

John Ch 17:5-8

“The Lord’s Prayer”

We read in the book of Rom Ch 14 that, “...*each of us shall give account of himself to God.*” Rom 14:12 and As we’ve been privileged to enter into the holy of holies of the temple of scripture in John Ch 17 as the Lord is praying, we’ve noted that as much as this is a prayer it’s also a report. As the Lord is giving an account of *Himself* to God, what He’s done with His life on the earth, and what it is to have a life that is properly prioritized in the eyes of the Lord. You remember that I told you that in this prayer Jesus mentions 8 things that He offers up to the Father as testimony of a life lived in perfect harmony with God’s will being completely pleasing and totally acceptable to Him. and If these are the things that when it’s all said and done, truly matter to our Master, then we do well to pursue these things and allow the Lord to work these things into our lives as by the power of the Holy Spirit.

I don’t see anywhere in this prayer where He lists off how many people He helped, how much money He gave, all the works that He did, or anything like that. Why? Because those are peripheral things, those things are the overflow, or the resulting effect of the things He lists here. You see if our lives reflect the attributes that Jesus lays out in this prayer, we’ll be helpful people, will be those who give, we’ll be committed to good works, but if we’re not about the things that He mentions, then it doesn’t matter how many people I help, or how much I give, or what good works I’ve done. Those things need to spring forth from the roots of these other priorities that are centered in a personal relationship with the Lord. You might notice that Jesus doesn’t begin to mention those things that He has done until He establishes 1st the priority of a personal relationship in vs 3.

What is eternal life? It’s not missing hell and going to Heaven; it’s knowing the only True God by opening your heart to Jesus Christ Whom He has sent. It’s centered in a personal relationship; those other things (missing hell, a righteous standing etc) are peripheral perks. But once the relationship has been established, we see how the attributes of that relationship begin to play out in our lives personally and practically.

Jesus says # 1 in vs 4, “I have glorified You on the earth.” The chief objective of Jesus Christ upon the earth was to bring glory to the Father, how about you, what about me? In the things I do is there an underlying current of seeking to draw attention to myself? Am I subtly seeking the accolades of man, or in my work ethic, my godly parenting, in excelling in my trade or science or whatever am I truly pointing all honor and all glory to God. May God help us to be careful to lead our lives in such a way that to God be the glory great things *He* has done, not great things *we* have done. #2 Jesus said, “I have finished the work which You have given Me to do.” and We noted how thankful we are that when Jesus was there upon the cross He cried out, “It is finished.” That He didn’t get to a point where He said, “It’s almost finished but this just isn’t worth it, I’m out of here.” Because if that were to have happened we’d all literally spend eternity in hell.

But because of His great love with which He loved us, He followed through and finished the work of redemption through the shedding of His blood upon the cross, paying the penalty of death for our sin, and raising again the 3rd day that we might be justified in the eyes of God. How important is it that we finish the work that God has committed into our trust? You may never finish the work that *man* desires of you, but God's work is well able to be completed. and We notice that Jesus calls the work finished before He physically hangs upon the cross, why? Because the bible tells us that, "*God, ... calls those things which do not exist as though they did;*" Rom 4:17 So that as far as He's concerned it's a finished work already, because He sees the end from the beginning and calls things out accordingly. He's done the same thing with your life.

Here on this earth you're being transformed from glory to glory into the *image* of the Lord as by the *Spirit* of the Lord. But as far as God is concerned it's a finished work, as a matter of fact as far as God is concerned you're already seated with Christ in the Heavenly places, let that one blow your mind for a while. Because the fact is that, "*He who has begun a good work in you will complete it*" Phil 1:6 Now that's the perspective from man's point of view, but as far as God is concerned it's already completed. That's why we read in Eph Ch 2 "*But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,*" Eph 2:4-6

Question: Are you seated together in the heavenly places right now? I guess that depends on who's perspective you're viewing things from, because God calls things which don't exist as though they do, and somewhere in there factors in the fact that He lives outside of the time continuum, He dwells in the infinite and eternal but we're here in the finite and temporal. Now this has been a long way around the horn, but my point is to seek to encourage you that as sure He considered His work finished before He physically followed through, even so He considers His work in you finished as well even though physically He's still following through. and If He has said that you've been raised up and made to sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, then what does that mean to you? You're going to make it, you're as good as there you just abide in Christ.

So having glorified the Father, and having finished the work Jesus says here in vs 5.

