

Eternal Life Through Believing in Jesus

43) Jesus Prays For Us

'I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me. And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me'

(John 17:20-23)

- ✓ **Jesus prays for those who will come to believe in Him through the words of the apostles, i.e. us**
- ✓ **By worldly standards Jesus had little to show for His ministry. But He was confident in the birth and growth of the church. He knew that the corn of wheat, which was about to fall into the ground and die, would bring forth much fruit**
- ✓ ***'After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!"' (Rev.7:9-10)***

- ✓ **He asks, that we may be one, in order that the world may believe Jesus was sent by the Father. What does this mean?**
- ✓ **Some believe that if all Christians can come together in unity then the world would believe in Jesus. This is unity through the lowest common denominator. We cannot unite wheat and tares**
- ✓ **The world will only be saved the same way we were – by believing the gospel. This is what unites all Christians**
- ✓ **In context we see that Jesus prayed for, *'...those who will believe in Me through their word; that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us'***

- ✓ **Our unity is spiritual, based on believing in Him through the Word. We are born again and are baptized into the body of Christ. He only has one body. One Lord, one faith, one baptism**
- ✓ **So, we do not compromise the Word of God to attempt organizational unity. Rather we contend for the faith that was once for all delivered unto the saints, because this produces organic unity**
- ✓ **But there is also a practical, or functional unity, and this is what will lead to the world knowing and believing that the Father sent the Son**
- ✓ **That is, our continuing to proclaim the Word of God, by which people will be believe that the Father sent the Son**

- ✓ **Next, Jesus says, 'the glory which You gave Me I have given them'. What does this mean?**
- ✓ **This glory consists in the Father indwelling the Son, and being the source of the works He did**
- ✓ **Likewise, the Son indwelling us will be the source of the works we do. Experiencing His divinity in our humanity is the glory we were designed for**
- ✓ **'And the glory which You gave Me I have given them'**
- ✓ **The glory of the Christian is to know that Christ lives within and to live by faith in His life and power in us**

- ✓ **These two things, and these alone, are the means by which Jesus is building His church. Share God's Word; trust God's Spirit**
- ✓ **We are *organically* joined to the whole body of Christ. But we are *actively* in union with all who, likewise, live a life of abiding in Christ and who share His Word**
- ✓ **It will not always result in people believing in Him, but they will know that the Father sent the Son**

'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; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world. O righteous Father! The world has not known You, but I have known You; and these have known that You sent Me. And I have declared to them Your name, and will declare it, that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them'

(John 17:24-26)

***He had previously told them that He is going away and that they cannot follow Him to where He is going. He doesn't ask the Father to take them out of the world because they, and we, have a mission**

***When our work is done He will come and take us to Himself, (14:3) so that we might be with Him in heaven and behold His glory**

***They had seen His incarnate glory, characterized by humility, but now He prays that we will be with Him and behold Him in His risen, ascended and glorified state**

'Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father'

(Phil.2:5-11)

***What a contrast...**

***The world knew Him not, and has no desire to be with Him after this life**

***But for us it is the glorious climax of our existence and our salvation**

***There must be something so deep, so vast to the glory of Jesus that it can occupy the attention and focus of God's people for eternity**

****'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' (1 Jn.3:2)***

***How precious we are to the Father! We were known to Him from the foundation of the world, and given by Him to the Son**

***How much we are loved by the Son! He desires that we might be with Him for eternity**

Not just that we might be where He is, but that we might be with Him. Absent from the body, present with the Lord. *'This day you will be with Me in Paradise'

***As He is central to us now, so He will be in glory. We will know His love in greater waves than we ever could here. Now we see through a glass darkly; but then face to face**

***This prayer is partially answered for us when we die. We join the spirits of just men who have been made perfect**

***What a glory then is the day of our death!**

***But the great climax of this is at the rapture. 1 Thes.4:16-17, when we will receive our resurrected bodies**

****'For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself' (Phil.3:20-21)***

***The world has not known God; neither then nor now. But this is not a hopeless statement because Jesus knows the Father and has revealed Him to us; and we will reveal Him to the world**

****'I have declared your name to them',* i.e. the apostles. And will continue to do so**

***Ever since this prayer was prayed God has been answering it! Multitudes have been swept into the kingdom**

***So whilst He has returned to heaven He has not left us alone. Far from it. He has poured out His Spirit upon us that we might continue bearing witness to Jesus and that many others might be swept along with us into this ever-growing body – the Church of Jesus Christ**