

*Forever Finished*

Carl H. Stevens Jr. is pastor of Greater Grace World Outreach located in Baltimore, Maryland. Pastor Stevens is also chancellor of Maryland Bible College & Seminary and host of the international Christian radio program "The Grace Hour." This booklet was created from a message preached by Pastor Stevens.

Pastor Stevens can be seen weekly on cable television stations throughout the United States. Call us for information regarding programming in your area.

*All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise noted, are from the King James Version. Italics for emphasis are ours.*

GRACE PUBLICATIONS

P.O. BOX 18715

BALTIMORE, MD 21206

Printed in Baltimore, Maryland, U.S.A.

Copyright © 2004

Grace Publications is a ministry of  
Greater Grace World Outreach, Inc.

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

*Introduction* ..... 5

*Chapter 1* ..... 7

*LIVING IN THE LIGHT*

*Chapter 2* ..... 12

*IRREVERSABLE BLESSINGS*

*Chapter 3* ..... 18

*THE VICTORY AND THE SHOUT OF THE KING*

*CONCLUSION* ..... 23



## INTRODUCTION

“Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage” (Galatians 5:1).

For freedom, we were set free. That is the message of this great verse from the apostle Paul’s letter to the Galatians. Jesus Christ died once, for all the sins of the world. That death, with the Blood that He shed, accomplished our redemption and purchased our pardon.

Still, it is very strange how we as Christians quickly fall back into the bondage. We draw conclusions from selfish thinking and natural preferences, and we allow ourselves to become entangled with things God delivered us from at Calvary.

Please consider this carefully. What is the greatest difficulty that God has with His people? It is that many Christians do not understand the message of the Finished Work. Our message is

one hundred percent Finished Work, and nothing else. When understood, the Finished Work message leads to Finished Work fellowship, Finished Work marriages, Finished Work families, Finished Work friendships, and Finished Work businesses.

Christ dealt with our burdens, our strife, and our enemies when He paid for our sins on Calvary. Our part is to believe it and receive it. *That* is the Finished Work.

## *Chapter One*

# LIVING IN THE LIGHT

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

“In him was life; and the life was the light of men.

“And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not” (John 1:1, 4, 5).

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

Do you understand how to experience the Finished Work?

God has shown us the light. Out of this light of God comes positive communication. Out of light comes more light. Negativity comes from the negatives that are allowed to develop in a dark room. People who are negative, who are always talking about things that are not edifying, have a dark room in their soul. Those negatives develop and produce negativity in

exchanges. These negatives are often revealed on their countenance and then come flowing out through the mouth.

### *Bound by Cords of Love*

“God is the LORD, which hath shewed us light: bind the sacrifice with cords, even unto the horns of the altar” (Psalm 118:27).

In this unique verse, the horns speak of the power of Calvary’s love.

Then, in Hosea 11:4*a*, we read: “I drew them with cords of a man, with the bands of love.”

Jesus Christ was not held to the Cross by the nails driven through His hands and feet. He was not held to the Cross by Pilate or by the Pharisees or by the mocking voices in the crowd at Calvary. Jesus Christ was held to the Cross, according to Hosea 11:4, by the power of God’s love. He was slain from the foundation of the world (Revelation 13:8*b*). Amazing bands of love—cords of supernatural love—are what kept Him fastened to the altar. Love kept Him on the Cross.

When He was through, when it was all over, Jesus said to the Father, “I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do” (John 17:4).

Then He declared with His last breath, "It is finished" (John 19:30).

### *A Great Privilege Purchased*

There was intense emotion and all kinds of human weariness when Jesus cried with a loud voice, "It is finished!" The penalty for sin has been paid. The great privilege has been purchased. A person can believe the promise of God for salvation and have God's righteousness imputed to him in a moment! The fact that in a moment, a sinner can be saved, seated together in Christ and hid with Christ in God has been established in God's Word. The fact that we could be members of His body, flesh, and bones (Ephesians 5:30) and have one spirit with Him (1 Corinthians 6:17) was established on Calvary and revealed by the Holy Spirit.

It is finished!

It is finished!

*It is finished!*

"I have glorified thee. I have finished the work that thou gavest me to do. It is finished."

These are the words that came from Christ's lips as He fulfilled His purpose on earth. If we hear them enough, it can help us to straighten out some of our relationships that desperately

need to become Finished Work. So many of our relationships, unfortunately, are not grounded on the Finished Work.

A beautiful couple who had not failed, in terms of fornication, came to me. They came to me individually, and then together, to say that they failed one time, just once, and the girl became pregnant. They were so remorseful, and they were so laden with guilt.

May I say here that we do not believe in premarital sex. It is extremely wrong. It is extremely dangerous. The Bible has so many red lights that warn people not to do it; and it says some pretty strong words about fornication: that those who do it shall not go to heaven (1 Corinthians 6:9). The Bible also says, "He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh [his sins] shall have mercy" (Proverbs 28:13).

