

**JOHN 17:1**  
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**John 17:1** Jesus spoke these words, lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said: "Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You,  
**2** as You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him.  
**3** And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.

**John 17:4** I have glorified thee on the earth: **I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do.**

**Where is the battlefield today?** Is it Iraq? Libia? Syria? Israel? Ukraine ?  
In **abortion clinics**? In **public schools**? Is it against drunken drivers? Where is the battlefield. Well, you might conclude it is wherever the forces of God engage the forces of the evil one in spiritual conflict. But is even this the true battlefield? *(USE WITH DB 5/22/69 below)*

In John 17:4, Jesus declares, I have glorified thee on the earth: **I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do.**

**BUT THIS WAS BEFORE CALVARY,**  
**BEFORE THE CROSS,**  
**BEFORE THE RESURRECTION!**

YES. BUT **HERE** IS WHERE THE VICTORY LAY. Battles will be won and lost – but Victory is found in the one who accomplishes the goals that have been set.

THE BLIND POET **George Matheson** HAS MADE THESE SAGE COMMENTS ON **Jn. 17:4**

**"Was the work of the Master indeed done?  
Was not his heaviest task yet to come?"**

He had not yet met the dread hour of death. Why did He say then that his work on earth was done? **It was because he knew that when the will is given, the battle is ended!**  
He was only in the shadow of the garden, but to conquer these shadows was already to conquer all. He who has willed to die has already triumphed over death. All that remains to him is but the outer husk, the shell. **The cup which our Father gives us to drink is a cup for the will.** It is easy for the lips to drain it when once the heart has accepted it. **Not on the heights of Calvary, but in the shadows of Gethsemane is the cup presented, the act is easy after the choice.** The real battlefield is in the silence of the spirit. Conquer there and thou art crowned." *DB 5/22/69*

"A practical application of these words is found in the conduct of **Miriam Booth, daughter of the father of the salvation army.** She was both **brilliant** and **cultured** and she threw herself into Christian work with her total energy. **But she became ill and near death.** A friend stopped by and told her that it seemed such a pity that a woman of her ability was hindered from doing the **Lord's work** because of illness. She replied with deep insight and gentle grace: **"it is wonderful to do the Lord's Work, but it is greater still to do the Lord's Will!"** *DB 5/22/69*

THOT: THE BEST WAY TO **KNOW GOD'S WILL** IS TO SAY "**I WILL**" TO GOD.

IT IS NOT A BATTLE TO BE JOINED LIGHTLY. - CF. **LUKE 14:**

**Luke 14:25** And there went **great multitudes** with him: and he turned, and said unto them, (πολλός ὄχλος - polus ochlos)

**Luke 14:27** And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, **cannot be my disciple**. For which of you, intending to build a **tower**, sitteth not down first, **and counteth the cost**, whether he have sufficient to finish it? Lest haply, after he hath laid the foundation, and is not able to finish it, all that behold it begin to mock him, Saying, This man began to build, and was not able to finish.

"In **Edinburgh, Scotland**, stands **Carlton Hill**. At the top is an unfinished structure begun years ago (**1822**) by the city fathers. Patterned after the Parthenon in Athens, it was designed to stand above Edinburgh as a gleaming monument to its greatness. That high point was intended to be a modern-day acropolis rivaling the beauty of ancient Greece. But the project was never completed because the city ran out of money. The half-finished monument is now crumbling, and Carlton Hill is known as "**THE CITY'S DISGRACE**."

*The acropolis is in fact an unfinished monument - originally called the "National Monument". Initiated in **1816**, a year **after Napoleon's defeat at Waterloo**, it was meant to be a replica of the Parthenon in Athens, as a memorial to those who had died in the Napoleonic Wars. Building began in **1822**, but funds ran dry and celebrated Edinburgh architect William Playfair only saw a facade of his building completed. It was dubbed "**Edinburgh's shame**",*

*The Parthenon in **Nashville, Tennessee** is a full-scale replica of the original Parthenon in Athens. It was built in 1897 as part of the Tennessee Centennial Exposition. Today the Parthenon, which functions as an art museum, stands as the centerpiece of Centennial Park, a large public park just west of downtown Nashville. Alan LeQuire's 1990 re-creation of the **Athena Parthenos statue** is the focus of the Parthenon just as it was in ancient Greece. (Added italicized info in 2016)*

While our Lord was here on earth, he committed his life to completing every detail of his Father's Will for him. Step by step he fulfilled his purpose for coming into the world. His work was not a duplication of any other work ever attributed to God.

