

John 4:34

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work.

Analysis

Jesus explains that His 'meat' is doing the Father's will and finishing His work. This declaration reveals Christ's singular devotion to redemptive mission. The Reformed emphasis on God's sovereignty in salvation connects to Christ's complete submission to the Father's plan. His food is accomplishing our redemption.

Historical Context

This statement anticipates Jesus' climactic 'It is finished' on the cross (John 19:30). His entire ministry, from incarnation to ascension, consisted of perfect obedience to the Father's redemptive purposes.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does viewing obedience to God as nourishment transform our perspective on doing His will?

2. What does Christ's focus on 'finishing' God's work teach about perseverance in our callings?

Interlinear Text

λέγει	αὐτοῦ	ό	Ἰησοῦς	Ἐμὸν	βρῶμά	ἐστιν	ἴνα	ποιῶ
saith	his	G3588	Jesus	My	meat	is	to	do
G3004	G846		G2424	G1699	G1033	G2076	G2443	G4160
τὸ	θέλημα	τοῦ	πέμψαντός	με	καὶ	τελειώσω	αὐτοῦ	
G3588	the will	G3588	of him that sent	me	and	to finish	his	
	G2307		G3992	G3165	G2532	G5048	G846	
τὸ	ἔργον							
G3588	work							
	G2041							

Additional Cross-References

John 6:38 (Parallel theme): For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me.

John 5:30 (Parallel theme): I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me.

Job 23:12 (Parallel theme): Neither have I gone back from the commandment of his lips; I have esteemed the words of his mouth more than my necessary food.

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

John 19:30 (References Jesus): When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.

Matthew 26:39 (Parallel theme): And he went a little further, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt.

John 4:32 (Parallel theme): But he said unto them, I have meat to eat that ye know not of.

John 5:36 (Parallel theme): But I have greater witness than that of John: for the works which the Father hath given me to finish, the same works that I do, bear witness of me, that the Father hath sent me.

Luke 19:10 (Parallel theme): For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.

Psalms 40:8 (Parallel theme): I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law is within my heart.

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