

Eternal Life Through Believing in Jesus

41) Jesus Prays For Himself

'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, as You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him'

(John 17:1-2)

- ✓ **Jesus often prayed but usually we don't know much content of His prayer, because He prayed alone. But here He prayed in the presence of witnesses**
- ✓ **This prayer is in 3 parts: 1) His prayer for Himself; 2) For the disciples; 3) For all believers who would come to believe in Him**
- ✓ **6 times He said His hour had not yet come, even deliberately escaping death. Now it has arrived**
- ✓ **In praying that God would glorify His Son He was asking for strength to continue to the end**

- ✓ **Both the Father and the Son would be glorified in the cross**
- ✓ *"Now My soul is troubled, and what shall I say? 'Father, save Me from this hour'? But for this purpose I came to this hour. Father, glorify Your name." Then a voice came from heaven, saying, "I have both glorified it and will glorify it again"" (Jn.12:27-28)*
- ✓ *'So, when he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man is glorified, and God is glorified in Him. If God is glorified in Him, God will also glorify Him in Himself, and glorify Him immediately' (John 13:31-32)*

- ✓ **The Son would be glorified in His death, His resurrection and exaltation to the highest seat in Heaven, intercession for the saints, sending the Spirit and building His church**
- ✓ **The cross would glorify the Father by displaying His attributes, such as holiness, mercy, grace, love, wisdom, power, justice, the defeat of Satan, etc.**

***Only the Father can glorify Him. He is not interested in the honour that comes from man. Unlike the rulers of that time who, '...loved the praise of men more than the praise of God' (John 12:43). 'How can you believe, who receive honor from one another, and do not seek the honor that comes from the only God?' (John 5:44)**

***The cross was utter humiliation as far as the world were concerned. But it was an instrument of glorification of the Father and the Son. 'For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God' (1 Cor.1:18)**

- ✓ **God has given to Jesus authority over every living being on the basis of His obedience unto death, (Phil.2:5-11; Matt.28:18-20)**
- ✓ **He has been given authority over every living creature, *'He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come'* (Eph.1:20-21)**
- ✓ **This authority includes giving eternal life to all whom the Father has given Him**
- ✓ **How are we to understand this?**

1) Our names are written in the Lamb's book of life from before the foundation of the world:

'I have manifested Your name to the men whom You have given Me out of the world. They were Yours, You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word' (v.6)

'I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for those whom You have given Me, for they are Yours' (v.9)

'Holy Father, keep through Your name those whom You have given Me' (v.11)

'Those whom You gave Me I have kept; and none of them is lost' (v.12)

'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' (v.24)

2) Eternal life is promised to all who believe:

'...whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life' (John 3:15-16)

'Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life' (John 5:24)

'I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die' (John 11:25-26)

- ✓ **All things end up with the Son, '...that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth—in Him' (Eph.1:10)**
- ✓ **All judgment has been given to Him also. 'For the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son, that all should honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him' (John 5:22-23)**
- ✓ **What about the Holy Spirit? 'Jesus spoke these words', i.e. about the Holy Spirit – John 14,15,16**
- ✓ **The Spirit glorifies the Son**

***The test of 'Holy Spirit ministry' is that He reveals Jesus, 'no one can say that Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit' (1 Cor.12:1)**

***Jesus is not known through intellect but by revelation, 'Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God. These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual. But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned' (1 Cor.2:12-14). 'When He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth' (John 16:13)**

'And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent'
(John 17:3)

***The nature of eternal life is not just extent, but content. Not just quantity but quality**

***The essence of life is to know the only true God and Jesus Christ, 'None of them shall teach his neighbor, and none his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them' (Heb.8:11)**

***We have been brought into the circle of divine love so that we can know the Father and the Son intimately**

***'I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished
the work which You have given Me to do'***

(John 17:4)

***Jesus glorified the Father by His life, His works, His words, His obedience, etc.**

***Ultimately He finished the work God gave Him by going to the cross, '*tetelestai*' (John 19:30)**

***There is a sense in which the work was not finished; but since Jesus is *the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world*, there is a sense in which the work was already finished**

***Jesus called those things which were not, as though they were already accomplished. He could even see Himself as good as back in heaven, though He was still on earth, (John 17:11&24)**

'And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was'

(John 17:5)

***The glory Jesus spoke of in v.1. was the glory of the cross. The glory spoken of here is that which He had with the Father from eternity**

***This confirms His pre-existent state and His equality with the Father. God says that He shares His glory with *no one*. If God the Father and God the Son share their glory, they must be co-equal and co-eternal**