

Friday Reflections

It is finished!

—John 19:30

Michelangelo's works explored many facets of the life of Jesus, yet one of the most poignant was also one of the most simple.

In the 1540s he sketched a pieta (a picture of Jesus' mother holding the body of the dead Christ) for his friend Vittoria Colonna. Done in chalk, the drawing depicts Mary looking to the heavens as she cradles her Son's still form. Rising behind Mary, the upright beam of the cross carries these words from Dante's *Paradise*, "There they don't think of how much blood it costs."

Michelangelo's point was profound: when we contemplate the death of Jesus, we must consider the price He paid.

The price paid by Christ is captured in His dying declaration, "It is finished" (John 19:30). The term for "it is finished" (*tetelestai*) was used in several ways—to show a bill had been paid, a task finished, a sacrifice offered, a masterpiece completed.

Each of them applies to what Jesus did on our behalf on the cross! Perhaps that's why the apostle Paul wrote, "May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world" (Galatians 6:14).

Jesus' willingness to take our place is the eternal evidence of how much God loves us. As we contemplate the price He paid, may we also celebrate His love—and give thanks for the cross.

*Thank you father for being willing to send your son to die for us,
that we might live forever. Amen*

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