

## John Ch 17:15-26

“The Lord’s Prayer”

Over these last few weeks we’ve been taking the time to consider how the priorities of our High Priest (Jesus Christ) were “fleshed out” during His time upon the earth physically. What He did while in this earthly tent of a body with the time that He’d been appointed. and The reason we’ve been taking the time to really slow down and focus on these things is because we’ve all been appointed a specific amount of time upon this earth, and what we do with the time we’ve been allotted is vitally important if it’s to count for eternity.

Have you ever thought of what it is that’ll be said of you when you’re time on this earth is through? What are the facts that could be reported that would sum up your life has been about, truly? “I’ve written that many worship songs,” “Delivered that many sermons,” “I’ve worked on that many building projects,” or “I’ve given this much money.” and Though everyone of those things are commendable in and of themselves if done from a right heart, as we’ve stated before they’re really peripheral issues, they’re not the *primary priorities*. At least they weren’t to Jesus when He came to the Father to review before Him the things that were of primary importance regarding His life personally. Oh He tithed, sang praises, healed lots of people, and delivered lots of sermons. But He doesn’t mention those things here – not specifically, it wasn’t about percentages and *statistics* legally – it was about being sensitive to the Father and *submitting* to Him personally, totally, and completely.

As He submitted His life to the Father, the results of that spilled out into His life in 8 basic ways, and so far we’ve seen 5 of them, you know them well by now. #1 (Vs4) In regards to the Father He says, “I have glorified you on the earth” #2 “I have finished the work which You have given Me to do.” #3 (Vs6) “I have manifested Your name.” #4 (Vs8) “I have given to them the words which You have given Me” with that we coupled vs 14 “I have given them Your word” even though we see Rhema in vs 8 and Logos in vs 14, they both deal with the delivery of the Word of God. and #5 (Vs12) “Those whom You gave Me I have kept.”

As we submit our lives to Christ these same things will be of priority to our lives. Glorifying the Father, leading lives set apart to Jesus Christ, finishing the work, we want to hear “Well *done*” not “*Almost done*” but rather if He’s committed it to our trust we want to be careful to follow through and finish the work. It’ll be a priority for us to show who He is, and share His Word with the people whom He brings across our path, and we spoke of the need to keep the people whom He gives into the sphere of influence in our lives before Him in prayer. They’re the Lord’s, but the bible has called us to be a people of prayer, and we’re to be keeping one another in prayer. and As I said even when they rub us wrong we’re to pray for them right.

Well, we wrapped up our study last time drawing our focus to the fact that we need to be those who are diligent studiers of the Word of God, that we might be those who are able to employ the Word of God in situations as the need may arise. As Jesus said in vs 14, “I have given them Your Word.” But we realize that as the Word goes out, we’re often times confronted with hostility coming back, and because Christ has called you out of the world, the world hates you. He said, (read vs 14). We spoke briefly about the President Wednesday evening and how amazing it is that for all intents and purposes right now a Christian is the most powerful man on the face of the earth, that’s nothing short of miraculous. and I pray that God will bless him with another stay in the office that he might continue to stay the course of uprightness on the behalf of this nation. and That’s not to say you have to agree with his every political decision, but thank God, there’s a man who fears God in that office.

But perhaps that’ll bring a bit of insight as to why he’s always the target of such hostility via the media. Satan is the prince of the power of the air, and he’s utilizing the airwaves to voice the smear campaign of a man who seeks to honor the Lord, the world hates him, because he’s not of the world. If he were pro abortion, for legalizing gay marriages, behind the pornographic industry, the world would love him, but because he makes a stand for uprightness according to the biblical standard, he’s hated. and It can be tough, the frustrations, and aggravations of seeking to lead a life set apart to Christ in the midst of all the tribulation brought on from the world. and Sometimes we just want out, “Lord it would be so much easier if you would just take me out of this place,” but we noted how in vs 15 Jesus prayed.

Vs15

So Jesus didn’t pray that we would be taken out of the world, but that we would be kept by God from the evil one while in the world. God wants to reach the world with the message of Jesus Christ and Him crucified, how we can be forgiven of sin and made right in His sight by grace through faith in the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. That He was delivered up for *our* transgression, and raised up for our justification, but how is He going to reach out to them if you’re not here? He has chosen in His sovereignty to use man to reach out to man and if you’re going to be available to Him in that, then you need to be in the world, just not of the world.

So there’s a bit of a paradox here, God has called you *out* of the world, yet He wills that you remain *in* the world. But Jesus prays that you might be kept from the *world* getting into *you*, the Christian is to be like a boat in the water, as long as the boat is in the water everything is good, but as soon as the water begins to get in the boat it makes for a real problem. and There are a # of things that Jesus likened our relationship to the world as that we might glean the objective in our being here.

