, and came into the coasts of Judaea beyond Jordan;**

**(Mat 26:1 KJV) And it came to pass, when Jesus had finished all these sayings, he said unto his disciples,**

**(John 17:4 KJV) I have glorified thee on the earth: **I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do.****

**(John 19:30 KJV) When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, **It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.****

**(Acts 21:7 KJV) And when we had finished our course from Tyre, we came to Ptolemais, and saluted the brethren, and abode with them one day.**

**(2 Tim 4:7 KJV) I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:**

**(Heb 4:3 KJV) For we which have believed do enter into rest, as he said, As I have sworn in my wrath, if they shall enter into my rest: although the works were finished from the foundation of the world.**

**(James 1:15 KJV) Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: **and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.****

**(Rev 10:7 KJV) But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of God should be finished, as he hath declared to his servants the prophets.**

**(Rev 11:7 KJV) And when they shall have finished their testimony, the beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit shall make war against them, and shall overcome them, and kill them.**

**(Rev 20:5 KJV) But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection.**