**To this very day**, ". . . there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved." **Acts 4:12**

He healed the sick;  
He cast out demons;  
He stilled the storm;  
He raised the dead;  
**He forgave sins.**

AS A RESULT, **WHEN HE PRAYED AT THE END OF HIS LIFE, (Jn.17:4) HE COULD SAY, "I HAVE FINISHED THE WORK WHICH THOU GAVEST ME TO DO."** THEN, A FEW HOURS LATER ON CALVARY WHERE HE DIED FOR OUR SINS HE CRIED, "**IT IS FINISHED.**" **DB 2/1/82**

**WHAT IS THERE THAT GOD WOULD HAVE YOU DO? IS THERE SOMETHING THAT YOU ALWAYS FELT LIKE THAT YOU SHOULD HAVE DONE – BUT HAVE NEGGLECTED? WHAT UNFINISHED WORK DO YOU HAVE?**

(At a Christ The Only Way Mission reunion, the husband of one of our sisters at the mission approached me as the meeting was almost over. I did not know the gentleman.

He actually attended my Alma Mater, Southeastern Bible College after I had graduated. I do not believe that he was in full time Christian ministry himself – but **he wanted to thank me for my past 40 years of teaching the Word of God.** In thinking back on that night, I cannot help but think that perhaps he likewise had felt the call of God on his life to “preach the Word” – but somehow – had never quite gotten around to it!) The taking up the Cross is a command to be followed – not a suggestion to be considered and set aside for a more convenient season.

**Act 24:25** And as **Paul** reasoned of righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come, **Felix** trembled, and answered, Go thy way for this time; **when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee.**

Unfortunately, I met more than one believer who delayed in following the Lord – only to find that they have missed out on the life that God had for them.

**\*\* (too many people allow their failures – and not God's all sufficiency to define their lives. “Counting the cost” does not mean that we abandon the project because we ourselves are lacking. )**

### **LUKE 14:31**

Or what king, going to make war against another king, **sitteth not down first, and consulteth** whether he be able with ten thousand to meet him that cometh against him with twenty thousand? **32** Or else, while the other is yet a great way off, he sendeth an ambassage, and desireth conditions of peace. **33** So likewise, whosoever he be of **you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple.**

A dear family friend, **Reverend Borowski** - after many years of untiring service to the Lord, remained faithful to his calling. One Saturday, after having written letters and articles for publications all day, he went to the mailbox and mailed the fruit of his labor. He walked back up to the house, said to his dear wife, **"I have finished my work" with that, he laid down for a nap, and slipped into glory!**

**Many try to follow the path of least resistance** in this world. This is usually the **broad path.** But I can assure you that regardless of the path you choose, the road to failure is always the **path of least persistence!**

August 1990, The US and 30 other nations embarked on Operation Desert Shield which ultimately mounted an assault known as operation Desert Storm on Iraq in January 1991. Ultimately, the US alone would commit 500,000 troops to the effort.

What would you have thought if Israel had joined the **International Coalition of** forces in Saudi Arabia in 1991 and a week later Saddam Hussain was defeated? Would you think that in light of what has already transpired and the assurance of ultimate victory, that Israel's actions were responsible for victory? Of course not. There was an element of doubt and uncertainty about the eventual cost of the victory of The Persian Gulf War, Operation Desert Shield and ultimately Dessert Storm, **but the victory was not in doubt.**

The decision to go to war was a difficult one for our President and our nation. But, once the decision was made, the fight enjoined, then **the difficulty with dealing with our will is replaced with the necessity of putting our shoulder to the task that our mind has already accepted.** Our victory was already assured. (*this invasion of Iraq was under Pres. Herbert Walker Bush – Aug. 1990*)

**Matthew 22:37** Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment.

NOTE: The first and great Commandment is not what we **DO** for Jesus – but rather – whether we have **surrendered** our **heart** and **soul** and **mind** fully to Him. This determines if indeed we may surrender our **WILL** to Him.

**John 16:33** These things I have spoken unto you, that **in me ye might have peace**. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of **good cheer**; I HAVE OVERCOME THE WORLD.

**17:4** - "I HAVE FINISHED THE WORK"

**John 17:1** 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:

JESUS' ATTITUDE WAS ALWAYS ONE OF "SETTING HIS MIND ON THINGS ABOVE."

