

We come this morning to our Savior's fourth and final petition to His heavenly Father, on behalf of His beloved people—having prayed for their preservation (vv11-16), sanctification (vv17-19), unification (vv20-23), He now prays for their glorification (v24).

Thus we learn, our Savior prays for every aspect of our salvation. He prays that every elect sinner, given to Him by His Father, is taken out of the world, unified to the Church, kept from this world, sanctified (or made holy), and taken to heaven.

In fact, I suggest that v24, is one of the most beautiful verses in our whole Bible, to explain what is the very heart of heaven. There is little doubt in my mind, that we as God's people, think of heaven too little. For various reasons, it seems to evade us. And yet, Scripture speaks of heaven in the most beautiful and plain language (in both the Old and New Testaments).

- I. Who Does He Pray For?
- II. What Does He Pray For?
- III. Why Does He Pray?

I. Who Does He Pray For?

1. Before we consider this first point, I want to first examine this opening phrase—"Father, I desire"—this Greek word rendered "desire" (NKJ), can be rendered either "will" or "desire"
2. Fundamentally, these two words "will" or "desire" are synonymous, and refer to an expression of desire or longing...
3. Christ desires, wants, or longs for His people to be with Him—the idea is that of strong affection or longing...
4. Thus, this word doesn't underscore the idea of demand as much as desire—Christ isn't demanding but expressing great desire...
5. He wants, desires, or longs to have His people with Him in heaven—as a Groom, He longs for His beloved Bride...
6. As a result, I want to briefly answer two questions—Who were given to Him, and When were they given to Him...
7. [1] Who were given to Him, v24—"Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am..."
8. I want you to notice the word "also"—"Father, I desire that they ALSO whom You gave Me may be with Me..."
9. By "them also" He refers to those in addition to the apostles—those who would believe on Him through their word...
10. Thus, He prays for everyone given to Him by the Father, which includes the apostles and the rest of the elect...
11. The apostles, as well as those who would believe on Him to the end of time, have been given to Him by His Father
12. Why did the Father give these to Christ and not others—or, put another way—why did He choose who He chose...
13. Well brethren, as most of you know, the only answer the Scripture gives us is, He loved them in a way He did not love the others...
14. This means—there was nothing in us that distinguished us from the nonelect, in terms of morality or merit...
15. The Father decreed to create a world, allow it to fall into sin, and from that fallen humanity chose a people for Christ...
16. As a result, those given to Christ, who chosen from fallen humanity, as vessels or objects of mercy and grace...

17. [2] When were they given to Him—they were given to Him when they were chosen, that is, in eternity past...
18. Historically, this is called the Covenant of Redemption, wherein the Father and Son covenant together about redemption...
19. But then the question might become—if the elect did not actually exist yet, how were they chosen by the Father and given to the Son...
20. Well, here we need to make the important distinction between our actual existence and purposed existence...
21. Because God purposed our existence from eternity, we have a real (though not actual) existence to God from eternity...
22. This means, the Father really knew or loved us from eternity, and He gave us to His Son, in a covenant arrangement...
23. Simply put, a covenant is an oath-bound relationship or agreement—the Father made promises and the Son made promises...
24. In short, the Father gave the Son a people, the Son promised to save them, and the Father promised to glorify the Son as the victorious Godman...

II. What Does He Pray For?

1. There are two related desires to our Savior's prayer—"Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me..."
2. [1] That they would be with Him where He is—"Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am..."
3. It must be understood, that ultimately speaking, our Savior is referring to the final state and not the intermediate state...
4. By intermediate state is meant that state of the righteous, between their physical death and the general resurrection...
5. Simply put, when Christians die their souls go to be with Christ, and their bodies return to the ground, awaiting the resurrection...
6. Thus, to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord—but this is not what our Savior is here praying for (though it's included in it)...
7. Instead, He is praying that every one of His beloved people would be raised up at the final day, and be with Him on the new earth for eternity...
8. Thus, our Savior desired—"that they may be with Me where I am"—that is, where He will be when He returns...
9. Jn.14:3—"And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also..."
10. 1Thess.4:16-17—"For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven...and we will be caught up together...and thus we shall always be with the Lord..."
11. [2] That they would behold His glory—"that they may behold My glory which You have given Me"—our Savior here again speaks of future events in the past tense...
12. He is anticipating a time when the Father would glorify Him, and it's this glory that His people will behold...
13. Perhaps another way of saying this would be—the Father purposed to glorify the Son, from eternity, in the Covenant of Redemption...
14. And because everything the Father purposed or predestined to happen, will of necessity happen, our Savior speaks of it in the past tense...
15. Now, here I need to remind you of an important distinction with regards to Christ's glory—His essential and earned glory...
16. His essential glory—by this is meant, the eternal glory of the Son, considered as the second person of the Godhead...
17. In this sense, the Father doesn't give the Son anything, simply because, the Son shares the same glory as the Father...