This couple had totally repented, and together in my office they wept. I showed them what the Bible had to say, and I explained to them clearly that now that it had happened, they must have a Finished Work attitude. I said, "See yourselves in the Finished Work, because you are complete. You have repented. You can have a Finished Work fellowship with God. You

can have Finished Work honor, and you could have a Finished Work family. You don't have to live with the scars and shame and guilt now that you have forsaken it."

And by the way, that couple did not kiss until they got married, which was very soon after our meeting. Today, they are so faithful in this ministry because they believe in the Finished Work, and they reveal the fruit of it in their lives.

## *Chapter Two*

# IRREVERSABLE BLESSINGS

“Now the God of patience and consolation grant you to be likeminded one toward another according to Christ Jesus:

“That ye may with one mind and one mouth glorify God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

“Wherefore receive ye one another, as Christ also received us to the glory of God” (Romans 15:5-7).

The Finished Work means that I receive the Spirit of the living God. It is the Spirit of grace (Hebrews 10:29). It is the Spirit that is new, always new. His compassions never fail, and His mercies are new every morning; therefore, we are not consumed (Lamentations 3:22-23).

If people understood the Finished Work, they would never raise their voices to one another. They would not sow discord. They would not wrestle over problems. Some people strug-

gle with relationships and with details of life because they have not grasped the Finished Work. It is as though they leave Finished Work truth the moment a serious situation comes up.

“God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?

“Behold, I have received commandment to bless: and he hath blessed; and I cannot reverse it” (Numbers 23:19-20).

You cannot reverse the blessings! You cannot reverse the blessings of the Finished Work. You cannot reverse the blessings of grace. When God has done something, He has done it forever (Ecclesiastes 3:14). You cannot reverse what He did for us sinners; you cannot reverse that love that held Him on Calvary. You cannot reverse that.

### *From Curses to Blessings*

He turns the curses into blessings (Deuteronomy 23:5). You cannot ever change the blessings that you have in the heavenly places. Your fellowship may go outside of the Finished Work, and your fellowship will not be blessed. God will discipline with perfect love (Hebrews 12:6), but you cannot reverse what God has done.

So many people have so many problems with receiving the Finished Work in relationships, and sometimes I wish I had a tape recorder when people make their comments about others! Then, when they cool off and become sensible, I would have them hear what they had to say.

What do you think it means when the Bible says, "For the love of Christ [motivates] us; because we thus judge, that if One died for all, then were all dead: And that He died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto Him which died for them, and rose again" (2 Corinthians 5:14-15).

The Word of God says in 2 Corinthians 5:16, to know no man or woman after the flesh, yet some of us probably violated that yesterday or today. We are not even to know Christ after the flesh. If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature. Old things are passed away, and all things have become new (2 Corinthians 5:17).

God is saying, "Your relationship should be built on the Finished Work."

### *Picture the Finished Work*

I see myself in the Finished Work. I see you in the Finished Work. I see my friends in the Fin-

ished Work. I see failure in the Finished Work, and I will address failure from the standpoint of Finished Work, encouraging the person who has failed to confess and find mercy, and not cover it.

I want you to see that the glory of God is in the Finished Work. He said, "And the glory which thou gavest me, I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one" (John 17:22). Do you know what the glory that He gives to us is? It is a Finished Work glory. You see, Jesus was not glorified in His humanity until it was finished. Now, seated on the throne in heaven, He has a glorified humanity, representing men as our Advocate.

It is a finished work, and that is where it should be.

Aman came to the service here recently, and he was right on the edge of suicide. He has had experienced terrible depressions, but he came to services and rap sessions and just enjoyed the messages, and he was released and delivered mentally and spiritually. How did he get delivered? He finally came to understand that there is a Finished Work. He grasped hold of the truth that God has paid for everything, and that God does not charge him with a single thing.

## *Don't Hold Back the Blessing*

By the way, when the work is finished, God is just waiting to bless His people with blessings. The only thing that holds Him back is when they will not receive it.

Why is it that people have to know one another after the flesh? So often people will say, "What about accountability?" Yes, we have to be accountable, but the accountability is fulfilled in love. Accountability is fulfilled with sacrificial, supernatural, unconditional love. Yes, we go to one another alone. Yes, we have a ministry of restoration in an attitude of meekness. Yes, we do that, but it is alone that we go, not in cars, talking about other people.

I want you to see that when God says, "Let your words on earth be few," He means it, because when you get beyond a few words you get in trouble.

A young girl came into our office crying. She said she was pregnant, and she asked, "Am I going to go to hell?" She was a brand-new Christian. But she said, "Am I going to go to hell?"

"No," I said. "You believe. You have received Christ."

And she said, "This is such a shame. This is a terrible, terrible thing."

"Yes, it is," I said to her. "It was wrong. But now that you have done it, I am going to show you what God is going to do for you. He will help you and bless you and give you grace and mercy. He is going to love you. He is going to take you in His arms. You are His precious little girl."

She wept.

"Because you have confessed it, and you have forsaken it, He will never remember your sin again," I told her.

"For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more" (Hebrews 8:12).

"And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more" (Hebrews 10:17).

I asked her to quote Hebrews 8:12 and 10:17 several times. I assured her, "The sin has been removed from you. It is not charged to your account. The Son of God has set you free. Now you can go on knowing God and loving Him."