Vs5

Now the glory He referenced earlier on was in regards to the cross, however the glory that He's speaking of now is in regards to His eternal glory, the glory of His deity. This vs shows us again the fact that Jesus was cognizant of His eternality, that He was God in the flesh. You see when Jesus stepped out of eternity to wrap Himself in humanity, the bible teaches us that in that decision Jesus forfeited willingly certain things. Now He *never* forfeited deity, He was as much God when He walked the face of the earth wrapped in flesh and blood as He was the day that He said, "Let there be light, and there was light."

But the *prerogatives* of His deity He willfully laid aside. His omnipresence for example, Jesus could physically only be in one place at one time, He never did a miracle, or spoke a word but that it wasn't in submission to the Father and by the power of the Holy Spirit in His life.

Though fully God, He opted because as fully human as you and me that He might demonstrate what it meant to lead a life set apart to God in the power of the Holy Spirit. He employed none of His personal power at anytime but was in full submission to the Father's work in His life by the power of the Holy Spirit. But now He's ready to take back up all that He willingly laid aside when He ascends to the Father. and This is what Phil ch 2 is in reference to, that though Jesus is God, considered it not robbery to be equal with God, yet He made Himself of no reputation and being found in appearance as a man He humbled Himself and became obedient unto death even the death of the cross. Therefore God has also highly exalted Him, given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father. Jesus is saying here, "I'm ready to enter back into that glory that we shared before the world was."

Now Houston, we have a problem. Because God has said in Isa 42:8 "*I am the LORD, that is My name; And My glory I will not give to another,*" and Again in Isa 48:11 "*I will not give My glory to another.*" So how can Jesus ask to be glorified *with* God unless He Himself *is* God because God will not give His glory to another?

The book of Col tells us in regards to Christ that, "...*by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.*" Col 1:16 So having glorified the Father, and finishing the work He's ready to return to that rightful place of glory that He had with the Father before the world was. The 3rd thing that Jesus has done is given to us here in vs 6.

Vs6

You might make a mental note as we go through this prayer how that Jesus considers you and me His personal gift of love from the Father. He's mentioned it already in vs 2, again here in vs 6, He'll reference it again in vs 9 as well as vs 11. and It's with a sense of affection that He acknowledges we as His gift from the Father, it's like, "Father, I'm overwhelmed that You love Me so much as to give (fill in the blank with your name) to Me." How humbling is that? That Jesus would be honored to receive me, to receive you from the Father's hand as a gift of His love for the Son. But in certain respects there's a mutual aspect of exchange (for lack of a better word).

What I mean by that is that the bible teaches that for God so *loved* the world that He *gave* His only begotten Son for the World, Jesus Christ is God's gift of love to you. He has given Him for you as an offering of His love towards you, the bible says that, "...*God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*" Rom 5:8 God has in essence given Him *to* us as an offering *for* us on behalf of our sin, why would He do that? Because of His love for us, and what we're seeing here is that even as Jesus is God's gift of love to you, even so you are God's gift of love to Jesus.

Jesus says here as He's giving account of Himself to God, #3 out of our list of 8, "I have manifested Your name." and Of course the key word to focus in on in regards to what Jesus has done with the name of God is, "manifested." It means to "uncover," or "lay bare," to "reveal," or to "show," so that what Jesus is in reference to here isn't so much *declaration* as He is *illustration*, He has simply taught them *verbally*, but He's demonstrated to them *observably* and tangibly who the Father is. Remember when Philip said to Jesus, "*Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us.*" Jesus said to him, "*Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father;*" John 14:8-9 and That's what Jesus is saying here, "I've shown them who You are. I have demonstrated to them Your name, or Your nature." The name is a reference to nature, or character. You remember that when Jacob and Esau were born that Esau came out 1st but Jacob stretched his hand out and caught Esau by the heel.

So they named him "heel catcher" that's what Jacob means, "one who trips up" or "deceiver," and he lived up to his name, it was in fact his nature. But you recall when he wrestled with the Angel of the Lord and the Angel dislocated his hip, now he wouldn't be quite so self dependant, he would need to depend more upon the Lord and less upon himself. His character was changed, and so God changed his name, called him Israel which means "governed by God." The bible says that God has given you a new name (Rev 2:17), because in Christ *you've* been given a new nature. and You'll know what it is when you see Him face to face and it'll be something special between just you and Him. But here Jesus says that He has made known openly the name, or the nature of the Father.