18. His earned glory—by this is meant, the glory that the Father bestows upon the Son, considered as the GodMan...
19. Strictly speaking, this glory concerns His human nature, which alone can be glorified—His human soul and body...
20. But more properly understood, it is necessary to apply this glory to the whole person of Christ, as the GodMan...
21. This is a glory that Christ receives by virtue of His redemptive labor, and in fulfilment to the Covenant of Redemption...
22. And this is the glory that our Savior here refers to—"that they may behold My glory which You have given Me..."
23. Christians will behold Christ in all of His glory—they will see Him as the Lamb slain, now sitting on a throne...
24. [a] We will physically behold His glory with the eyes of the body—that is, we shall see Him with glorified eyes...
25. Job 19:25-27—"For I know that my Redeemer lives, and He shall stand at last on the earth; and after my skin is destroyed, this I know, that in my flesh I shall see God, whom I shall see for myself, and my eyes shall behold, and not another. How my heart yearns within me..."
26. [b] We will spiritually behold His glory with the eyes of the soul—that is, we shall see and know Him without flaw...
27. In other words, this future sight of Christ, is more than a mere physical act, but includes the whole of the soul...
28. The Scripture often couple together "seeing" and "knowing"—to see Christ (with the eyes of the soul) is to know Christ...
29. 1Cor.13:12—"For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known..."
30. When we see Him in heaven, we shall perfectly know, love, and serve Him, as the Lamb slain for us, and now enthroned over us...
31. Lesson 1—Christians will perfectly commune with Christ in heaven—this is what heaven is all about—being with Christ...
32. I think most people desire to go to heaven for various reasons—they imagine a place where happiness is achieved...
33. Thus, heaven is often described as a place where a person's peculiar desires are eternally and perfectly realized...
34. For example, if he loved to fish, then heaven is all about fishing—if he loved to play sports, then it's all about sports...
35. But dear brethren, surely we understand that these notions of heaven are carnal and contrary to holy Scripture...
36. If heaven was portrayed from a Biblical perspective, let us be honest, native man would have no desire to go there...
37. For the chief thing about heaven is that Christ is there, and that we will eternally and perfectly commune with Him...
38. CHS—"Heaven without Christ would be an empty place; it would lose its happiness. It would be a harp without strings, a sea without water..."
39. Lesson 2—Christians will perfectly behold the glory of Christ in heaven—Christ's glory will illuminate the new heavens and earth for all eternity...
40. There is a sense in which, this text not only describes what we will do in heaven, but also what Christ does in heaven...
41. This text describes Christ as adored in heaven—it describes Him as the glory of heaven—as the center of heaven...
42. Christ is uniquely the glory of heaven, because heaven is a place purchased or secured by His redeeming work...
43. Thus, heaven is foremostly about Christ not us—heaven is the place where His glory will be eternally displayed...

44. Rev.21:23—"The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb is its light..."
45. Just as the sun illuminates this world, so the glory of Christ will illuminate the new heavens and new earth...
46. Heaven is Christ's eternal reward—a place where He is glorified, exalted, adored, and worshiped, for all eternity...
47. Lesson 3—Christians will perfectly share in the glory of Christ in heaven—we shall not only behold but share in Christ's glory...
48. It is impossible to behold the glory of Christ, and remain the same—to behold His glory is to be changed into that glory...
49. 1Jn.3:2—"Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is..."
50. Christians will be like Christ when they see Christ—our bodies and souls, will be conformed to His moral image...
51. Rev.22:4—"They shall see His face, and His name shall be on their foreheads"—by "His name" is meant "His image"...
52. Heaven is a place where Christians not only behold the glory of Christ, but, as His body, they also partake of that glory...
53. In fact, there is a sense in which our glory is Christ's glory—or else put another way—Christ is glorified in our glorification...
54. When we behold His glory in heaven, a part of that glory will be His bride, as well as a new heavens and earth...
55. There's a sense in which, the totality of the glory in heaven is Christ's glory, as His redemptive work secured it...
56. Heaven is a place where Christ is glorified, and every other person glorified, is glorified in and because of Christ...
57. And this is our Savior's desire—that His people would behold His glory, share in His glory, and worship Him for His glory...

