

## What Christ Came to Do

Sunday, April 28, 1991

### John 17:1-18

*These words spake Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee: (2) As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him. (3) And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent. (4) I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do. (5) And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was. (6) I have manifested thy name unto the men which thou gavest me out of the world: thine they were, and thou gavest them me; and they have kept thy word. (7) Now they have known that all things whatsoever thou hast given me are of thee. (8) For I have given unto them the words which thou gavest me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came out from thee, and they have believed that thou didst send me. (9) I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me; for they are thine. (10) And all mine are thine, and thine are mine; and I am glorified in them. (11) And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are. (12) While I was with them in the world, I kept them in thy name: those that thou gavest me I have kept, and none of them is lost, but the son of perdition; that the Scripture might be fulfilled. (13) And now come I to thee; and these things I speak in the world, that they might have my joy fulfilled in themselves. (14) I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. (15) I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil. (16) They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. (17) Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth. (18) As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world.*

I'm going to be speaking to you today, from the Book of John, Chapter 17. I would like it very much if you would find your Bible and follow along as I read some of the scripture from John 17. I'm going to be using several verses. This is the Title of the message:

“What Christ Came to Do.” What did He come to do?

Jesus Christ came into this world and He did something. Now, what did He come to do? I'm going to be using John 17. I want to make some introductory comments. First of all, back in the preceding Chapter, just a few moments before, He prayed this prayer in John 16:28. Our Lord was speaking to His disciples and He said this; *“I came forth from the Father.”*

You can't say that and I can't either. We didn't exist before we were born. When we were conceived in our mother's womb, that was the beginning. When we were born and came into this world that was it. Jesus Christ said, "I'm here on this earth and I came from somewhere. I came from the Father." You see; He is declaring His deity here. "*I and My Father are one.*" I can't explain the Trinity and you or anyone else can't either. God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit and these three are one.

When God created man, He said, "*Let us make man.*" When He talked to Isaiah, He said; "*Whom shall I send, who will go for us?*" When our Lord was baptized, the Father spake from heaven and said; "*This is My beloved Son.*" John said, "*there are three that bear record in heaven; Father, Son and the Holy Spirit.*" So, I can't explain the Trinity. I just know that Jesus Christ is God, (Father, Son and Holy Spirit). Here, He says, "*I came forth from My Father.*"

He declares His preexistence. He said in John 17; "*Glorify Me with the glory which I had with Thee before the world was; before Abraham was I Am.*" Jesus Christ has always been.

He declares His covenant character. He said, "*I came forth from the Father.*" I was sent and I came on a mission. You see; the whole Old Testament, Genesis to Malachi is full of promises, prophecies and pictures of a coming Messiah, of a coming Redeemer. He's the coming one, called the Christ. It is all the way through the Old Testament.

In Deuteronomy, Moses said; "*The Lord said, I'll raise up from the midst of you a prophet, like unto Moses; Him ye shall hear.*" Then He said, "*I'll raise up a king, a son of David.*" The Lord said, "*I'll raise up a priest like Aaron, after the order of Melchizedek.*" In Isaiah 7:14, it says; "*Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bring forth a Son and you will call His name Immanuel,*" (God with us). In Jeremiah 23, the scripture says; "*I will raise up a king, a branch, and He will execute justice and judgment in the earth. His name shall be called the Lord our righteousness.*"

So, Jesus Christ is saying to the disciples; "*I am He.*" I came forth from the Father. I came in the fulfillment of every promise, prophecy and every picture. Christ is that rock. Christ is that bread from heaven. Christ is that serpent lifted up.

Notice the next thing that is said in the same verse; "*He said, I came forth from the Father and I'm come into the world.*" He's here in the world. He was in the world. Think about this now! "*He was in the world and the world was made by Him.*" Isn't that something? That is hard to comprehend. This is a mystery.

That is what Paul said to Timothy; *“Great is the mystery of Godliness; God was manifest in the flesh.”* How could God make something and be in it? Yet, He did! He said; *“He was in this world and the world was made by Him.”* The world didn’t even know Him. He said, *“But; I’m come into the world.”*

John 1: says; *“In the beginning was the Word and He was with God and He was God, and all things were made by Him. Without Him was not anything made that was made. That Word was made flesh and dwelt among us and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father.”* God was in Christ. I came forth from the Father and I came into this world.

