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## Christ is the *End*

by Bill Lockwood

"I glorified thee upon the earth, *having accomplished* the work which you gave me to do" said our blessed Lord in His intercessory prayer to the Father (John 17:4). The word for "having accomplished" is "teleiosis" in the Greek which literally means the *completion of a process*. In immediate prospect of the cross Jesus declared that he had *perfected* the Father's plans—or brought it to an "end."

Just before He expired Jesus said, "It is *finished*" (John 19:28). Once again, the same word signifies "accomplished, consummated, or perfected." In the *Biblical-Theological Lexicon of New Testament Greek*, Herman Cremer points out this regarding John 19:28: "The verb denotes the final or concluding accomplishment of prophecy with reference to Christ's sufferings as a whole" (p. 883). What is the significance here? Only this. Jesus came to completely fulfill the Old Testament law and prophets (Matthew 5:17-19). When He declared from the cross "It is *finished*," then bowed His head and "gave up His Spirit" (John 19:30), He showed that task was *successfully completed*. Yet, future kingdom theorists and those who suppose that somehow God will bless Israel again in our future *flatly deny our Lord's words*. Like the Jews of old, the bulk of Old Testament prophecy they say has yet to be fulfilled. In 2 Corinthians 1:20 Paul shows that Jesus is 'the grand consummating affirmative' of the Old Testament promises.

Another passage in which "end" (telos) teaches us is Hebrews 6:1 where Paul admonishes, "Let us go on unto *perfection*." The Apostle means to the "end" or "finishing" of the requirements of the Law of Moses which was found in the sacrifice of Christ. This *perfection* (Hebrews 7:11) was not found in the Levitical sacrifices of the OT but was only realized in Jesus Christ. Christ is the "end" or "goal" of the entirety of the OT. As a matter of fact, that old legal dispensation "made *nothing perfect*" (7:19). That is, it brought nothing to consummation. This was found only in Christ, "for by one offering he has *perfected for ever* them that are sanctified" (Hebrews 10:14). Why do followers of Christ ever wish to return to the Old Testament system since Paul shows emphatically that that methodology was completely fulfilled in Christ?

In Romans 10:4 Holy Writ tells us that "Christ is the *end* (telos) of the law." He is the completion of its purpose, the fulfillment of its statutes. The Old Testament law (legal system of Moses) is ended forever in Christ! Its "process" came to the ultimate conclusion in Christ. How is it that so many who proclaim Christ with their lips deny the accomplishment of His work? The Old Testament Law is "abolished." Paul says (2 Corinthians 3:13) that the "children of Israel could not look steadfastly to the *end* (telos) of that which is abolished."

The final completion of the Old Testament is Jesus Christ—whether its *prophecies* or its *laws* that typified our Lord. Go not back to the Old Testament for prophecies that point to our future or laws for the regulation of the church today. You look in vain if you do. The OT is for us today *only in the sense* that it provides examples of encouragement and warning (Romans 15:4) by showing that God expects obedience.