### *Chapter Three*

## THE VICTORY AND THE SHOUT OF THE KING

A Finished Work Christian does not know anyone after the flesh or after what happened yesterday. This is why God said, "I have not beheld the iniquity of Jacob. I have not seen the perverseness of Israel." (See Numbers 23:21.) "The Lord his God is with him, and the shout of the king among them."

What is the shout of the king?

The shout of the king is the shout of victory after a defeat, the cry of forgiveness after sin. It is the joy that comes after sorrow. It is the power we receive after weakness. It is to be accepted after feeling rejected. It is to be a new creature when you have been an old one all your life. That is what the King is shouting. The King is shouting, "This is the victory that you have through the Lord Jesus Christ."

But what is an *unfinished* work?

An unfinished work is saying, "Do you know what she did?" That is an unfinished viewpoint.

"Did you hear about what that person did? I don't think they have repented."

That is not a Finished Work attitude. How do you know? David understood that his sin, as grievous as it was, was against God only (Psalm 51:4). "Against thee and thee only have I sinned." But an unfinished work is when we always relate to people just as though the work of forgiveness was not finished on Calvary.

A precious couple wrote to me and said, "You will never know what the last six years have done for us individually, for our marriage, and for our health. Just by hearing the Finished Work messages, our lives have been transformed." She said, "I never knew. I never understood that God loved me."

Think with me for just a moment. An unfinished work is quarreling. That means you are in an unfinished relationship. Your memory is unfinished when it can remember something that somebody did. You have an unfinished memory. Your thoughts are unfinished when they are not filled with thoughts of peace. When you do not have peace (Isaiah 26:3), your thoughts are not

Finished Work thoughts.

There is not anything like the Finished Work.

And by the way, it is fresher today than it has ever been. Here is God the Father in heaven saying, "I love you! Forget the fact that I love the world. Of course, I love the world, but I want to talk personally."

He is saying, "I love *you*! I love you, and I call you by name. I have saved you. I have delivered you from the penalty of sin. I will not impute sin to you."

This is the Finished Work, and it is very personal.

### *The Purpose of Our Ministry*

The Word of God gives us the privilege of fully understanding the whole purpose of this ministry. Do you know that other than judicial issues, God took away the law of restitution in the New Testament. Of course, if you steal something, you must repay and restore what you have stolen. That is a judicial penalty. But in the economy of grace, He has replaced the law of restitution with John 1:16, "grace for grace." Now, unless it is something you can return, instead of restitution, we receive grace from God, and in return we give out the same grace that

we have received. We give to others what we have received from God.

### *Be Merciful as He is Merciful*

This is why the Word of God says “Be ye therefore merciful, as your [heavenly] Father is merciful” (Luke 6:36). Where did that mercy come from? When mercy and truth met on Calvary, righteousness and peace kissed each other. Now, truth shall spring up from the earth, as God looks down from heaven (Psalm 85:10, 11).

Mercy is behind every good thing you receive, because mercy does not give you what you deserve. Mercy is motivated by love. The moment you were saved, you received sixty-eight gifts of grace that you did not deserve, and that was motivated by love. You get forgiveness that forgets, motivated by love. You are accepted forever and ever in the Beloved, and that is motivated by love. You are in Christ forever. You are a brand-new creature, forever and ever, and that is motivated by love.

He deals with you in love to restore your fellowship in the Finished Work. That is what it means to rebound. He will always deal with you in perfect love, and He is very patient and understanding. When you are down, He goes with

you and stays with you while you are down. He is in you, even while you are down (Micah 7:7-9,18,19).

Micah said, "My God is with me down here, so you better be careful." And he said, "I have sinned, and I'm going to get up shortly."

"Judge not, lest you be judged." That is the Finished Work talking. "Be merciful as your Father in heaven is merciful. Condemn not, lest you be condemned; forgive, and you shall be forgiven. Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, shaken down, pressed together, running over, where men bring it back unto your heart. And with the measure you give, it shall be measured back to you again" (see Luke 6:36-38).

Do you understand what the Lord is talking about here? Give mercy: That act has all the attributes of the Finished Work behind it. Just give mercy. Give forgiveness. You got it, so give it.

"Just get what I am giving. Then give to everyone My nature," God says. That is the Finished Work—finished forever, once and for all.

## CONCLUSION

We need to have a Finished Work attitude. We need Finished Work praise. We need Finished Work security and Finished Work self-confidence. The Finished Work says, "Give and it shall be given unto you," and God will have men give it unto you.

That is how we do it.

We give mercy, we give love, and God said, "I will have people give it back to you, and the supply will be running over." It is given back and running over.

It was the love of God that kept Him in that pain. And because of the love of God He bore our sins. If we understand that, why would we have to know one person after the flesh? I don't mean we should do away with accountability, but even that should be executed in God's love.

*Precious Father, we pray for each one reading this. Please protect us in our fellowship and our relationships. Encourage us in Finished Work thoughts*

*and responses, because it is Your love that does it. We thank You for this day, in Jesus' name. Amen.*