Watch this next line; *“I now leave the world and go back to the Father.”* Actually, there is no way the Lord Jesus can leave anywhere; He is omnipresent. That means that He is (all-present, and present everywhere). David said, *“Whither shall I flee from Thy presence; if I ascend into heaven Thou art there; if I make my bed in the grave, Thou art there. If I take the wings in the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, even there Thy hands shall hold me. The night shall be light about Me.”* Christ said, *“I’ll never leave you; I’ll never forsake you. Lo, I am with you always.”*

So, what does He mean here when He says; *“I’ll leave the world?”* He said, *“I came from the Father, I came into the world, I now leave the world.”* He is speaking here as the Christ of God. He speaks as the second Adam. He speaks as the representative man. Jesus Christ came into the world as the representative of His people.

He came, *“Flesh of our flesh, bone of our bone. Tempted in all points as we are. Made of a woman, made under the law.”* He was circumcised under the Levitical law. He lived as a carpenter. He sweated, toiled and wept. He knew pain, thirst and hunger. *“He was a man of sorrows, acquainted with grief.”* All of these things He went through. He was in this world.

As that representative, *“The first Adam is of the earth, earthy.”* That is what Adam means, (red earth). He was taken from the earth. *“The second Adam is the Lord from heaven.”* I came from the Father. As we have born the image of the earthy, we are going to bear the image of the second Adam. *“By one man’s sin, (Adam’s sin) many were made sinners. By the obedience of the second man were many made righteous.”* The scripture says; *“There is one Mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.”*

You see; I came from the Father. I came into this world and I will go back. My point today is this. The Son of God came from the Father. He came into the world. He left the

world and went back to the Father where He entered as our forerunner within the veil and is seated as our Mediator. Why did He come? What did He do on this earth? What was He doing here?

I hear preachers say; “Well, He’ll solve all your financial problems. He’ll solve all of your marriage problems. He’ll take you off drugs. He’ll solve all your problems and get you a new job.” Is that why He came into the world? Is that His office work? This is so much smallness and all temporary to perish with the using thereof. Why did He come? What did He do?

Let’s look at John 17 and let Him tell us what He came to do. It would be worth your while to read John 17:1; *“These words spake Jesus.”* This is talking about the preceding words, some of which I just quoted in John, Chapter 13, 14, 15, and 16. These words spake Jesus to His disciples; then He lifted His eyes to heaven and He said; *“Father.”*

Now here is the Lord Jesus Christ, in the second person of the blessed Trinity. Our Redeemer is talking to the Father and He says; *“Father, glorify Thy Son that Thy Son may glorify Thee.”* He is facing a terrible, terrible agonizing death. He is facing a monumental battle. He is bearing sin, shame and death. He is asking for strength. He says, *“Glorify Me,”* (strengthen Me, give Me power). *“Help Me to glorify You.”* That is what He is praying. *“Now, glorify Me in death that I may glorify Thee.”*

Then, He said this in verse 2: *“Thou hast given Him, (your Son), power and authority over all flesh.”* Jesus Christ is not the weak-kneed, pitiful, impotent, feminine character that He is made out to be by most preachers. Jesus Christ is King of King and Lord of Lords. He is the mighty King and the conqueror. He is the warrior and the victorious Lord that has all authority over all flesh and in heaven and in earth. He says, *“Thou hast given Me power over all flesh that I should give eternal life to as many as Thou hast given Me.”*

In verse 3, He says this; *“And this is eternal life that they might know Thee, the only true God.”* To know God is to know eternal life. This eternal life is not to adopt a form of worship, religion, creed or catechism. This is to know God in the heart and to know Jesus Christ whom Thou hast sent.

Now then, the scripture tells us what He came to do in the next few verses. This is mighty. This is the Son, the Redeemer, and the Messiah, talking to the Heavenly Father. He says, in verse 4; what He has done, *“I have glorified Thee on the earth. Father, I have glorified Thee on the earth.”* That is what Christ is saying; the Lord Jesus is God. As God, He has all glory.

He said, "*Glorify Me with the glory which I had with Thee before the world was.*" Here, He speaks as the man Christ Jesus. He says, "As a man I have glorified you on this earth." That is the work God gave Him to do. He was sent forth from the Father. He came to this earth. One of the things He came to do was to obey God. He came to fulfill righteousness. "*He was manifested that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him.*" He speaks here as a man in human flesh. He glorified God on this earth.

What is it to glorify God on the earth? No man has ever glorified God except Christ. To glorify God on the earth is to love Him perfectly. We are to obey Him perfectly and to live in perfect submission to His purpose and His will. Only Christ did this. This is required of all men but no man has ever done it. Jesus Christ as a man, representing the people that God had given Him, "*knew no sin, did no sin, and had no sin.*" He's the only person of whom the Father ever said; "*I am well pleased. I have glorified You on the earth.*" That is what He came to do.