The bible says God is love, Jesus demonstrated personally and practically what love is, showed us that to love someone is to lay down our lives for them, place their needs above our own and serve them in humility. The bible tells us that God is merciful, that God is good, that God is holy, that God hates pride and arrogance, and on and on we could go and we could point out each of these things in Jesus Christ How merciful He was to those who had need of Him, the good works that He was constantly about, the holiness that He exuded in a practical way demonstrating what it means to be holy for the Lord your God is holy.

The lack of tolerance He had for the prideful and hypocritical Pharisees and those who made merchandise of the people of God. The bible teaches us that God is true, that God is gracious, we read in the 1st ch of this gospel in regards to Jesus, “*And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.*” John 1:14 and Again, “*For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.*” John 1:17

Now, what about me? How about you? Are you manifesting the name/the nature of God to those whom God has given to be in the sphere of your life? To your husband? To your wife? Moms, dads, how about to your kids? Wouldn't it be great if your kids would honestly be able to say, “Dad, if our Father in Heaven is like you then I can't wait to know Him more, to spend time *with* Him, to just love *on* Him, and be available *to* Him.” How convicting is that? You've heard me say before that people may never read their bibles but they're reading your life from cover to cover, what are you manifesting to them? Can they see the character of the Father in you? How can we teach that God is love and yet not live in love, that God is holy, and not lead holy lives, that He is gracious and not extend grace? There's really only 1 attribute that God keeps for Himself and doesn't want you to extend to others, and that is vengeance, “That One is for Me,” God says, “You just let that one be.”

Even in that Jesus was submissive, not seeking to defend Himself, but subjecting Himself totally to the Father. Some people think they're God's personal police force exacting punishment upon those who've somehow offended them, Jesus didn't do that, He demonstrated the nature of God's grace. Jesus says here, “I have *manifested* your name. You've given them to Me, I've shown them who *You* are.” Not concerned with drawing attention to Himself, remember He made *Himself* of no reputation, but, “I've manifested *Your* name, and they have kept *Your* Word.”

You know when we consider all the failures and faults that the disciples had we're encouraged to hear these words of Jesus, because it means our Lord is gracious towards our failures and faults as well. The bible tells us that “...*where sin abounded, grace abounded much more,*” Rom 5:20 Not just “more” but “much more,” God's grace is like an endless ocean that just continually washes over us. and We know that we don't use His grace as a cover for sin, but we're thankful that His grace is there when we fall short and need His grace to abound in our lives. What does it mean, “they have *kept* Your word.” It speaks of watching over, or properly guarding, it's the same word that Jesus uses in vs 11 when He says, “Holy Father, *keep* through Your name those whom You have given Me.”

The implication there being, “Keep them as they are,” meaning, in Christ, set apart *from* the world *unto* Christ. So that we might understand Jesus to be saying here that, “They have guarded the integrity of Your word as I have given it to them, they haven’t sought to rationalize it, or somehow bend Your word into the mold of *their understanding*, but rather they’ve allowed their understanding to be bent into the mold of *Your word*, they’ve kept it’s doctrinal integrity. They may not have understood it *perfectly*, but they received it as it is *fully*.” Do we try to bend God’s Word into the mold of our understanding, or do we allow our understanding to be bent by the mold of God’s Word? 2 different things, we’re charged to keep the doctrinal integrity of the message of Jesus Christ Something that people are straying from in no small way these days. Paul told Timothy, “*Hold fast the pattern of sound words which you have heard from me, in faith and love which are in Christ Jesus. That good thing which was committed to you, keep by the Holy Spirit who dwells in us.*” 2 Tim 1:13-14 Jesus commends His disciples for keeping God’s Word

Vs7-8

John would later right, “*And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding, that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.*” 1 John 5:20 This is the 4th thing that Jesus gives an account for regarding that which has taken place in His life. See it there in vs 8 #4 “I have given to them the words which You have given Me.”

Notice Jesus says, “The words which *You* have given *Me*.” Sometimes with out Greek or Hebrew helps we can become a little bit short sighted in what exactly is being communicated in the bible because the English language is much less expressive in it’s ability to communicate then a # of other languages. So that if you want to state something as emphatic in writing you have to put it in italics, or underline the word because we really have no other way to communicate the thrust of what’s being said. Often times the same word will be used in the English language to translate 2 different words in another because of our limited vocabulary. and We mention commonly the word “love” as our example, so that I love my wife, but I love home made ice cream too, but when you hear the context of what I’m saying you understand I mean 2 different things. Well, there are a couple of different ways to say the word, “word” in the Greek as well, and though they mean 2 different things, they translate the same way into English. 1 Way is, “Logos” which is the Word of God, the written word of God, the living word of God, in the beginning was the Logos, the Logos was with God, the Logos was God. Today we’re studying the written Logos of God.

