

Last week we began a consideration of our Savior's High Priestly Prayer in John chapter 17—last week we noticed it was spoken audibly so that the disciples would be encouraged to know what He prayed concerning Himself (vv1-5), them (vv6-19), and those who believe through their ministry (vv20-26). It is for this reason, the Spirit included this prayer in Scripture, so that all Christians, in all times, would be encouraged to know what Christ prays for.

I. A Finished Work—v4

II. A Petitioned Glory—v5

I. A Finished Work—v4

1. V4—"I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do"—let me explain this verse with three statements...
2. [1] The Father gave the Son a work to do—the Father gave this work to the Son in the covenant of redemption...
3. This covenant took place in eternity past, and concerned the Father commissioning the Son to come as a Man...
4. Although this covenant took place in eternity past, before creation, it concerned events that would take place within creation...
5. The Father commissioned the Son to become a Man, secure redemption, and in turn, be exalted to a throne...
6. Thus, the Son came into time, born of a woman, born under the law, to finish the work given Him by the Father...
7. Jn.14:31—"But that the world may know that I love the Father, and as the Father gave Me commandment, so I do..."
8. The Son only did that which the Father commanded Him—this "commandment" was given to Him from eternity...
9. But notice, the obedience the Son rendered to the Father was loving—His obedience was an expression of love...
10. [2] The Son finished the work of His Father—that is, He finished the work He agreed to in the eternal covenant...
11. While this specifically refers to His perfect life, it also includes His atoning death, as He would die in a few hours...
12. Thus, on the cross, just prior to His actual death, our Savior cried out—IT IS FINISHED—referring to the work given to Him by His Father...
13. Everything given to Him to atone for sin was completed—His perfect life and atoning death were finished...
14. 2Tim.4:7—"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith"—this was spoken in anticipation of his death...
15. Thus, our Savior here speaks in anticipation of His cross, which would complete the work His Father gave Him...
16. [3] The Son glorified His Father in finishing His work—that is, His entire life and death, glorified His Father...
17. Everything Christ did, His obedience, miracles, and teaching, all were for the purpose of glorifying the Father...
18. The entirety of His life, from His incarnation to His crucifixion, was all done, for the purpose of glorifying the Father...
19. Now remember the distinction that I suggested last week between making someone glorious and manifesting them as glorious...
20. Whenever God is glorified, even when Christ glorified the Father, He did not make Him glorious but declared Him as glorious...

21. This means that everything Christ did during His earthly ministry, manifested the holiness, mercy, and wisdom of God...
22. [a] His LIFE—that is, within His life, Christ glorified the perfect holiness, justice, and wisdom of His Father...
23. [b] His MIRACLES—that is, within His signs and wonders, Christ manifested the power and compassion of God...
24. [c] His DEATH—that is, it was upon the cross, that all of God's perfections or attributes shined the brightest...
25. Lesson 1—If Christ finished the work of redemption, then let the church tell the world—this is the message of the gospel...
26. What is the gospel message?—What is the church in general, and preachers in particular, to tell the world?...
27. Our Savior commanded the apostles (and the church by extension)—"Go into the world and preach the gospel to every creature..."
28. Thus the question becomes—What precisely is the "gospel"—well, most of you know the gospel is good news...
29. The church is to go into the world and proclaim the good news that Jesus Christ finished the Father's work...
30. We are to tell the world that all that's needed for salvation has been completed—Christ completely finished the work...
31. As a result—all poor sinners need to do is, repent from their sins, come to Christ, and believe upon Him for salvation...
32. I sometimes fear, in a world of easy believism, we as Reformed Christians can err by complicating the message...
33. While sinners need to hear the whole message, about God and their sin, they must also hear about the gospel...
34. Brethren, lest we forget—we are commanded to preach the gospel, the message of good news, to every creature...
35. Yes, tell them of their sins and guilt, tell them of God's righteous law, and His holy wrath—tell them about judgement and hellfire...
36. But, dear brethren, let us not forget to tell them about Christ, and about the good news that He finished the work...
37. This means poor sinner, there is nothing you must do in order to obtain salvation, except come to Christ for it...
38. All you must know is that you can do nothing to earn it, and that in Christ, everything needed, is NOW READY...
39. Lk.14:16-17—"A certain man gave a great supper and invited many, and sent his servant at supper time to say to those who were invited, 'Come, for all things are now ready'..."
40. This is what the church in general, and gospel ministers in particular, are commissioned by God to proclaim...
41. We are to go into the world and tell every creature, that Christ has finished His work and atonement has been made...
42. In short—ALL THINGS ARE NOT READY—everything you need poor sinner, is given to you in Jesus Christ...
43. Lesson 2—If Christ finished the work of redemption, then let Christians know they are fully and eternally complete in Him...
44. I think for many Christians, the thought that they are fully accepted in Christ, is at times difficult to believe...
45. At times the impression is given, that Christ completed most of the work, and now we only have a little work to do...
46. And while Christians do have work to do—they have no work to do in order to secure God's eternal acceptance...
47. Yes, Christians must work, but they must work fully convinced that they are accepted and complete in Christ...