Secondly, look at verse 4; "*I have finished the work You gave Me to do.*" What is this work that He came to do? He said that He finished it. He didn't make a down payment. He didn't make an installment payment. He didn't set it up so that you could wind it up. He finished it! That is what He cried when he died; "*It is finished; I finished the work You gave Me to do.*"

Let's see if we can find out what that work is. The angel that announced His birth described His work. The angel said to Joseph, "*Call His name Jesus, for He shall save His people from their sins.*" That is His work. John the Baptist identified His work. He said; "*Behold the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world.*" That's His work. Paul identified His work. He said in First Timothy 1; "*This is a faithful saying and worthy of acceptation by all people; Jesus Christ came into this world to save sinners of whom I am chief.*"

Our Lord said, "*I've come to seek and to save the lost;*" that is what I came to do. "*I'm come that they might have life and have it more abundantly.*" John said, "*The Son of God was manifested to take away our sin.*" That is what He came to do. He didn't come down here just to set an example. He didn't come down here as a great reformer to try to straighten the world out. Paul said, "*He appeared, to put away sin, by the sacrifice of Himself.*" Peter said, "*He died the just for the unjust that He might bring us to God.*" That is why He came and that is His work. "*He who knew no sin, was made sin for us that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him.*" That is what He came to do.

So, when He came to this earth and lived here 33 or 34 years, and died on that cross, was buried and rose again, He said; *“I finished the work You gave Me to do.”* I finished it! Don’t listen to some preachers who will tell you God has done all He can do and now it is up to you. That is foolishness! Christ finished the work.

Thirdly: Look at verse 6: He says, *“I have manifested Thy name.”* He is talking about what He has done. He is talking to the Father and saying; *“I have glorified You on this earth.”* This is what He came to do. *“I finished the work you gave Me to do and I have manifested Your name, (the name of God), unto the men which You gave Me out of this world.”*

What is it to manifest something? He said, *“I have manifested your name.”* This means to reveal it, or make it manifest. Manifest means to make it clear and plain. This is to show what it is. Christ said, “I have done it.” No one else could do it. *“No man knows the Father but the Son, He to whom the Son will reveal Him. No man has seen God at anytime. The Son hath declared Him.”*

God’s name is His attribute. His name is His character. God’s name is His glory. God’s name is who God is. Christ said, *“I have manifested, (I have made it clear and plain. I have revealed who God is) I have declared unto them Thy name.”* Listen to this, in verse 26; *“And I will declare it. I have declared your name and I will declare it.”*

That’s the reason you can’t go to church and find out who God is. You have to go to Christ or to a church where Christ is preached. Have you ever looked at the name of God in the Old Testament? The New Testament is the Old Testament revealed. In the Old Testament, God has a seven-fold name. Let me show you:

First of all: Jehovah-jireh, (the Lord will provide). That is what Abraham said to Isaac; *“The Lord will provide,”* He will see to it. Christ is that Lamb provided.

Secondly: Jehovah-rapha, (I’m the Lord that healeth thee). He healeth our sicknesses and our diseases. This is talking about spiritually.

Thirdly: Jehovah-nissi, (God is our banner). He reigns over us.

Fourthly: Jehovah-shalom, (God our peace). Christ is our peace. *“He made peace with the blood of His cross.”*

Fifthly: Jehovah-raah, (The Lord is my Shepherd).

Sixthly: Jehovah- tsidkenu , (The Lord our Righteousness).

Lastly: Jehovah- shammah , (The Lord be with you).

This is all revealed in Christ. *“I have manifested Your name. Show us the Father.”* The scripture says; *“He that hath seen Me hath seen the Father.”*

In verse 8, listen to this: This is what our Lord came to do. He says in verse 8, *“I have given them Thy Words, the Words you gave Me and they have received them. I have given them Thy Word.”*

My friends, God’s Word is the doctrine of God. God’s Word is the testimony of God. God’s Word is the gospel of God. God’s Word is the Word of truth. Who can reveal God’s Word better than the one who Himself is called, the Word of God? *“In the beginning was the Word and the Word was God and the Word was with God.”*

Here is what most folks miss. They talk about the good book and the Bible. Let me tell you something; The Word written and the Word spoken and the Word Incarnate cannot be separated. Christ is the Word of God. Listen to this; when He said, *“I have given them Thy Word.”* He meant more than just preaching it to them.