He said, *“You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men. You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.”* Matt 5:13-16 You and I are to be as the salt of the earth. Preserving it from rapid decay, creating thirst in the hearts of those who are in the world for the living waters of Jesus Christ

We’re to be a beacon of light in this dark world that people might see the folly of walking in our own ways and the need to walk in the ways prescribed in the Word of God. The bible says, *“Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path.”* Ps 119:105 So this is an objective for the believer, to be salt, to be light, to be *in* the world, sharing the love of God *with* the world, but being careful not to be *of* the world. and In order that you might be effective in your objective, Jesus prays that the Father would keep you from the evil one, which is a continuing emphasis on what He prayed in vs 11. The fact that our being kept in Christ isn’t something that depends solely upon us. Jesus knew that left to our own that the persuasion of the world, the pull of our flesh and the power of the enemy would be way too much for any of us to handle.

So, “Father, would You keep them, guard them by Your name, on the basis of Your nature, Your love, Your grace, Your mercy, Your compassion, Your holiness, righteousness and forgiveness, keep them from the evil one.” Ps 121:7 says, *“The LORD shall preserve you from all evil; He shall preserve your soul.”* and Again the bible says, *“...the Lord is faithful, who will establish you and guard you from the evil one.”* 2 Thess 3:3 The Lord keeps guard over your life, Ps 3:3 says *“...Thou, O LORD, art a shield about me,”* NAS and May that be a comfort to you regarding what ever it is that may be confronting your life today, if God be for you who can be against you. The bible says, *“When the enemy comes in like a flood, The Spirit of the LORD will lift up a standard against him.”* Isa 59:19 David said, *“The LORD is my light and my salvation; Whom shall I fear? The LORD is the strength of my life; Of whom shall I be afraid?”* Ps 27:1 So often we want to isolate, and insulate ourselves from the tough times that being in the world can bring into our lives, but notice what Jesus says here.

Vs16-17

We might experience frustrations, aggravations, irritations and tribulation, but the answer is not in isolation, or insulation, but rather in what? Sanctification, the 1<sup>st</sup> request of Jesus was for preservation, this next one is for sanctification, what does it mean to be sanctified? Literally it means to be *separated* from profane or wicked/worldly things and *dedicated/consecrated* to God.

Which means that somewhere in there is the element of repentance, because in order for me to be *separated* from the world means that at one time I was *joined to* and going with the flow of the world. But there's has to be that separation if I'm to experience consecration or sanctification unto God, there needs to be a change of direction in my life, which is what repentance is. I think Paul the apostle expounded the best on the idea of sanctification there in 2<sup>nd</sup> Cor Ch 6 let's look at it together (Vs 14-Ch 7Vs1).

So sanctification carries with in it the element of holiness, being set apart from the corruption *of* the world, even though we're *in* the world that we might be open *to* and available *for* God to use our lives. What is then the dynamic, or the agent that God uses to fuel our repentance, or to set us apart to Him? Truth, what is truth? What is truth in it's absolute? According to Jesus it's the Word of God, He says, "Sanctify them *by* Your truth, Your Word is truth." and with that comes a whole host of support text, Ps 19:7 "*The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul;*" Ps 119:9 "*How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word.*" "*Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You.*" Ps 119:11 "*Through Your precepts I get understanding; Therefore I hate every false way.*" Ps 119:104 Of course Eph 5:25-26 "*Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word,*" The Word of God is the truth of God that sets you apart, molds who you are, shapes your reasoning and your convictions so as to differentiate you *from* the world even though you're *in* the world.

Of course somewhere in there is the case for Christ Himself who is the *Living Word* of God (John Ch 1). and Really if we wanted to broaden this just a bit more (doing no injustice to the text itself) truth comes in a 3-fold set. 1 of which is what we just said, the written Word of God. It's a book from which we *learn*, another of which is the Son Himself who is truth incarnate. Jesus said, "*I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.*" John 14:6 and Again, "*Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice.*" John 18:37 So we have a person on which we *love*, and 3<sup>rdly</sup> the Holy Spirit who is the Spirit of what, truth. Remember Jesus said, "*...when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth;*" John 16:13 He is the power by which we *live*. So if you are *learning* from the *Word* of God, *loving* on the *Son* of God, and *living* as by the *Spirit* of God believe me you are walking in truth and in that God is Sanctifying Your life.

