

On Mother's Day Weekend

By Scotty Smith

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. Romans 8:28



Dear Jesus, I dreaded Mother's Day for decades. Losing mom to a car wreck when I was eleven, meant I was supposed to start wearing a white rose to my church on that Sunday. If your mom was alive, you got to wear a red one. I never wore a white rose, and stopped going to the church on that Sunday, and many others.

Seven years later, I met you, and discovered Romans 8:28. But I wore it like a band-aid on my frozen-heart—so wanting a magic cure for the wound that gutted, crippled, and paralyzed me. Like all denial, mine collapsed under the weight of life, and in time, your grace. You are a healer, not an illusionist—a merciful Savior, not a life-epidural.

Whatever our losses, betrayals, or heartaches, you are at work for our good, healing, and compassion. Thank you, Jesus. The wounds we carry can become a mercy-fountain and grace-portal for others. Our broken places release the aroma of your kindness and hope, better than our “I-usta-be-sad-but-now-I’m-happy” testimonies.

I miss mom more than ever, and I so look forward to sharing life with her forever. But until our reunion, help me, and my friends, rest in your love more than we despise our “white roses,” So very Amen we pray, in your tender and transforming name.



May 9, 2021

10:30 A.M.

Farewell Discourse The Son to His Father

Mother's Day

*She speaks
with wisdom,
and faithful instruction
is on her tongue.*

Proverbs 31:26

Order of Service

Announcements

Welcome

Prayers of Thankfulness and Petition for Mothers

Preparation for Worship

-----God's Greatness-----

Call to Worship

Hymns of Adoration

"O God Our Help in Ages Past" William Croft

"You, You Are God". Walker Beach

Prayer of Invocation

The Confession of Truth: The Apostles' Creed

Song of Praise

"Our Great God". Ortega/Powell

----- God's Renewal-----

Scripture Warning

Public Confession

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon and Comfort: Galatians 2:20

Song of Renewal

"Before the Throne of God Above". Vikki Cook

-----God's Grace-----

Scripture Reading: *John 17:1-10*

Prayer

The Sermon: The Farewell Discourse of Jesus

"The Son to His Father"

Words of Institution:

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Hymn: "The Power of the Cross". Getty/Townend

Prayer of Approach

-----God's Blessing-----

Parting Hymn: "For the Cause". Getty/Townend

Benediction

God's Gracious Provision 5/2/2021

Attendance: 29

Offering: \$1769.95

Your offering may be placed in the box at the Welcome Table.

tate on the cross because it is the clearest demonstration of the love of the Father. We must spend time with those who know him, so that their knowledge will pass on to us. In doing these things we will experience the answers to our Savior's prayer for us.⁴

Jesus grants eternal Life

Jesus seeks to give his people eternal life, and he defines that eternal life as knowing God and knowing him, the one whom God sent (17:3).

Eternal life is not simply an unending existence. Eternal life is a vital, living, and a growing organic relationship with God Himself. It is to know God – not simply doctrinally or intellectually, but it's to know Him experientially, to know who made you and to know who loves you.

Response

We do not know what to wish for, but Jesus knows what we need most. He is committed to giving us what is best for us: the revelation of God, the disclosure of God's name, the clear picture of God's character and purpose and mission that we see when we look at Jesus as presented in the Gospels. To know God is best, most satisfying, everlasting, ongoing, never-failing, transforming, life-affirming, death-defeating, world-conquering, sin-forgiving, stain-cleansing, holiness-teaching, and life-saving.⁵

Jesus said that those whom the Father gave to him kept his word (17:6).

Do we seek to know whether we belong to the world or to God the Father and Christ the Son? Do we keep the word of God? This does not require absolute perfection. Repenting when we fail is an aspect of keeping God's word. Do we love God's word? Do we resonate with Peter's statement that Jesus has the words of eternal life? Do we know the word as a light for our path, hope for our despair, strength for our weakness, help in our need, correction for our wrongs, and joy greater than all our sorrow? What a blessing to have God's word!

CONCLUSION

When Jesus prayed for glorification, his eyes were wide open and looking up to Heaven, indicating the perfect, unhindered communion he had with his Father. "The time has come." In the fullest sense, it was his time, the Father's time, his enemies' time, and our own as well.

