**IT IS FINISHED**

***Jesus vs Michaelangelo***

In 2001 I went with my dad to Italy. He had for many years supported preachers in that country, including Alessandro Corraza, and his son Arrigo Corraza. Alessandro was the same age as my dad and they had become close friends, both having lived through World War II. Brother Corraza had been born in the very shadow of Rome’s Colosseum, and Arrigo was preaching in the famous city of Pisa, home of the Leaning Tower. They were so kind as to be our tour guides throughout Italy, taking us to the famous museums and cathedrals throughout this ancient land. It was a memory I shall never forget.

One memorable day was a visit to the famous city of Florence. This is the home of some of the greatest sculptors and painters in history. Leonardo DeVinci. Raphael. Giotto. Botticelli. Their works were magnificent! I was mesmerized. But, I will admit that the most impressive artist of all was the great master Michaelangelo (b.1475 – d.1564). His works included the world-renowned statues of Moses and David, the famous Pieta, along with the breath-taking ceiling of the Sistine Chapel.

But, unknown to most visitors, we were shown a building that is an entire museum filled with “**unfinished**” works of this great artist. This famous man was a workaholic, creating paintings, sculptures and other art non-stop until his death at the age of 89. As great as this Renaissance Man was, and as long as he worked, he left so much undone.

Compare that to Jesus.

At the age of about 33, in the last days of His short life, He prayed to God: “*I have glorified You on the earth.* ***I have finished the work which You have given Me to do***” (Jn 17:4).

Then, while dying on Calvary’s cross, He cried out “***It is finished***!” (Jn 19:30).

The greatest men in history, including Michaelangelo, leave behind unfinished works. But Jesus Christ accomplished every single thing He was supposed to do while on earth.

There are no museums of His unfinished masterpieces. Thank God!

You can stack up all the empires built, all the fortunes gained, all the wars won, all the inventions of ancient and modern times, all the masterpieces painted, sculpted or performed – and they will pale into insignificance besides the finished work of that lone Galilean prophet, of which it was falsely rumored, “*Can anything good come out of Nazareth*” (Jn. 1:46)?

That short three-year ministry of Jesus did more for the human race, both for time and eternity, than all the combined works of men. What Jesus did was not only change the course of history, but the entire destiny of many who will live in heaven because He finished His life’s work.

“*I have finished the work You have given me to do*.” We can all try to “*work while it is day, for the night comes when no man can work*” (Jn. 9:4). But we will all fall short, including the greatest masters in history. But there was one Master who fulfilled His life’s mission to perfection.

Now, in heaven, He has another mission to finish. *“He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them”* (Heb. 7:25). On earth He could say with His dying breath, “*It is finished*.” In heaven He will on that Resurrection morning, while seated upon the Judgment Throne of God, say at the conclusion of the last soul judged, “It is finished!”

Aren’t you glad we have a Savior who finishes what He starts? - Rick