48. Hymn—"Not the labors of my hands can fulfill Thy law's demands; could my zeal no respite know, could my tears ever flow – all for sin could not atone – Though must save and Thou alone..."
49. I fear at times, some of us, can fall back into a "work's righteousness" mindset—as if I must some how earn God's favor...
50. Dear Christian, nothing you ever do can earn God's favor—Christ earned this for you, when He finished His work...
51. Now, before I move on to our next lesson, let me remind you of another important distinction between redemption accomplished and applied...
52. When Christ said—"I have finished the work"—He meant the work of accomplishing or purchasing redemption...
53. This doesn't deny that Christ still has work to do in applying this redemption, in time, by His Spirit and word...
54. But the fact that Christ already purchased redemption means—He will also finish the work of applying it to our hearts...
55. When our Savior says—"I have finished the work"—He means—I Have not only made salvation possible (for the world), but certain for My elect...
56. Perhaps I can put it this way—though our Savior's work of purchasing redemption is finished, His work of applying redemption is not...
57. And yet, the fact that He finished the first, is proof that He will finished the second, for the necessarily go together...
58. Dear Christian, you can see in this statement—"I have finished the work"—a promise that He will complete the work He started in you...
59. Lesson 3—If Christ finished the work given to Him by the Father, then let us finish the work given to us—that is, let us imitate Christ...
60. Before I move further let me clarify—before Christ's obedience to His Father is imitated, it must be trusted...
61. That is, sinners don't foremostly need an example, they need an atonement—we must first trust His obedience...
62. But after we take Christ's perfect obedience for our righteousness, we then should imitate His perfect obedience in our lives...
63. Our Savior was given work to do—He finished it—He did not quit or give up when things became difficult...
64. Christians can at times be tempted to give up on things, be it a job, an aspiration, a marriage, a relationship, or a church...
65. In completing the work given to Him by the Father, our Savior faced opposition from the world, Satan, and even His disciples...
66. And so too, we will face opposition from every side, and yet, we must have the mindset and resolve of our Savior...
67. 2Tim.4:7—"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith"—Paul was given a specific task (to take the gospel to the Gentiles)...
68. As he looked back over His life, He could say with our Savior—I have finished the work given me from Christ...
69. Lesson 4—If Christ glorified the Father by obedience, then humble, loving obedience glorifies God—everything done for His honor glorifies Him...
70. I believe there are a lot of Christians confused on this point—they think only foreign missionaries glorify God...
71. If you want to live a life that glorifies God, then you have to go to a foreign country as a missionary family...
72. And surely brethren, going to other countries to share the gospel of God, does in fact honor and glorify God...
73. But, it's not just missionaries and pastors that glorify God—every Christian who humbly obeys God, glorifies God...
74. A humble obedient Christian, regardless what kind of job he or she has, brings glory to the Father on the earth...