III. Why Does He Pray?

1. V24—"for You loved Me before the foundation of the world"—this is put for the reason behind His prayer...
2. He expressed His desire to His Father, because His Father loved Him, "before the foundation of the world..."
3. The Father loved the Son from eternity past, and the Son here points to this, as a reason for His prayer being heard...
4. Historic Christianity has always maintained, that the relation of Father and Son is an eternal and essential relationship...
5. The Father has always been the Father and the Son always been the Son—this is an eternal and essential relationship...
6. And from all eternity, the Father has loved the Son, the Son has loved the Father, and the Father and Son loved the Spirit...
7. This is why the Son prays—He prays to His Father—"Father, I desire that My people would be with Me"—"for You loved Me before the foundation of the world..."
8. But you know what brethren, while it is true the Father loved the Son from eternity, as His begotten Son—He also expressed this love in the Covenant of Redemption...
9. The Father expressed love to His Son in giving Him a bride, and promising to exalt Him above every name...
10. This, I suggest, is why Christ prays as He does—in love, the Father promised Him, a bride to be with Him for all eternity...
11. Thus, I want to close our study of this verse, by suggesting five observations about heaven—it is an actual place, a very large place, a glorious place, a loving place, and a certain place...

12. Observation 1—Heaven is an actual place—there is a place, where Christ and His people shall eternally dwell...
13. Dear brethren, as I mentioned at the outset of this message, Christians fail to think upon heaven as they should...
14. I'm convinced, one reason this is true, many Christians fail to think of heaven in Biblical terms and concepts...
15. Many of us have the faulty notion that heaven takes place on a cloud, and entails playing on a harp for eternity...
16. But nothing could be further from the truth—heaven ultimately entails glorified bodies, on a glorified earth, beholding a glorified Savior...
17. The Scriptures describe heaven as a paradise restored, and thus it will reflect something of the original paradise...
18. Observation 2—Heaven is a very large place—every elect person will be there—a multitude no man can number...
19. Matt.8:11—"And I say to you, that many shall come from the east and west and recline at the table with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven..."
20. Surely, one of the blessings of heaven will be, beholding and worshipping the Lamb, together as one people...
21. Most of you know that our family, like many of your families, is about to undergo some radical and necessary changes (some of our girls will soon be wed and move out to establish their own families)...
22. I am looking forward to those days with mostly joy (but some sorrow)—I will miss having all of us together (but I anticipate times, hopefully often, when we can have the extended family over)...
23. In heaven, all of God's children will be gathered together in one big family, to never be separated again (for all eternity)...
24. Observation 3—Heaven is a glorious place—Christ shall be glorious, Christians shall be glorious, and this earth shall be glorious...
25. The more Christians think of heaven, the less they will think of this world—what is this in comparison to that...
26. The glory of this world is fading—it is temporary—in fact, there is a sense in which it is but a mirage or illusion...
27. Observation 4—Heaven is a loving place—the Father is full of love, the Son is full of love, and the elect are full of love...
28. In 1738, Jonathan Edwards preached a series of sermons from 1Corinthians 13, entitled, Charity and Its Fruits...
29. The final sermon in that series was entitled—Heaven: A World of Love—his point is simply—Heaven is a world full of love...
30. Remember, the Father elected a people because of love, He gave them to Christ because of love, Christ died because of love, and His people will worship Him for all eternity because of love...
31. Observation 5—Heaven is a certain place—dear brethren, surely Christ's desire of having His bride will be fulfilled...
32. Christ desires or longs for His bride—He wills that she be with Him in heaven—and brethren, He will have His desire satisfied...
33. Many of you know that my wife and daughters are in Kentucky this weekend, and shall be returning late tonight...
34. Well, I have been praying that the Lord would keep them safe as they are away, and would return them to me...
35. I miss my wife greatly, and I long for her to be here where I am—this is the reason I have been praying for her...
36. Well, my dear brethren, if this is true of me a sinner—how much more is it true of Christ who is sinless in heaven...
37. He too longs for His bride—He too desires her to be where He is at—He too prays for her that she shall be with Him...