Have you ever stopped to consider how important the word everything is to us and to our salvation? Scripture makes it clear that Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, did everything required to redeem us from sin, death, and hell. He did everything God the Father demanded in order to make us his dearly loved children once more.

Jesus did not do just a part of what it takes, figuring that we who needed saving should do a majority of the work. He did not do just half of what is demanded for our salvation, judging that to be our fair share - that we do at least as much as he does. He did not do most of it, leaving us to determine and carry out what was left undone. He did not even do 99% of it and then equip us to finish it off ourselves. No, he did everything. When he cried out from the cross, It is finished!, that is what he was saying. Everything is done that must be done to save us. Perhaps the best illustration of his devotion to doing everything is given in John’s account of Jesus’ crucifixion.

Jesus had been hanging on the cross for nearly 6 hours. In a matter of mere moments, he would give up his life and die. Before he does, however, he asks for a drink. I can easily imagine that he was thirsty, but the real reason for his request, as John puts it, was That the Scriptures would be fulfilled. Psalm 69:21 prophesied that our Redeemer would make this request, and Jesus had not done it up to this point. So now, even though it does him absolutely no good, he asks for a drink. Everything that had been prophesied had to find its fulfillment in Jesus. Everything was fulfilled by Jesus. To claim that your salvation is not complete, not accomplished in its entirety, is blasphemy - words that must never come from your mouth. To act as if you have yet to do something yet to be saved, denies Jesus’ work of atonement – it is an utter lie.

Everything, literally every thing, necessary for your salvation and life with God in heaven, has already been done for you. That certainly seems to be the theme of Jesus’ conversation with his disciples on that first Easter Sunday: Jesus said to them, This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms. To convey this truth to them was obviously the reason for his visit!

Up to this point, the disciples had witnessed many things in Jesus’ life. They had seen him do miracles of all kinds. They had heard the voice of God the Father declare him to be his one and only Son. No doubt, they had heard the accounts of his conception and birth as the son born of a virgin. Some of them had even seen Jesus’ appearance changed on the mountain at his transfiguration when the glory of God shown out.

All these things, and host of others, compelled them to come to one conclusion: Jesus was the Son of God, the Messiah long promised by the Lord. But how could that be? Jesus was not exactly the kind of Messiah the Jews were waiting for – that is why he had been killed. And Jesus’ passion certainly did not help anybody accept Jesus as the Christ. After all, he had been executed as a criminal!

Still, all the pieces were right there in front of them - but they could not see the complete picture. Now that the final piece of the puzzle was in place, now that Christ
Jesus had risen from the dead, it was clear. Everything, every bit of prophecy concerning the Messiah in any part of the Bible, had been fulfilled by Jesus of Nazareth. There could be no doubt!

As Luke tells us Jesus opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. With the gift of the Holy Spirit, they could see that all these little bits of information about the coming Savior, were found in the person and work of the one before them. In Jesus, the disciples beheld the Messiah, the Christ, the unique union of God and man sent to be our Substitute and Redeemer.

Jesus is the summary of the Scriptures. Jesus is the reason why the Bible has been given to mankind. Jesus is the central message of God’s Word to his people. This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day. This is what the disciples, this is what we, should take away with us as the most wonderful of all truths.

Everything is fulfilled in Christ Jesus. Our salvation is complete. To imagine that we have something to contribute is an insult to our Lord and a denial of his grace. To assume that we somehow repay the Savior with our faith or a good life, is offensive to him, who gave up all that he had for your sake. Everything is fulfilled in Christ Jesus. There is nothing you can or need to add.

When you see him suffering on the cross, you know that he is suffering in your place. In a trade we were unaware of, in an exchange we would never have expected, Jesus took our sins as his own and gave us his righteousness. He did not just take the big sins or your inherited sin or the sins you remember. No, he suffered for all your sins - past, present, and future, the sins known to you and the sins you will not acknowledge.

He suffered for those little sins you do not think should bother the Lord. He suffered for sins our world does not think of as sin. Jesus Christ suffered for everything in your catalog of sins. You may now live in the comfort that all of those sins have been erased from your entry in the Book of Life. All the divine Judge sees now is the rtness of Christ Jesus!

You can be certain of it because Jesus rose from the dead on the third day. This resurrection was God the Father is most powerful indicator that our sins are forgiven. For if the one who took responsibility for our sins has been judged by God himself, as free from the penalty of sin, which is death, then what is he saying to us about our sin?

After all, Jesus took those sins away from us in the first place. Not only have they been removed from us, they have been removed completely by his death. They do not exist anymore. They are in a place that is as far away as the east is from the west! Jesus lives again as proof. Thus we, too, will live again. It all makes perfect sense to the Lord we sinned against, the Lord who suffered for our sins, the Lord who declares that those sins are forgiven.

Everything is fulfilled in Christ Jesus. This is our perpetual and all-consuming joy. This is the Easter message! But understand, this is not everything contained in the Easter message. This is not everything the Lord wants us to take away from the empty tomb and the glorified Christ. Understand everything. Jesus reminds us: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Scriptures.

Then he goes on to say: This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the thrid day. But he does not stop there. He has not, as yet, told us everything. There is more, more we need to know and understand and put into practice - if we are to see everything fulfilled. An important second part completes his everything!
He finishes up by saying: Repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations. Easter joy does not end with merely knowing that Christ lives and so will we. It finds its true fulfillment when we, who have witnessed the resurrected Christ by faith, take that sweet message of repentance and forgiveness of sins to everyone we can possibly reach in this world.

Now, at that thought our spirits may droop, our joy may be muted. We understand what the Lord is saying and we know what it entails. He is calling upon us to use the resources and opportunities he bestows upon us to proclaim the Gospel to people we know and provide the messengers needed to take the Gospel to people we do not know, in places we cannot go.

That is not easy. It is hard to talk to a loved one about their sin and the damnation their sin brings with it. We do not like to admit the possibility that someone we know and care about could actually spend eternity in hell, even though they are such good people. We do not like to run the risk of exposing ourselves as Christians, for fear of their disapproval.

And spreading the Gospel beyond our personal circle is no less daunting. It means that we must re-prioritize our lives. Time must be set aside to pray for the Lord’s blessing on his missionaries in our world. It means responding to the cold hard fact that preachers of the Gospel cannot go unless they are sent and they are sent by our offerings. We will have to sacrifice something to preach Jesus’ name to the nations.

But do not look at it that way. Remember the joy that is yours when you hear that Jesus suffered and died for your sin and rose from the dead as the assurance that you, too will rise and be with your Lord. That is the joy that’s yours to bring to as many people as the Lord gives you opportunity! Not everybody will rejoice with you as they hear the message.

But if only one soul shares the Easter joy with you, isn’t it worth the effort, the possible embarrassment, the outright rejection, and the sacrifices required? If Jesus could face his suffering and death with joy because he knew the blessings it would bring, shouldn’t we also rejoice to suffer much less for the sake of other damned sinners? Understand the everything of Easter. Rejoice in the crucified and risen Savior, and rejoice to bring him to others! Amen.

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