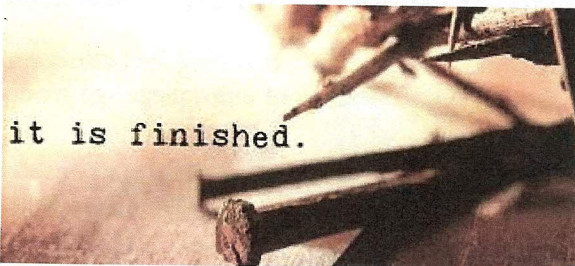




## “It is Finished”

Have you ever thought about how important those words of Jesus are to our lives? They are among the last words ever spoken on earth by Jesus before his



burial and resurrection. Without them we could not have been saved! The text reads in John 19:30-31, “When Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, ‘It is finished,’ and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.” I wonder what the apostles who heard these words thought. They were already conflicted and confused by his crucifixion. Then, they heard him say “it is finished.” What did that mean?

It was not only in his death but throughout the personal ministry of Jesus that the apostles struggled to connect the dots when Jesus spoke of His being delivered up in Jerusalem to be put to death. (see Luke 18:31-34) In the hours before Jesus’ death, they no doubt knew something was looming on the horizon but were unsure of what it was. The apostles had heard Jesus praying to His Father saying, “I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work you gave me to do.” (John 17:26, especially vs. 4) They thought they knew what that “work” was, but the acceleration toward the cross caught them up in fear and doubt. Had they been wrong? *Continued on page 2*