Most people make fun of preaching. Most preaching ought to be made fun of. Our Lord preached the Word to a lot of folks who never heard it, who never believed it and who never received it. I preach the Word to a lot of people who have never heard it, never believed it and never received it. When our Lord says; *“I have given them Your Word,”* He means that I have given them ears to hear it. Oh, how blessed is the person who has ears to hear the Word of God. He says, *“I have given them eyes to see it.”*

There are a lot of people who can sit while a man is preaching the gospel and pay no attention to it. They won’t listen to him. Do you know why? They don’t have ears to hear, eyes to see or a heart to understand. God’s never given them spiritual interest or any inclination. That’s right! When he says, *“I have given them Your Word,”* He is saying; *“I have given them ears to hear it, and eyes to see the beauty and glory of Your promises and a heart to rejoice.”* Pity the person who has no ear to hear and no eye to see and no heart to rejoice. *“I’ve given them Thy Word.”*

Anybody can quote the Bible. You might say; *“I can quote John 3:16, I can quote Psalm 23, and I can quote Psalm 100.”* Anybody can quote the Bible but it is another matter to believe it and receive it. You have to experience it and walk in it. This is what Paul says about the Thessalonians. He says, *“I know you are the elect of God because our gospel*

*didn't come to you in Word only, it came in power and much assurance in the Holy Ghost."*

Now, it's a whole new ballgame there. That is something that Momma can't do for you and your Daddy can't do for you. This is something that only Christ can do. *"I've given them Your Word."* God's Word is more than a rabbit's foot and a four-leaf clover. God's Word is not a good-luck charm. You don't just fall back on His Word at a funeral. His Word is the life of God in the soul!

Now, watch verse 9: What did He come to do? *"I pray for them. I pray not for this world. I pray for them which Thou hast given Me. Thine they were and Thou gavest them Me. I pray for them."* Did you notice that our Lord said, in these preceding verses, *"I have glorified Thee; I have finished Thy Work; I have manifested Your name; I have given them Thy Word?"*

When He came to pray for them, He didn't say; "I have prayed for them." Do you know why? The reason is because He never quits praying for us. "I have prayed for them, I am praying for them and I shall pray for them." So, He just says; *"I pray for them."*

You see; that is what Romans 8:34 tells us; *"Christ died, is risen again, who is at the right hand of God who ever liveth to make intercession for us."* In Hebrews 7:25, He says this; *"He's able to save to the uttermost, them that come to God by Him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession."* First John 2:1, *"If any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous."* He prays for us.

Look at verse 12; *"And while I was with them in the world, I kept them. Those that Thou gavest Me, I have kept. None of them are lost except Judas, the son of perdition, that the scriptures might be fulfilled."* The scripture says; *"I have kept them."* You see, my friends, this salvation of Christ, this salvation that He purposed, which He purchased, which He wrought out by the sacrifice of Himself, is an eternal salvation. *"Whom He foreknew, He predestinated to be conformed to the image of His Son. Whom He predestinated, He called, whom He called, He justified. Whom He justified, He glorified."*

*"He that hath begun a good work in you shall finish it."* We're not talking about a temporary salvation. We are not talking about joining the church and leaving next month. We're not talking about coming to Christ and leaving next year. He said, *"My sheep hear My voice and I know them. They follow Me and I give them eternal life and no man is able to pluck them out of My hand. My Father gave them to Me and no man is able to pluck them out of My Father's hand. I and My Father are one."*

*“Now, unto Him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy, to the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and dominion and power both now and forever.”* He says, *“I kept them.”*

The power of the blood of Christ keeps His people. The intercession of Christ keeps His people. None of them are lost. *“All that My Father giveth Me shall come to Me and him that cometh to Me, I will in no wise cast out. I came down from heaven not to do My will but the will of Him that sent Me. This is the will of Him that sent Me that of all which He hath given Me, I’ll lose nothing but raise it up at the last day.”*

There is plenty of room in heaven, but no vacancies. There is room for you, but there is no vacancy. Every place card has a name on it. None will be lost. There won’t be one missing.

In verse 18, He says; *“As you sent Me into the world, I sent them into the world.”* You see; our Lord Jesus didn’t take this office upon Himself, the Father gave Him it. Those who preach the gospel of God’s grace and the power of God’s Spirit don’t take that office. Paul said, *“God put me in the ministry.”* We preach the gospel because He sent us.

The final thing is: He said: *“The glory which Thou gavest Me, (that unspeakable, immutable, infinite, eternal glory), I have given them.”*