## II. A Petitioned Glory—v5

1. V5—"And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was..."
2. [1] The Father and Son shared the same glory from eternity—Christ here speaks about a glory He had with the Father "before the world was"...
3. That is, before the world was created, before creation, the Father and Son shared a common and eternal glory...
4. This obviously means, that the Father and Son are equally God, for they share a common and eternal glory...
5. Furthermore, while the Father and Son share a common and eternal glory (essence), they are distinct persons...
6. [2] The Son temporarily laid aside that glory in His humiliation—this happened at His incarnation when He became a humble servant...
7. Here I have to suggest another important distinction between Christ's ESSENTIAL glory and MANIFEST glory...
8. [a] His essential glory—by this is meant that glory that's native to His essence and thus can never increase or decrease...
9. In this sense, as God's eternally begotten Son, Christ shared in the very same glory as the Father and the Spirit...
10. God, as Father, Son, and Spirit, was, is, and will be glorious, and they can never become more or less glorious...
11. Thus, the Son never laid aside any of His essential glory in His incarnation or humiliation—this is impossible...
12. God can no more cease being God, then man can become God—God's eternal glory is His very essence or nature (this is true of the Father, Son, and Spirit)...
13. [b] His manifest glory—by this is meant the recognition of His essential glory by creation, especially mankind...
14. For example—think for a minute of the sun—it's natively or essentially bright, without increase or decrease...
15. And yet, because of clouds, the light of the sun can, for a time, be hidden from view, even though it remains bright...
16. Perhaps we could say—though the sun remains essentially bright, it's manifest glory is for a time hidden from view...
17. This is what happened to the Son—in becoming a Servant, He temporarily laid aside His manifest glory (though it showed on occasion)...
18. Phil.2:5-8—"Let this mind be in your which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, talking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross..."
19. The phrase translated in v7—"He made Himself of no reputation" in the NJK, literally means—"to empty oneself..."
20. It refers to our Savior temporarily laying aside His manifest glory, not His essential glory, in becoming a Servant...
21. Charles Wesley (And can it be)—"He left His Father's throne above (so free, so infinite His grace!) Emptied Himself of all but love, and bled for Adam's helpless race..."
22. If Wesley meant by this phrase—that Christ emptied Himself of His essential glory, except love, he really missed the point...
23. Hymnbook (731)—"He left His Father's throne above (so Free, so infinite His grace!) Humbled Himself because of love, and bled for all His chosen race..."
24. Christ in His incarnation, did not empty Himself of any essential attribute or glory—God cannot cease being God...

25. But He did humble Himself, in that, because of love, He temporarily laid aside His manifest glory to finished the Father's work...
26. [3] The Son regained that glory with the Father in His exaltation—v5—"And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was..."
27. That is, at Christ's exaltation, He was glorified with the manifest glory that was His from eternity past as God's Son...
28. "Glorify Me together with Yourself"—that is, He was declared openly before all heaven, to be the victorious GodMan...
29. Every being in heaven beholds Him as He is, God's eternal Son, joined to perfect glorified humanity, in one Person...
30. Thus, in closing our examination of our Savior's prayer for Himself (vv1-5), let me suggest three broad applications...
31. [a] Two natures—here I simply want to point out that, within this passage we learn our Savior had two natures (He was fully human and fully divine)...
32. I suggest to you, that these five verses, not only give us insight into the Person of Christ, but also the Trinity...
33. The Son eternally existed with the Father as God—in time, the Son took to Himself a human nature (body and soul)...
34. During His humiliation, His manifest glory was hidden from view, and then in His exaltation, He was again glorified with it...
35. So that now, the eternal Son of God, is joined to His humanity, for all eternity, as the glorious and divine GodMan...
36. [b] Two purposes—by this I mean, we learn that our Savior come to earth with a twofold purpose in mind (save sinners and glorify His Father)...
37. Heb.12:2—"Looking to Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God..."
38. By "the joy set before Him" I suggest is meant—the salvation of His people, and glorification of His Father...
39. [c] Two Realms—by this I mean, the glory of God was and is manifested in two realms—earth and heaven...
40. The Son became a Man in order to glorify His Father on earth, and in turn was glorified with God in heaven...
41. And so in turn, every person who lives for God's glory on earth, will behold that glory, perfectly and eternally in heaven...