HE MOVED FROM BEING A **MENTOR** IN 13-16

TO THE OFFICE OF A **MEDIATOR** - IN **17:1FF.**

In **John 17** WE FIND HIM **COMMENDING TO GOD** THOSE THINGS WHICH HE HAS **COMMANDED THE DISCIPLES**. He has told them many things in **John 13-16**: (*looked at these things in review last week*)

AND NOW HE **COMMENDS THEM TO THE FATHER** - WITH THE **END RESULT . . .**

**17:3** - . . . **THAT THEY MIGHT KNOW THE FATHER -**

THIS WAS OF COURSE **THEIR HEARTS DESIRE**.

CF. **Jn.14:8** PHILLIP, "SHOW US THE FATHER"

And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was. **17:5**

**17:5** CO-GLORY, Compare **14:9-10**

**John 14:9** Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father? **10** Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works.

SEVERAL YEARS AGO, **DR. WALTER WILSON** SPOKE TO THE GRAND RAPIDS - RADIO BIBLE CLASS. During his message, he related how a man had taken exception to his presentation of the **gospel of grace**.

The man said: "**you made no provision for human effort** in your message." he complained. **I BELEIVE I AM SAVED BY GOOD WORKS!**"

"SHAKE HANDS BROTHER, SO DO I. "The flabbergasted fault finder expressed with great surprise "**YOU MEAN YOU ACTUALLY BELEIVE YOU ARE SAVED BY GOOD WORKS!?"**

**"YES INDEED", replied Dr. Wilson with a victorious and knowing smile, "JESUS' GOOD WORKS - NOT MINE!"**

Our salvation is sure and our victory over the forces of evil in this world and in the ages to come has **all been taken care of by the finished work of Christ!** *DB 11/20/73.*

**Jn. 17:5** AND NOW, O FATHER, GLORIFY THOU ME WITH THINE OWN SELF WITH THE GLORY WHICH I HAD WITH THEE BEFORE THE WORLD WAS.

Some might think it strange that Christ's high priestly prayer begins with a **petition for Himself**.

A few more moments into the prayer and he **prays for His Disciples**; then He **prays for the church**; **but first, he prayed for himself**.

Some Christians actually think it is wrong to pray for ourselves. But as Jesus prayer suggests, it is not only right, it is necessary if we are to submit to the will of God.

**R.A. Torrey** "A prayer for self is not by any means necessarily a selfish prayer."

It is a time when we can tell God about our hopes, our worries, our fears, our desires and our needs. He is after all our Father. He cares for us. He is a good listener!

**SELF DENIAL DOES NOT MEAN SELF NEGLECT!**

JESUS MOVED FROM PREACHING TO PRAYER –

LIKewise, WE ALSO NEED TO COMMIT OURSELVES TO THE WILL OF THE FATHER TO **DO WHATSOEVER HE COMMANDS - NO MATTER IF IT IS THE GLORY OF THE TRIUMPHAL ENTRY OR THE AGONY IN THE GARDEN , OR THE IGNOMY OF THE CROSS.**

FROM THE TROUBLES OF THE WORLD, THE VICTORIOUS, INCARNATE SON - LIFTED HIS EYES TO HEAVEN.

- CAN WE BE EXPECTED TO DO LESS? **CAN WE PERSEVERE WITHOUT SEEKING GOD'S APPROVAL FOR THAT WHICH WE DO FOR HIM?**
- UNLIKE OUR LORD, **AS WE LOOK INTO OUR LIVES, WE SEE MANY AREAS OF SHORTCOMINGS. BUT HE HAS ALREADY TAKEN CARE OF THESE! THEY ARE COVERED - HE HAS OVERCOME!**

**John 16:33** These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; **I have overcome the world.**

**WE LIKEWISE MAY PRAY FROM THE VICTORS CIRCLE - IN THAT HE HAS OVERCOME, WE ARE MORE THAN VICTORS-**

**Romans 8:37** Nay, in all these things **WE ARE MORE THAN CONQUERORS THROUGH HIM THAT LOVED US.**

**\*\*** Marcus Rainsford puts it well: *(BBC)*

“The whole prayer *(John 17)* is a beautiful illustration of our blessed Lord's intercession at the right hand of God. **Not a word against His people; no reference to their failings, or their shortcomings.** ... No. He speaks of them **only as they were in the Father's purpose, as in association with Himself, and as the recipients of the fullness He came down from heaven to bestow upon them.** ... All the Lord's particular petitions for His people relate to spiritual things; all have reference to heavenly blessings. The Lord does not ask riches for them, or honors, or worldly influence, or great preferments, but He does most earnestly pray that they may be kept from evil, separated from the world, qualified for duty, and brought home safely to heaven. Soul prosperity is the best prosperity; it is the index of true prosperity.”