

Christ's Work on Earth

John 17

"It is finished" (John 19:30) is one of the last things Jesus said on the cross (cp. Luke 23:46). After this He "gave up the ghost" or "gave up His spirit." With His last breath Christ yielded His soul, willingly, offering Himself to the Father as a sacrifice on our behalf (John 10:17-18; Hebrews 9:14; 10:10-14).

"It is finished" is translated from a single Greek word that means "it has been completed." The word has been found on old tax receipts, to declare them "paid in full." This coincides with what Christ said in His great intercessory and priestly prayer in John 17:4. He understood what He was doing and fully intended to go to the cross and complete His earthly mission (John 3:14-16, 12:32-33; 14:27-31 cp. 13:1; 15:9-13). See also Matthew 16:21; 26:51-54; Luke 24:25-27, 44-47.

Let's examine Christ's intercessory and priestly prayer, in John chapter 17, looking for the areas of mission that Christ completed.

Christ glorified the Father and finished the work given by the Father. John 17:1-4

See John 7:16-18; 8:23-28; 12:44-50; 14:1-11; 19:30.

Christ manifested the name of the Father unto His disciples. John 17:6,26

See John 5:19-24 (I John 2:22-23); 14:6,23 (I John 1:1-3). See also I Corinthians 15:24-28.

Christ gave them the words of the Father. John 17:8,14

See John 5:24,37-47 cp. Matthew 5:17-20 [note: Matthew 5:21-48 "You have heard/It has been said...but I say unto you..." cp. Matthew 7:21-29].

Christ was in the world and kept the disciples, who were given to Him by the Father.

John 17:12

See John 1:10-13; 6:37-40,44-45,66-71; 10:27-29 cp. Luke 22:31-32.

Christ sent His disciples into the world. John 17:18

See John 20:21 cp. 15:18 – 16:4; 16:33 cp. Matthew 10; Luke 21:5-19; 24:44-48.

Christ gave them glory (i.e. a unifying purpose and power which comes from the Father and glorifies the Father). John 17:1,5,22

See John 1:4,14; 2:11 [showed His glory] cp. 7:18 [spoke for the Father's glory]; John 11:4,23,40 [touched Lazarus' life for God's glory]; John 12:35-36 (cp. Matthew 5:14-16); John 15:1-5,8.

See also II Corinthians 3:18; 12:7-10 (cp. I Peter 4:14); II Corinthians 4:6-18.

Christ knew the Father (i.e. was intimate with the Father and confessed Him to others).

John 17:25-26

Consider the word "know" in I John 3:1. See John 5:16-20; 8:54-55; 10:27-30;