

YOU'RE GONNA MAKE IT

Part 1 • September 7, 2025 | Pastor Jason Smotherman

IT IS FINISHED.

In Greek culture the word **"tetelestai"** became popular in everyday life.

- Merchants would write that word on a bill or receipt to show a debt was paid in full.
- Soldiers would say it after completing a mission or achieving victory.
- Priests would use this phrase after offering the perfect sacrifice to a god, meaning the ritual requirement was completely fulfilled.

This word carried the significant meaning that;

The debt had been paid.

The sacrifice fully completed.

The mission fully accomplished.

JOHN 19:28-30 (CSB)

²⁸ After this, when Jesus knew that everything was now finished that the Scripture might be fulfilled, He said, "I'm thirsty."²⁹ A jar of sour wine was sitting there; so they fixed a sponge full of sour wine on a hyssop branch and held it to His mouth.³⁰ When Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, (Tetelestai) "It is Finished." Then bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.

You have to understand culturally what is happening in our world today. There is a race to the "shallow" end of the pool that is a version of "God". Truth is, there is no shallow end. Paul wrote to Timothy, his spiritual son.

2 TIMOTHY 3:5 (NIV)

⁵ Having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with such people.

The psalmist wrote about the deep things, which is what you should expect to experience in HIM.

PSALM 42:7 (CSB)

⁷ Deep calls to deep in the roar of your waterfalls; all your breakers and your billows have swept over me.

Most are satisfied with ankle deep, shallow end Christianity. The shallow end creates a God that is put into a box. It allows you to take control of your life and give God weekend visits.

It uses His instruction on life, family, finances, as an optional self help guide to make your life a mosaic of what you want. The problem is when you have the nerve to tell God to fit in your box, you think He will, He won't.

If He's not Lord of all, He is not Lord at all.

You truly don't want the shallow end. You think you do, but you don't.

It will leave you broken and confused. Critical and condescending.

You will end up blaming that god, not realizing you've never met the REAL God.

Shallow end teaches that salvation is cheap and easy. It definitely isn't cheap.

- God is a genie.
- The stain of sin doesn't require repentance.
- Church attendance is optional.
- Prioritizes comfort over conviction.
- It encourages a shallow engagement of scripture.
- It will de-emphasize the need to pray.
- It will give you the dressings of faith, you'll become a social media Christian. God will be in your bio, not the author of it.

Shallow end will create shallow roots in your church, when something goes wrong you'll leave. Connection will be more about consuming than contributing.

It teaches that the supernatural doesn't exist; shallow thinking.

No such thing as Angels, demons, miracles, wars taking place in the spiritual realm. You'll never understand or be willing to consider speaking in tongues, intercession, fasting, deliverance, demon possession, demonic oppression, or the fight for the atmosphere in your home.

You'll never be told that the things you consume of this world will consume you. Holiness will kill your vibe. Separation from the world will be laughed at.

The shallow end claims the information about God in His Word is enough, not the implementation of God's word through obedience (God's Spirit activated in my life) is what changes the legacy of family.

It emphasizes belief (even the demons believed) and information of God's word (even the demons know God's commands).

The shallow end has always been peddled.

The enemy knows he can't win against believers who are sold out to God, his only hope is to deceive them into casual Christians comfort.

ISAIAH 29:13 (NIV)

¹³ These people come near to Me with their mouth and honor Me with their lips, but their hearts are far from Me.

Why does the shallow end have so much power? It's because we've lost the pulpit. Preachers and God's servants are partly to blame. It's not the first time.

JEREMIAH 6:14 (NIV)

¹⁴ They dress the wound of My people as though it were not serious. Peace, Peace they say when there is no peace.

Pray for this Pastor. That I would remain strong. Perfection is not required, surrender is. I don't want to be just an information spreader, but an authority giver.

The people create the atmosphere for weak preachers.

2 TIMOTHY 4:3 (AMP)

For the time will come when people will not tolerate (endure) sound doctrine and accurate instruction [that challenges them with God's truth]; but wanting to have their ears tickled [with something pleasing], they will accumulate for themselves [many] teachers [one after another, chosen] to satisfy their own desires and to support the errors they hold

Why have we lost the preachers? **We've traded packed churches full of people instead of packed churches full of God.** People want the shallow end, and preaches gave.

The shallow end is lucrative. The shallow end wields influence, but it keeps the people in bondage. If you want to make this kind of church STRONG, stand by it strong in your faithfulness in attendance, expectancy, and finances.

YOU ARE GOING TO MAKE IT BECAUSE IT IS FINISHED.

The debt had been paid.

The sacrifice fully completed.

The mission fully accomplished.

EPHESIANS 2:8-9 (NIV)

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.

ISAIAH 53:10-12 (CSB)

¹⁰ Yet the Lord was pleased to crush him severely. When you make him a guilt offering, he will see his seed, he will prolong his days, and by his hand, the Lord's pleasure will be accomplished. ¹¹ After his anguish, he will see light and be satisfied. By his knowledge, my righteous servant will justify many, and he will carry their iniquities. ¹² Therefore I will give him the many

as a portion, and he will receive the mighty as spoil, because he willingly submitted to death, and was counted among the rebels; yet he bore the sin of many and interceded for the rebels.

This church has an invitation from the Lord to be the deep end church in this region. Will you say yes with me. I'm all in.

What I can promise you is, if Jesus is your King, you are gonna make IT. Why? Because IT is finished. I can promise you a peace that surpasses understanding. Joy that is not based upon your circumstance. Eternal Life. Victory over the demonic. Contentment in every season of you live. Overcoming and Life giving countenance. Deliverance from the bondage of sin through repentance and the Grace of God.

You are going to make IT, because Jesus gave us Access.

MARK 15:37-39 (CSB)

Jesus let out a loud cry and breathed His last.

Then the curtain of the temple was torn from top to bottom.

When the centurion, who was standing opposite of Him, saw the way He breathed His last, he said, "truly this man was the Son of God"

The gospel of Mark gives us the main point. That which was accessible to the few (priests) is now accessible to many. Jesus is the way to relationship with God.

The gospel of Matthew gives some "deep end" stuff.

MATTHEW 27:51-54 (NKJV)

Then, behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth quaked, and the rocks were split, and the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised; and coming out of the graves after His resurrection, they went into the holy city and appeared to many.

So when the centurion and those with him, who were guarding Jesus, saw the earthquake and the things that had happened, they feared greatly, saying, "Truly this was the Son of God!"

If your God is not making dead things live, you might have settled for shallow end living. You have an invitation in front of you, the choice is yours.