

**The 1689 Confession of Faith; Chapter 2 – “Of God and the Holy Trinity”,  
Message #41 – “Glory Set Above the Heavens”, Presented in the Adult Sunday  
School Class by Pastor Paul Rendall, on June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

**Paragraph 2** – God, having all (r) life, (s) glory, (t) goodness, blessedness, in and of Himself, is alone in and unto himself all sufficient, not (u) standing in need of any creature which he hath made, nor deriving any glory from them, but only manifesting His own glory in, by, unto, and upon them; He is the alone fountain of all being, (x) of whom, through whom, and to whom are all things, and He hath most sovereign (y) dominion over all creatures, to do by them, for them, or upon them, whatsoever Himself pleaseth; in his sight (z) all things are open and manifest, His knowledge is (a) infinite, infallible, and independent upon the creature, so as nothing is to Him contingent or uncertain; He is most holy in all his counsels, in (b)all his works, and in all his commands; to him is due (c) from angels and men, whatsoever worship, service, or obedience, as creatures they owe unto the Creator, and whatever He is further pleased to require of them.

(r) John 5: 26; (s) Psalm 148:13; (t) Psalm 119: 68; (u) Job 22 2-3; (x) Rom 11: 34-36; (y) Dan 4: 25, 34-35;

(z) Hebrews 4:13; (a) Ezekiel 11: 5; Acts 15: 18; (b) Psalm 145:17; (c) Rev 5:12-14

**Psalm 8: 1-5** – “To the Chief Musician. On the Instrument of Gath. A Psalm of David. O LORD, our Lord, How excellent is Your name in all the earth, Who have set Your glory above the heavens! Out of the mouth of babes and nursing infants You have ordained strength, Because of Your enemies, That You may silence the enemy and the avenger. When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, The moon and the stars, which You have ordained, What is man that You are mindful of him, And the son of man that You visit him? For You have made him a little lower than the angels, And You have crowned him with glory and honor. You have made him to have dominion over the works of Your hands; You have put all things under his feet...”

**1. God’s glory is most eminently seen, manifested, and displayed in the Lord Jesus Christ; all that He is, and all that He has done and is doing and will do, throughout this age and into eternity.**

When we consider that God has created all things for His glory, and as an expression of His glory, it ought to cause us to praise Him and say – “How excellent is Your name in all the earth.” Everything that God has created shows forth His glory, and especially His creation man who is created in His own image and likeness. Even little children and nursing infants are able to sound forth His praise from their mouths, and silence the enemies of the Lord who would not have our Lord Jesus Christ be praised. Why should God consider fallen sinful man who thinks that he knows better than God? For he doesn’t deserve the least of God’s mercies because of his sinful independence and neglect of God and His word. And yet, because He is merciful and full of kindness and compassion, He sent the Lord Jesus into this world to be the Savior of the world. He made Him a little lower than the angels and fulfilled all of His good purpose in and through His life and ministry; ordained that He would suffer and die and come to rule over all men and nations; to have all things put under His feet. And in doing these good things, raising Him from the dead and crowning Him with glory and honor, having Him ascend on High to the heaven of heavens, God the Father has set Christ who is His glory, above the heavens. Those who believe in Christ and follow Christ come to experientially know His glory through the grace which He shows them and imparts to their hearts.

**John Gill says: “who hast set thy glory above the heavens:** meaning his Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, the brightness of his glory; in whom is all the fulness of the Godhead, the glory of all the divine perfections; so called Psalm 63: 2; and the setting of him above the heavens designs the exaltation of him at the right hand of God; where angels, principalities, and powers, became subject to him, and he was made higher than the heavens, Hebrews 7: 26. And it was in consequence, and by virtue of this, that the Gospel was spread throughout the earth; for upon Christ's exaltation the Spirit was poured down upon

the apostles, and they were endowed with gifts qualifying them to carry the Gospel into each of the parts of the world.”

**2. The excellency of God’s glory is intended to establish the unity of saints in the body of Christ; a unity which will be a good witness so that sinners might believe.**

**John 17: 18-24** –“As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world.” “And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also may be sanctified by the truth.” “I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me. And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me. "Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world.”

Here the Lord Jesus is praying for His apostles before He goes to the cross to accomplish redemption on their behalf. And He tells His Father that He is not praying for them alone, but also for all those who would come to believe in Christ through their word; that is, the Bible. This includes all believers since that prayer was prayed, until the end of the world when Christ shall return. And what He is praying for is that they might all be one as the Father and He are one; in this particular sense: The Father was in Christ, and Christ in the Father. He is speaking of unity of purpose; to save the elect and reconcile the world to the Father through His fulfilling all righteousness on their behalf; purchasing grace which He had been giving to them, and the grace that He would give to them and to all of God’s elect people. This grace would be a manifestation of His glory in sanctifying them so that they would love Him and the Father, and that they would love and have a real spiritual unity which He and the Father would place them into when they were united to Him in a very real sense in regeneration and baptized by the Spirit into the body of Christ – that is, His Church.

**Robert Hawker in the Poor Man’s Commentary** says – “Jesus saith, that the glory which Thou gavest me I have given them. Here also we discover a blessedness, which merits our highest regard, and our unceasing thankfulness. There is a glory of the Lord Jesus Christ in his divine nature as God, one with the Father over all blessed forever. But then this is not communicable, neither was it ever given to him, And there is a glory, even a Personal glory, as God-Man, which is his, and incapable also of communication. And there is a glory of dignity and merit, as God - Man, which he hath acquired by virtue of his sufferings, and death. Philippians 2: 6-11. Neither is this capable of being communicated. But His glory as Head of his body the Church, as the Head of influence, and the Head of communication; this glory, given to him by Jehovah, is purposely given, to be communicated to all the members of his mystical body; and Jesus here saith, He hath given it to his people. And it is most blessed to observe, how the Lord is forever doing it, here in grace, and above in glory! And the oneness of the Church of Christ with Christ, is such, that while the Church is made everlastingly blessed and happy in her Head and Husband, Jesus is made glorious in his Church, and becomes as the Prophet described her, a crown of glory in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of her God.