

# "IT IS FINISHED." LENT 2021

St T's Weekly Devotional || Wednesday 24th March 2021

A sunset over a body of water with a cross in the foreground and a person in the distance.

"IT IS FINISHED."  
JOHN 19.30

## Bill Galloway

The love of Christ supremely shown on the cross has the power to transform us and so make us more like him. Studying the text for this devotional article suggests to me that it would be good for each one of us, in prayer, to periodically during our lives make an imaginary spiritual journey to the foot of the cross. This would help us to be filled with the transforming love of Christ and the power to shine it out to others.

Here then, illuminated by the text in John's gospel and Psalm 22, is my prayerful imaginary spiritual journey to the foot of the cross:

As I stand there in, my spirit, I can hear in my mind the taunts and mockery of the crowd and I sense their hatred. I wriggle uneasily as I wonder if I would have been like them if I had lived in those days. I hope I would have been among the group who loved him. I sense their fear and smell the sweat and blood and as I raise my eyes I see the swarms of flies around the cross and the blood running down from where the nails have pierced him.

Then I see his eyes full of agony and pain and am astonished to find that, even among this large crowd, he seems to be looking only at me as if I was the only person in the entire world. Then behind the anguish I see, and feel waves of love and compassion flowing out to me. Though his lips don't move I hear him say clearly, 'See I am dying for you, because I love you and want you to love me and share eternity with me.' Then I do see his lips move and Jesus said, "It is finished" and bowed his head.

Back in the here and now I wonder what did Jesus Christ, the embodiment of God in human form, really mean by those final words? He surely meant more than just the end of his earthly life. We find an answer in John 17:4 where we read that Jesus said to his Father, 'I have brought you glory on earth by completing the work you gave me to do.' In his final words on the cross Jesus is announcing that the mission his Father gave him is now at last completed. From his birth to his death he completely identified with us.

John Stott said: 'Only one act of pure love, unsullied by any taint of ulterior motive, has ever been performed in the history of the world, namely, the self-giving of God in Christ on the cross for undeserving sinners.'

For me Jesus' final words on the cross mark the first time in human history that the awesome and profound depth of God's love for each one of us was completely revealed. Holding fast to the knowledge of that love in our hearts can sustain us through all of life's challenges including the present terrible pandemic.

