

With Him In Glory

Jeff Rogers / Lamplighter Bible Study

John 17:17-19

This is the closing movement of the High Priestly Prayer. Jesus has prayed for himself (vss. 1–5), for his disciples (vss. 6–19), and for all who will believe through their word (vss. 20–23). Now he prays what Lloyd-Jones calls the ultimate prayer — not for protection, not for unity, but for *final destination*. This is where the prayer lands.

One of the great troubles of the believer lies in how we confront Scripture. The trouble is not understanding or believing what God's purpose and intent are for our lives. God is seen as our "get out of jail free" card, or as a cultural pass to acceptance within a certain crowd, rather than as the Lord of Glory.

We fail to read the Scripture and then meditate (think deeply and concentrate on) upon them, and as a result, we fail to take hold of them as truths about us.

If we do that, our entire demeanor and outlook on life will be transformed.

Here are a few examples:

- **1 Peter 1:8**, *Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory*, Q: Do we rejoice with "joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory" in knowing the Lord Jesus Christ?
- **Philippians 4:4**, *Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice*. Q: What do those right outside of the church see about Christ through our lives, attitudes, and the way we speak?
- If you could ask God for one thing for the people you love most — what would you ask for? Health? Salvation? Peace? Protection? In John 17:24, Jesus has the floor with the Father. He is praying for us — people he has never met in the flesh. And this is what he asks, *Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world*.

I. The One (Lord Jesus Christ) Who Prays for Us.

- A. Be reminded that the Son of God is praying for you. (He addresses God as His Father (vss. 24, 1).
- B. Be reminded of the desire or will that the Son of God has for you (I desire). In the context of time and circumstance of the cross and punishing death lying only hours away, the Son's desire is for you.
- C. Be reminded that it is the eternal Son of God who is praying for you. (see vss. 5, 24). Before the foundation of the world, the Son was in fellowship with the Father.
 1. **Isaiah 53:12**, *Therefore I will divide him a portion with the many, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong, because he poured out his soul to death and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and makes intercession for the transgressors*.
 2. **Hebrews 7:25**, *Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them*.
 3. **Romans 8:34**, *Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us*.
 4. **Hebrews 9:24**, *For Christ has entered, not into holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true things, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf*.
 5. **1 John 2:1**, *My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous*.

II. The Ones for Whom Christ Prays

- A. In **John 17:9** and **17:20**, Jesus points out directly who He is praying for...those whom He has been given.
 1. **John 17:2**, *...to give eternal life to all whom you have given him*.
 2. **John 17:6**, *the people whom you gave me out of the world*.
 3. **John 17:9 (2x)**, *For those whom you have given me...you gave them to me*
 4. **John 17:11**, *Keep them in your name, which you have given me...*
 5. **John 17:12**, *While I was with them, I kept them in your name, which you have given me*.
 6. **John 17:24**, *Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me...*

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- B. The comfort found in this relationship.
1. Lloyd-Jones asks, *"Is it not the case that far too often we think of ourselves as men and women who decide to be righteous, or to be Christian: we have taken it up, and we are going to do this?"*
 2. **John 10:28**, *I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand.*
 3. What effect should this truth have on my life?
 - a) A sense of overwhelm and being shaken to the core because these truths are pride crushers.
 - (1) God showed me mercy and favor.
 - (2) Our soul should experience lowliness of heart and meekness; humility; esteeming others better than ourselves.
 - b) An explosion of love for the Lord as response (We love Him because He first loved us).
 - c) Embolden us to live holy and pursue holiness because He has ordained us for sanctification.
 - d) Our worship should be enlarged as our view of God is enlarged. The higher my view of God; the higher my worship will be towards God.

III. The Petition For Which Christ Prays.

- A. He has prayed for several things already:
1. That we may be kept from evil that is in this world.
 2. That we may be sanctified by and in the truth of His Word (**17:17**)
- B. He has dealt with our past (sin), with our present (sanctification).
- C. Now He Prays for our Future:
1. Where are we going?
 - a) **Philippians 1:23**, *I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better.*
 - b) To the thief on the cross, **Luke 23:43**, *And he said to him, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise."*
 2. What will we do?
 - a) **John 17:24**, *Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.*
 - b) **What does the glory of Christ look like? Revelation 5:1-10, 12.**

IV. Light for our Path

- A. Rest in who is praying.
1. He ever lives to intercede (**Heb. 7:25** — already in your notes). That isn't abstract. Right now, the risen Christ is before the Father on your behalf. You are not holding yourself in — he is holding you.
- B. Recalibrate what you're living toward.
1. If the greatest thing Jesus asks for you is to see his glory — then glory, not comfort, is the goal.
 2. This changes how we grieve. It changes how we hold this life loosely. It changes how we face death — our own, and the deaths of people we love.
- C. Ask yourself the honest question.
1. ***Is Christ himself your treasure — or is he the means to the treasure?***
 2. When we consider the worthiness of Christ in Revelation 5, it reveals misalignment of our affections if we cannot answer the question affirmatively, yes!