

Easter 2026

John 19:28-30

After this, Jesus, knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the Scripture might be fulfilled, said, "I thirst!" ²⁹ Now a vessel full of sour wine was sitting there; and they filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on hyssop, and put it to His mouth. ³⁰ So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!" And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.

IT IS FINISHED! The three greatest words ever spoken.

Fourteen years ago, we started A Church Called Home and shortly after starting the church I met a man by the name of Tracy Simons. Tracy attended the church from day one up until two years ago. A little more than two years ago, Tracy had a stroke and passed away shortly after that.

Over the years, Tracy and I became good friends. We shared a common interest, cars. I knew I liked him when he drove his Dodge Viper to church one Sunday.

After getting to know him, he invited me to come see his shop. Now you never know what to expect when someone invites you to their home to see their shop.

Is it a wood shop?

Maybe a simple tool shed?

You never know.

Well Tracy had 10 acres of classic cars, muscle cars, and supercars. He had an eight-bay garage, and a four-bay garage and tractor trailers full of car parts. It was a car guys dream. Over time I noticed something about Tracy... He had a lot of projects going, but he rarely finished anything.

Now I know Tracy wasn't the only one with that problem.

In this room, I'm sure there's a lot of unfinished business.

In this room, I'm sure there's a craft someone started that needs to be finished.

In this room, I'm sure there's a book someone started writing that needs to be finished.

There might even be a youth pastor with a Mustang in his son's garage that he says he's going to restore, but it needs to be finished.

In the third chapter of the Book of Revelation, Jesus said to a group of people known as The Church of Sardis, "I have found your deeds unfinished..."

We all have unfinished business.

Easter is all about Jesus finishing what He started over 2,000 years ago.

And actually, the story didn't begin 2,000 years ago.

The story began all the way back to the Garden of Eden.

When Adam and Eve ate of the forbidden fruit.

God came down during the cool of the day to walk with Adam and Adam hid from God.

Because Adam was fearful and ashamed.

Adam had experienced the shame of sin, he knew something deep within him had changed.

He was broken.

Adam blamed Eve for what he did.

Eve blamed the serpent for what she did.

And on that day, God said to that serpent (the devil) "You walked into this garden on legs, but you'll crawl out of this garden on your belly. And there will be hostility between you and the offspring of this woman, but from this woman's offspring will come one that will forever crush your head."

Today, we celebrate the finished work of what God promised in the garden that day.

As a matter of fact, when you read Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, repeated you see statements like, **“this took place to fulfill...”** When Matthew wrote his gospel he linked the birth, life, and death of Jesus to the fulfillment of 130 OT prophecies.

This is why, on the cross, Jesus said, *“It is finished.”*

Listen to me carefully, God has never given up anything He’s ever started, and that includes you and me.

Your story started with Him.

He was there while you were being nit together in your mother’s womb.

He is the author of your story and He will never give up on you.

Back to my friend Tracy... One day I told him that one of my dreams was to build a custom motorcycle – a café racer. Tracy told me he had just taken in a bunch of bikes on scrap and said I could have one if I wanted one.

I picked this bike out, it was trashed.

But I saw what it could be.

I broke it down.

I started sketching out what I wanted it to look like.

I spent three years working on it.

But I could only get it about 80% complete.

Eventually I got in over my head and I knew that if I was going to finish what I started I was going to need help from someone a lot smarter than me. I found a custom bike shop in Chattanooga that helped me finish what I started.

The day you were conceived God started something in you.

He gave you the gift of life.

But we're all born broken, rebellious, stubborn.

And none of us can fix ourselves.

At some point, you will have to go to the one who gave you your life and say, "I need your help."