But then there's another word, "Rhema" which isn't so much the written word generally, but an utterance that's made vocally, very specifically and individually, it can be collectively, but it's as a rule for a certain situation individually. Now it may be God's written word that becomes the Rhema word for a situation, but we need to understand they're 2 different things. and The word that Jesus is using in this case is the Rhema of God, not the Logos of God. In Eph Ch 6 Paul writes, "*And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God;*" Eph 6:17 "Which is the Rhema of God," and the word "sword" there is "machaira" (makh'-ahee-rah); which is literally a knife, or a dagger, a precision instrument for specific application. As to where when you read in Rev 2 where Jesus said, "*Repent, or else I will come to you quickly and will fight against them with the sword of My mouth.*" Rev 2:16

Or earlier on where we read of Jesus that out of His mouth comes a sharp 2 edged sword in regards to God's Word, the word for sword in those cases is "rhomphaia" (hrom-fah'-yah); which is like a broadsword which is meant to take on a whole lot in one shot. So that if I needed to a barb, or a splinter out of your arm, I'm not going to break out the rhomphaia and take a big ol swath out of your being. I'll grab the machaira and get very specific for you as an individual, it might not apply to someone else, but it's what you need in that moment, at that time in your life to administer healing, or edification, or exhortation in that situation to keep you moving or get you back on track. The rhema word of God functions in the realm of sensitivity to the Spirit of God, look at Matt 19:16-21

Vs16-19

So far Jesus is sharing the Logos, wielding the rhomphaia.

Vs20-21

Rhema, suddenly the situation called for a specific word, for a specific application and Jesus put away the rhomphaia, unsheathed the machaira and gave to him individually and specifically what he needed for that moment if he was to be where he needed to be. Right now I'm just wielding the broadsword, just sharing the word of God, but perhaps through the course of things the Holy Spirit might unsheathe through me the dagger that wields the exact word for you in that moment, and even though it applies to no one else, it pierces your right where you're at. and We go from Logos, to rhema, the lights come on and you get it, now what you do with it is up to you, this young man walked away sad seemingly unwilling to act upon it. When I counsel, I don't wield the broadsword, there's some exacting work to be done, I need the dagger that does purposed precision work. But in that we have to be sensitive to the Holy Spirit.

We need to know God's Word so that we can administer God's word when called upon to do so. So with this we close, are you walking in sensitivity to the Spirit of God, able to give the rhema word of God when called upon to do so. Jesus said, "I've given to them the Words which you have given Me." "When you gave Me Words to share I was sensitive to it, and able to administer it." and Then on the flipside when it's shared with you are you able to receive it?

Jesus commends the disciples, “They have received them” I’m not sure the rich young ruler received the words of Jesus, but the disciples did, that is they took hold of them, personalized them, internalized them, and reacted and responded to them. and Because they could *receive* what Jesus said, they *believed* that He came forth *from* the Father and was sent *by* the Father. The bible says that, “...*faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*” Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the (listen) rhema of God.

How is faith born into the heart of man, by taking the word that God is speaking to you, and internalizing it, personalizing it, believing in it for you personally and responding and reacting to it. and I pray that God equips everyone of you to wield the sword of the Spirit with purposed precision, not that taking big swaths with a broadsword isn’t effective in the right situation. But that you might be sensitive to His Spirit, and at just the right *moment*, in exactly the right *place*, unsheathe that dagger of up close and personal precision and strike at just the right *time* to administer God’s heart for that person in that moment that they might hear His Word and come to believe in His Son.

If God is speaking to your heart today, and you’re ready to take the good news, the message of Jesus Christ and Him crucified for your sin, raised the 3rd day that you might stand justified before God, and internalize that, personalize that, act upon that by repenting of your sin trusting in Jesus Christ to give you everlasting life then today is the day of salvation for you. Jesus said if any man thirsts let him come to Me and drink, Jesus can quench the thirst of your soul that can’t seem to gain satisfaction with the things of this world. God has said though your sin is as scarlet, lets reason things through, I’ll make you white like snow, you can leave here today having had old things pass away and all things being made brand new, a new creation, but only in Christ Jesus. If you’ll simply open your heart to Him, invite Him into your life and into your heart, you’ll find your name written the lambs book of life, and you’ll be seated together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus.