

John Ch 17:9-17

“The Lord’s Prayer”

We’ve been following the flow of the Lord’s prayer these last couple of weeks, and we’ve been taking note of what *His* life was all about, and how He occupied the time *He* was allotted here on the earth as He gives this His “final report” so to speak to the Father. The psalmist wrote in 90:12 “...*teach us to number our days, That we may gain a heart of wisdom.*” That we might be wise, and choose the path of wisdom concerning the time that You have appointed for us, Paul wrote, “*See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil.*” Eph 5:15-16 and I think that most of us get that *principally*, (we need to do the right thing with the time we have) but how does that translate into my life *personally*, and *practically*? and I would say to you that the answer lies in the study of the life of Jesus Christ who has *given us an example* that we should do as He has done. and Though a thorough and detailed study of His life, (seeking to absorb all the details and insights that His life on the earth has to offer us) would take an eternity of life times. I believe that it’s fair to say that Jesus Himself basically summarized and encapsulated the way that *He* redeemed the time that was given to Him as He lays out before the Father this outline of His life here in John 17.

If these are the things that served as priority to our *High Priest* (Jesus), then may God give us ears to hear that we might begin to assimilate into *our lives* these things as priority for *us*. There are 8 basic things, (and we could see it as 9 fairly easily, but since 2 of them deal with the delivery of God’s Word we’re choosing to lump them into the same category) so 8 things when it was all said and done that Jesus took the time to give an account for before the Father. So far we’ve seen 4 of them and if you want the personal application to them, then you might grab the last couple of tapes or cds, but so that we might be brought back up to speed. #1 Jesus said, “I have glorified You on the earth.” (Vs4) #2 Vs 4 as well, “I have finished the work which You have given Me to do.” #3 In vs 6, “I have manifested Your name.” and #4 There in vs 8, “I have given to them the words which *You* have given Me.”

Jesus functioned in such a way as to be sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit in His life. and When the Father gave Him a word in due season, the exact word that was needed in a specific situation that brought personal application into an individual’s life, He would administer it with perfect precision and timing. and We read here in vs 8 that the disciples received those words, that is they laid hold of them, personalized them, internalized them, responded, and reacted to them, they would act upon the word that Jesus would give to them. How important it is that when Jesus speaks to our hearts, when He gives us a word in due season, that we lay hold of that, internalize it and act upon it.

Now we know that the Lord will never lay anything on our hearts but that it doesn't correspond with the written revelation He's given us in His Word. and with that revelation He'll give to us *confirmation*, but it's important that we put feet to our faith, and begin to walk in the reality of His direction for our lives. Jesus commends His disciples in a 2-fold way here, they *received* His word, and they *believed* His witness; that Jesus was sent of the Father. He didn't say, "They understand everything I've ever shared." He said, they received My words, and they believed in Me. You remember when Jesus asked His disciples saying, "Who do men say that I am?" and That's still a viable question for today, a lot of people have a lot of different opinion as to who the person of Jesus Christ is. and They said, "Well, some say You're J.B., some say Elijah, perhaps Jeremiah or one of the other prophets."

Then Jesus personalized it, He said, "*But who do you say that I am?*" Matt 16:15 and I can't think of a more probing, more personal, and profoundly important question that anyone could ever be confronted with. It's a question that holds all of eternity in its balance. The decision that you make regarding who you believe that Jesus Christ is will impact your eternal destiny, now what you decide doesn't affect Jesus, He is who He is, but it does affect you, it does affect me, in no small way. But He asked them, even as He asks you, and He asks me, who do *you* say that I am? Peter looks at Him, "*You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.*" Matt 16:16 Jesus says here, they have believed that You sent Me.

Vs9-11

So as the topic of His disciples comes up in vs 6, Jesus begins to speak to the Father *about* them, and now He actually begins to pray *for* them. He says, "I pray for them." "I stand in the gap on behalf of them," "I intercede for them." What an awesome thing to have the assurance of the Son of God praying for you, and when we get to vs 20 we'll speak a little more about that. Not only did Jesus pray for them *presently* where He was at, but He prays for *you personally*, and *perpetually*. and He says here, "I do not pray for the world."

Now we need to understand here that Jesus isn't saying that He *never* prayed for people who were in the world, or that He had no concern for the world. For God so *loved* the world He gave His only begotten Son, He came to call sinners to repentance, to seek and to save that which was lost. When Jesus was there on the cross He *did* pray for those in the world. He said as they were mocking Him, brutalizing Him, wagging there heads at Him having pinned Him to the cross, "*Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do.*" Luke 23:34 and He taught His disciples in the Sermon on the Mt, "*But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you.*" Matt 5:44 The Holy Spirit through the apostle Paul has taught us saying, "*Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior,*" 1 Tim 2:1-3 So we want to be clear on the fact that Jesus *Himself* prayed for people in the world, that *we're* commanded to pray for people who are in the world.

Even here with out digging too deep we can see that tucked in behind this request is primarily not only the well being of His disciples, but a concern for the world. Because Jesus is leaving the world, how therefore is He to reach the world with the good news of the grace of God and salvation to anyone who believes in the only begotten Son of God and the forgiveness that's been provided through the sacrifice of Himself upon the cross? Through His disciples, they're the instrument through which He will begin to reach the world. and You have to tune a guitar before you can administer its purpose effectively. So Jesus understands that if His ministry of reaching out to, and saving the lost is to continue after He's gone, those who'll stand to represent Him need to be right 1st, they need to be secure in their position. Even as *you and I need* to be rooted in Christ if we're to be effective in the ministry that He's commissioned *us* to. So Jesus is praying for them accordingly, and He says,

Vs10

Of course this is another insight into the fact of the Godhood of Jesus Christ because though we can all say, "All mine are Yours." Who can rightly say of God, "Yours are mine.?" Now in Christ the bible teaches us that we've been given all things, everything that pertains to life and godliness has been given to us in Christ. Eph Ch 1 tells us that we've been blessed with *every* spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ. But apart from Christ I have no claim on anything, yet here Jesus says to the Father, "All that is Yours, is Mine." Last week we established the fact that God will share His glory with *no one*. So who outside of God could be equal to God, and share in all things that belong to God, which is everything? Jesus says, "Yours are Mine."

Notice, "and I am glorified in them." Would to God that Jesus would be *glorified* in me, is Jesus glorified in your life? This takes us back to that 1st principle that we spoke of in vs 4 when Jesus spoke of the fact that the Father was glorified in Him. and Here He says that *He* is glorified in us, the fact that He has saved the likes of you, the likes of me, brings Him glory, then on top of that, that He would use us, faults and all. It makes for His glory, it magnifies His forgiveness, His mercies which are new every morning, the power of His redemption in our lives. But God help us to lead lives of integrity, lives set apart to Him, consecrated *over* to Him that He might be magnified and glorified in us. That we might be able to say like Paul that "... *according to my earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death.*" Phil 1:20

Yet how many "believers" today are leading lives that in many respects are really no different than the world? There in 1st Cor ch 6 Paul is rebuking the believers there in Corinth because though they name the name of Christ, they're really not any different practically speaking than the non believer. and He says the body isn't for sexual immorality but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body, and so then with Christ living in me am I going to take the members of Christ and join them to a harlot? Am I going to enter Christ into the equation of immorality through the presence of the Holy Spirit in my life? God forbid, Jesus wants to be magnified in your body, glorified in your life, and here in vs 11 He says.

Vs11

This is His 1st request for the disciples, that they might be kept, He's praying for their preservation, for their security. and Take note of the fact that the basis of this request finds its roots in the name, that is the nature and character of God. We spoke last week of the fact that the *name* and the *nature* is one and the same, especially when it comes to God. and We spoke on the fact that God is love, God is gracious, God is Holy, God is compassionate, God is forgiving. Now the forgiveness and grace of God that brings salvation is found in Christ, these guys are already in Christ. and So Jesus is saying, "I'm not going to be with these guys physically anymore, I'm *leaving* the world, they're being sent *into* the world, so Father, on the basis of your love, Your Grace, Your forgiveness, and compassion, through the power of Your Holiness, and righteousness, guard these Your servants, Your sons, My brothers *from* the world."

Aren't you glad that you're being kept in Christ isn't based solely on *you*, and *your* ability to remain steadfast? Man I am, Jesus knew that left to ourselves, the persuasion of the world, the power of the enemy, and the pull of our flesh would be way too much for any of us to endure. and So He says, "Father, would *You* keep them, through *Your* name, for *Your* glory." and I want to hammer on this point for just a moment; because I believe that there's a key that's being revealed to us here when it comes to our prayer lives. Jesus is asking the Father that it would be *by* Him, and *for* Him that they would be kept, because they are His (vs 9). and There's something there that when we're praying, not for *our* names sake, but for *His* names sake that God honors.

There has to be a real heart check there, we don't want to mask self centered motives under the words "for Your names sake." Yet if we're truly wanting God's will to be done, for God's names sake, for *His* glory, therein lies a key. There's something in that that God honors, remember David said, "*He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness (notice) For His name's sake.*" Ps 23:3 Ps 25:11 "*For Your name's sake, O LORD, Pardon my iniquity, for it is great.*" Not because, "I'm trying so hard, or I've done good for awhile, or somehow I deserve Your favor, but God for Your name's sake, for Your glory, would you forgive Me." David knew He didn't deserve anything from God, and so over and over again he would cry out to God not offering any justification or merit of his own, but God simply for Your name's sake I'm making this request of You. "*You are my rock and my fortress; Therefore, for Your name's sake, Lead me and guide me.*" Ps 31:3

"*Help us, O God of our salvation, For the glory of Your name; And deliver us, and provide atonement for our sins, For Your name's sake!*" Ps 79:9 and Over and over again we find these kinds of things in the scriptures. Jer 14:21 "*Do not abhor us, for Your name's sake; Do not disgrace the throne of Your glory. Remember, do not break Your covenant with us.*" In 1 John 2:12 John wrote and said, "*I write to you, little children, Because your sins are forgiven you for His name's sake.*"

What's the common thread that's woven into all of those requests? An acknowledgement of a personal inability, and total dependence upon the rescuing work of the Lord on one's behalf. There's humility there, a realization that apart from the Lord we can do nothing, but He *saves* us, and He *secures* us *through* His name, and *for* His name. and Here Jesus says, "Father by your name, and through Your name keep these whom You have given Me. That they might stand united, rather than fall divided."

Vs12

Of course Jesus is referencing Judas here, and He's not saying that He had Him but then He lost Him, He's acknowledging the fact that Judas was lost all along. That He was with Him in the external sense of the word, but He was never given over to Him, therefore He's lost. Remember Jesus said, "*Did I not choose you, the twelve, and one of you is a devil? He spoke of Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon, for it was he who would betray Him, being one of the twelve.*" John 6:70-71 and When He was washing their feet there in the upper room He said, "*He who is bathed needs only to wash his feet, but is completely clean; and you are clean, but not all of you. For He knew who would betray Him; therefore He said, 'You are not all clean.'*" John 13:10-11 Judas was never washed internally, He never received Christ as his Savior, there he was lost. and Jesus calls him here, "The son of perdition" or destruction and waste. and It's not that Judas couldn't have repented, but he chose not to, and therefore he became the fulfillment of the scripture "*Even my own familiar friend in whom I trusted, Who ate my bread, Has lifted up his heel against me.*" Ps 41:9

How important it is to take advantage of the time that we spend in the presence of the Lord, as He's extending to you the opportunity to repent and be made right with Him. God has said, "My Spirit shall not strive with man forever" and there comes a point when God will give a person who is rejecting Him over to their own ways, (Rom Ch 1) and He'll give that person up to a reprobate mind to do that which is not fitting. and Having refused to repent they'll receive the reward of their own ways. There is a way that seems right to a man but the end thereof is death. When does a person reach that point? I don't know, I would suppose it would differ for each person depending on the position of their heart, I recommend not skating on the thin ice of chance, and just making sure you've given your heart and your life to Jesus Christ Because He is able to keep that which is committed to Him which brings us to #5 "Those whom You gave Me I have kept." How about you, what about Me? Jesus kept all those whom were given to Him. There are a certain # of people whom God will give into the *influence* of your life throughout the *course* of your life. Family members, friends, different people, and as a pastor God places certain people under my care. Now they're the Lord's, and I understand that the Good Shepherd Jesus Christ might lead them *into* this pasture, He may lead them *out*, they're His, not mine. But just because people leave this church, doesn't mean they have to leave my ministry, I can still keep them on my heart, and in my prayers. All of Jesus' disciples would betray Him, or forsake Him, yet He kept them all.

In the OT the high priest had on His robe 2 stones on each shoulder placed in setting of gold and engraved upon each of them was 6 of the 12 tribes of Israel. and Then on his breastplate over his heart was to be 3 rows of 4 sets of precious jewels, one for each tribe, and it was His responsibility to keep them on his heart and to carry them in before the Lord in prayer. and There's a real connection between the burden of intercessory prayer that weighs on our shoulders and a heart of compassion. Now you obviously can't keep in a literal sense your kids, your friends, those to whom you minister, because they're not yours, they're the Lords. But you can bear them on your shoulders in intercessory prayer, and keep them in/on your heart. Pray for your kids, for your parents, for you spouses, your friends, or co-workers, even if they rub you wrong, you pray for them right. Those whom He gives you, keep before Him in prayer.

Vs13

Again in the face of the cross just hours away Jesus is speaking of His joy, and His desire to have it imparted to the disciples. What does it mean to have joy fulfilled? Just turn it around, it means having lives *filled full* of joy, that's what the Lord wants for you. That you would, "... *rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory,*" 1 Peter 1:8 Some people think it's a sin to smile, and if it's fun it *sure* can't be spiritual! But God wants to fill you full of Joy, and through that strengthen your life, as Nehemiah said, "*Do not sorrow, for the joy of the LORD is your strength.*" Neh 8:10

Vs14

Now this is the one that we're lumping in with #4 because though they're found in 2 different applications, they're both dealing with the Word of God. and As to where back in vs 8 we were seeing the Rhema of God utilized and employed, here we're seeing the Logos of God. The written Word of God, not only was Jesus able to speak the Rhema of God in due season when the need would arise, but He was also faithful to teach people the written word of God, the scriptures.

I'm not saying that God has called us all to be bible expositors. But God *would* have us all to be those who "*Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*" 2 Tim 2:15 Peter said, "...*always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear;*" Peter 3:15 You see are you able to share with people the Word of God? It's so important, Jesus did, and makes report of it here before the Father, I can't emphasize enough the importance in being equipped and able to share the Word of God. Being able to point people to the scriptures and give them God's Word, now it'll stir up opposition, don't be deceived about that.

As you allow God's Word to shape and mold your life, and you employ the Word of God to encourage others in their lives, sometimes people will hate you for that, because you're not of the world just as Jesus is not of the world, and if they hated Him, they'll hate you. and Sometimes that stress/strife will surface even in your own family, if perhaps you know the Lord, but they're not on the same page with you. Jesus said, "*Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword. For I have come to 'set a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law'; and 'a man's enemies will be those of his own household.'*" Matt 10:34-36 and It can be tough, and sometimes we just want removed from it all, we want to be isolated, insulated from all the conflict, but Jesus said.

Vs15-17

Now we obviously aren't really going to touch these last few vs but what's being led up to here is that the answer isn't found in isolation, or insulation, but in sanctification. The 1st request is for preservation, this 2nd one is for sanctification. Jesus says, "Don't take them *out* of the world, sanctify them *in* the world." God loves the world, is seeking to reach out to the world, but if you're not in the world, then how's He going to reach the world? He could do it any # of ways, but He's chosen to use the likes of you and me to communicate tangibly, observably and verbally who He is. So though we at times wish He *would've* prayed that we be taken out of the world, it's His will that we be *in* the world that we might be a light *to* the world. and This is the thought we'll pick up on next time, the fact that we're to be in the *world* but the world is not to be in *us*. God wants to use your life for His glory, to keep you through His name, and consecrate you for His service, so let's let Him have His way in us, that He might be glorified through us.

If God is speaking to your heart right where you sit, and you've never invited Jesus into your heart, you've never given to Him your life, God wants to redeem *you* and be glorified in you. But He won't force Himself upon you. You've got to open the door of your heart and invite Jesus Christ in. God has so loved you that He gave His only begotten Son to die for you, that He might absorb in Himself the penalty of your sin, of my sin. But what good is a gift that's never opened, what good will Jesus do you if you never receive Him as the Father's gift of love to you? and Though God wants to sanctify you *in* the world, He wants to call you *out* of the world that you might be set apart to Him. and If you desire to have your sin forgiven, and you're prepared to repent of your ways and give God His way in your life, then I want to invite you to receive Him today. There is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved other than the name of Jesus Christ and If God weren't seeking to deal with you, you wouldn't be here, so let me encourage you that if you've never received Jesus into your life that you do so today.