¹Hamilton, J. M., Jr., & Vickers, B. J. (2019). John-Acts. (I. M. Duguid, J. M. Hamilton Jr., & J. Sklar, Eds.) (Vol. IX, p. 257). Wheaton, IL: Crossway.

²Hughes, R. K. (1999). *John: that you may believe* (p. 392). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books.

³Charles Spurgeon, *Metropolitan Tabernacle Pulpit*, Vol. 25 (Pasadena, TX: Pilgrim, 1972), p. 167.

⁴Hughes, R. K. (1999). *John: that you may believe* (p. 397). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books.

⁵Hughes, R. K. (1999). *John: that you may believe* (p. 397). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books.

How will Jesus be glorified at the cross?

The cross would be the supreme revelation of his nature and purpose.

The cross not only demonstrates the incomparable worth of Jesus; it also demonstrates his incomparable love.

The cross displayed God the Father because, as John 1:18 says, Jesus is the explanation or the exegesis of God.

What do we learn from the cross?

We see the holiness of God in the cross as nowhere else. We see his love of holiness and his hatred of sin and his refusal to compromise with it. We also see his love of justice in his condemnation of sin, even exercising his wrath upon his Son who bore our sins. Finally, we see God's love for us in the vast cost he paid for our redemption. If Jesus had stopped short of the cross, that would have proved there is a degree of love to which God is not prepared to go for us. The cross proves there is no limit to God's love.

Glorified in Heaven (v.5)

As Christ prayed, his focus was not only on the glory of the cross but on his coming glorification in Heaven.

Today (from our standpoint) our Lord has a greater majesty as he reigns in his glorified human body at the right hand of God, beautified by his scars in the same way a skillful artist makes a figure more lovely than before by the marks of his tools.³

If the manifestation of Christ's glory was left only to the heavens and to the cross, we would be greatly disadvantaged because neither of these are perfectly accessible due to time and space. But there is more.

Glorification in the Church (vv. 2, 3, 10)

Between the glorification of Christ in history and in Heaven, there is another glorification here on earth—in his church. Through his church, his glory is comprehensible. The glory that was first seen in Heaven, then in Christ's life and death can now be seen in his church. Christ is glorified in the lives of his earthly followers.

What is involved in knowing Christ? And what is involved in gaining a deeper knowledge of him?

Knowing Christ is not simply knowing something about him but having a personal knowledge of him, knowing Christ means a *growing knowledge*, knowing Christ involves *intimacy of relationship*.

Why did Christ mention our knowing him within his prayer for his own glorification?

Believers are the world's best hope of seeing the glory of God. Jesus made the Father's glory comprehensible, and we are to do so as well. We must be people of the Word, our most accurate source of knowledge about Christ. We must medi-

Upcoming Events

Wednesday, May 12 6:30 P.M. **Young Adults** meet for Bible Study at the Deicherts

Thursday, May 13 7:00 P.M. **Tactics Small Group** meets at the home of Karl and Cindy Yorgey.

Saturday, May 15 8:00 A.M. **Men's Breakfast** at the home of Pastor Rick and Barb. Bring a friend.

Sunday, May 16 6:15-7:15 P.M. House of Prayer
GCC Prayer Gathering for youth and adults
1300 High Street, Pottstown, PA

Sunday, May 23 2:30 P.M. Bowling at Jay Lanes in Douglassville for men of all ages. Contact Matt Deichert if you are interested.

Saturday, June 5 6:00 P.M. **Prayer Dinner** at the home of Pastor Rick and Barb. The event will be largely outdoors so if it rains we will use an alternate rain date.

Everyone is invited to join with the elders in prayer every Sunday from 9:30-10:00 in the back of the gym.

God is the highest good of the reasonable creature. The enjoyment of him is our proper; and is the only happiness with which our souls can be satisfied. To go to heaven, fully to enjoy God, is infinitely better than the most pleasant accommodations here. Better than fathers and mothers, husbands, wives, or children, or the company of any, or all earthly friends. These are but shadows; but the enjoyment of God is the substance. These are but scattered beams; but God is the sun. These are but streams; but God is the fountain. These are but drops, but God is the ocean. —Jonathan Edwards

Prayer/Praise.May 9, 2021

- Pray for Steve Simons' brother, J.J., who was just diagnosed with thyroid cancer. Pray for God's strength for J.J.
- Pray for Greg Aument's coworker, Deb Pachella, who is had heart surgery on May 7th. Pray for her recovery and healing. Pray that Deb comes to know the Lord.
- Pray for Christopher, son of Susan and Glen Williams, Pray for mental, physical, and spiritual well-being.
- Pray for Rhonda Clark's husband, Michael, who had surgery on his knee on April 23, 2021. Pray for healing for Michael.
- Praise God that Deana Deichert's father has accepted Jesus as his Savior! Also, her father's prostate cancer has returned after seven years. Pray for wisdom for his doctors and healing for Deana's father.
- Pray for Rhonda Clark's father, Donald Mace, who was just diagnosed with a serious illness. Treatments will be starting soon. Please send cards of encouragement to the following address: 107 Creamery Lane, Bally, PA 19503.
- Pray for Dawn Fleetman as she continues with physical therapy. Pray for healing and a return to work when she is able.
- Pray for Denny Bartchak, friend of Barb Knarr. Pray for a successful cancer surgery on his bladder on May 20.
- Pray that God reveals Himself to Koreen's friend, Amanda and her husband, John. Amanda's father is dying. Pray for support from John and peace and God's presence for the situation and for the father who does not know the Lord.
- Pray for Ashley, the niece of Lisa Frame's friend, Denise, who is undergoing chemotherapy treatment. Pray for continued healing and that Ashley can know the Lord.
- Pray for Dave Frame's dad, who is having outpatient hernia repair done on May 10th. Pray for Dave's mom who fell and fractured her shoulder. Pray for healing for Dave's father and mother.
- Praise that Koreen's dad's pacemaker surgery was successful. Keep Gwen in your prayers as she cares for their dad at home.
- Pray for Diane Ziegler, friend of Donna Jenkins, who had two surgeries and is doing better. Diane needs more chemotherapy treatments.
- Pray for Koreen Mace's brother-in-law, Jim, that God will speak to his heart and for salvation and healing for Jim.
- Pray for healing for Jill Aument's sister, Gail. She is having muscle spasms and is not experiencing any relief from her back procedure.
- Pray for Tracy Spencer, niece of Donna Jenkins. Tracy is pregnant and on bed rest. Praise there is improvement in the baby's lungs. Labor was induced on May 2nd. Pray for continued wisdom for her doctors and continued healing for Tracy's baby.
- Pray for Donna Plowfield's son-in-law, David, who is seeking local employment.
- Pray for Justine Schumaker, mother of Renee Schumaker. Pray for continued healing for Justine through her chemotherapy treatment.
- Pray for Jeremiah Mace, who is in a 9-month internship program. Pray for continued healing for Koreen's family.

Message

The Farewell Discourse of Jesus

The Son to His Father

John 17:1–10 (ESV)

When Jesus had spoken these words, he lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you, ²since you have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. ³And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. ⁴I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do. ⁵And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed. ⁶"I have manifested your name to the people whom you gave me out of the world. Yours they were, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. ⁷Now they know that everything that you have given me is from you. ⁸For I have given them the words that you gave me, and they have received them and have come to know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. ⁹I am praying for them. I am not praying for the world but for those whom you have given me, for they are yours. ¹⁰All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I am glorified in them.

Introduction

Jesus has just finished his most important conversation with his disciples and now offers what is arguably the most important prayer in the Bible (John 17:1–26). This is the longest prayer of Jesus included in Scripture, and he prays it before the most difficult and climactic moments of his life: his betrayal, arrest, trial, and crucifixion.¹

The Hour Has Come

Until this night, none of His enemies could touch Him. But now the hour has come. The enemies are gathering as a result – both physical and spiritual enemies, they're all gathering – and the Lamb is ready and He is consecrating Himself into the hands of His Father. Jesus prays, "Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son that the Son may glorify You." He prayed for his glorification in the cross (vv. 1, 4). He prayed for his glorification in Heaven (v. 5). He prayed for his glorification in the church. (vv. 2, 3, 10)

Glorification in the Cross (vv.1,.4)

Jesus had already glorified the Father by the matchless perfection of his life, as he reiterated in verse 4: "I have brought you glory on earth by completing the work you gave me to do." His life was a permanent monument to God's glory. He did this through his many miracles but supremely through the example of his day-to-day life.²