



Bulletin 31

Dear Church!

30th March 2021



Tetelestai!

...came Jesus' cry from the cross! Translated out of the Greek, it means, 'It is finished'. It's just the sort of Biblical detail Hollywood would get wrong. The film director would depict a wilting body on the cross barely able to whisper the words as, defeated by death, he breathed his last.

Not so with Jesus! Tetelestai is a cry of triumph and final completion such as we might utter on winning rugby's grand slam title or on completion of a long and demanding project of some sort. Jesus knew that in enduring the cross to the end he had completed his mission and re-opened the doors of eternal life. As the writer to the Hebrews puts it:

In bringing many sons and daughters to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through what he suffered.

Hebrews 2:10

Following crucifixion came resurrection and ascension. Now it's our turn to play our part. To pick up our cross and follow him. Paul, writing to the church in Rome write:

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Romans 12:1

Our worshipful response to Christ's '*Tetelestai*' work on the cross is not *just* to sing his praises (though that in itself is worthy and honourable!), but to 'love him who first loved us'. *1 John 4*.

Jesus said,

"If you love me, you will keep my commandments." John 14:15

And again,

"...I have told you these things so that my joy may be in you and your joy may be complete. This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends..." John 15::11-13

The work on the cross is finished - '*Tetelestai!*' - but its message is still yet to be heard by many! Still the majority of the world only looks upon Jesus with a 'Hollywood gaze' as a faithful martyr who died for his cause. We need to proclaim that what the world sees as the end is in fact the beginning! We're a resurrection people! We're certain of our destination because of the living proof of '*Tetelestai!*'. The one who triumphed over death.

All this brings me back to where the Lent Course led me personally over The Forty Days. Two things emerged for me:

Keep it Simple! - just tell God's story to people in a real way and trust the Spirit to empower your words as he did in the book of the Acts of the Apostles.

Close the gap! - By our prayers, Bible reading, reflection, further reading church gatherings, witnessing, fellowship, close the gap between the mortality of this earth and our 'sure and certain hope' of immortality! Eternal life! The smaller the gap, the greater will be our effectiveness as a church in life and witness!

With regard to the former, in a month or two, I'm keen to start up a congregation-wide 1:1 evangelistic Bible reading scheme for witnessing to close friends. With regard to the latter, to nourish further our prayer life. But those are to come as Spring progresses into Summer and new liberties dawn on our church life...

In the meantime, praise the Lord for, and rejoice in *Tetelestai!*

May Easter resurrection blessings be with!
Rev Karl