Vs18S

So not only has Jesus requested that we not be taken *out* of the world, but now He sends us *into* the world, which is our #6. "I also have sent them into the world." Which speaks of what? Service, Jesus has called us to serve Him while in the world, He said, "*Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves. Therefore be wise as serpents and harmless as doves.*" Matt 10:16 Even as the Father sent Jesus into the world with the *mission* of redemption, Jesus sends us into the world with the *message* of redemption. How are you doing with it? What are you doing with it?

Paul said, “*Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, (this is the mission, now for the message) be reconciled to God. For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*” 2 Cor 5:20-21 and Not only are we sent, but we’re called to raise up disciples and send them, equipping our kids for the work, creating opportunities for others to take part in the work, this was a key objective in our Lord’s life, and it needs to be in ours as well, to *win people to Jesus, disciple people in Jesus, and send people for Jesus.*

### Vs19

Now we need to understand here that Jesus in no way had any need to sanctify Himself inwardly, He was with out sin. and Perhaps a better word to express the idea here would be “consecrate” Jesus consecrated/dedicated Himself to the work God had called Him to (specifically the cross) for the sake of others, “for their sakes” for your sake and for mine. If Jesus wasn’t dedicated to His self-sacrifice on the cross we could never true consecration, or sanctification. Because He *is* our sanctification; the bible says, “*But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God -- and righteousness and sanctification and redemption--*” 1 Cor 1:30 Everything about Jesus was others oriented, and we do well to let Him have His way of consecration and sanctification in our lives for the sake of others as well. So that they might see Him in us, and be drawn to Him through us. As a side note you might notice that vs 17 deals with sanctification, Vs19 deals with sanctification, and vs 18 deals with service. So that the thought of service is Sandwiched by sanctification, we’ve been set apart for a reason, and it’s not mutual admiration, but that we might serve Him in holiness being holy for the Lord our God is holy.

### Vs20-21

This shows us that the Lord knew that even though they were going to forsake Him, that they’d return to Him, and be used by Him. and That through them you and I would come to believe on Him through their word, this is where we enter the equation in this prayer. Vs 20, hours before the cross, the Son of God was praying for you, and you know what He’s doing now? He’s praying for you Heb 7:25, “*Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.*” So not only was He praying for you at that time presently, but He continues to pray for you perpetually. What an awesome thing to know that Jesus Himself is praying for you personally, He calls you by your name, He knows you, and is praying for you. (Jesus prayed for those who would believe through their word in advance, and He’s given us an example that we should do as He has done, we need to pray for people in advance whom God will have us meet, i.e. missions, outreaches, daily life, that God would prepare their hearts that they might come to believe on Jesus through the word that is shared with them).

Here we have really the 3<sup>rd</sup> primary request of this prayer, the 1<sup>st</sup> was for preservation, the 2<sup>nd</sup> was for sanctification, this one is for what? Unification, “that they *all* may be one.” and The foundation of this unity is really equality of person, even as the Father and the Son are equal, are one, meaning “*There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all (notice) one in Christ Jesus.*” Gal 3:28 So we’re not talking denominational unity, or uniformity, but an organic unity whereby the Spirit of Christ places us in the body of Christ and in that we’re all apart of one body. It doesn’t matter what name you place on your church, you’re either in Christ or you’re not, and if you are then we are one, we’re members of one Body, that is the body of Christ. God has given unity to the body it’s not ours to make, it’s ours to maintain, Paul said that we’re to “...*keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.*” Eph 4:3-6 Now I’m not going to say that there’s been no failure on our end to keep the unity, but there’s been no failure on God’s end to grant the unity.

Vs22-23

#7 “The glory which You gave Me I have given them” Notice Jesus says, “The glory which You *gave* Me.” That’s key, because there’s an essential glory that was not *given* to Him by the Father. But was apart of His being intrinsically, vs 5, the glory He had before the world was, and that glory He shares with no one, we’ve established that. God will share His glory with no one, it’s His.

So what is the glory that wasn’t His essentially that was acquired by Him experientially? “*The hour has come that the Son of Man should be glorified. Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain. He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also. If anyone serves Me, him My Father will honor.*” John 12:23-26 Put in a single sentence; the glory that the Father gave the Son was the glory of service, self-sacrifice, and humility. In essence Jesus is saying here that this is the glory that He is giving to you and me, glorification through service, self-sacrifice, and humiliation. and Phil Ch 1:29- Ch 2 – about vs 16 would fit in real nice here. The question is are we walking in the glory that He has given to us?

Are these qualities the priority in our lives that He would have them to be? Rom 8:17 tells us that if we indeed suffer with Him, we’ll be glorified with Him, all the glory that He acquired via the cross He shares with you and me. The glory of His redemption, the glory of the resurrection, the glory of sanctification, of justification, He gives it all to you, walk in it, be true to it, allow Him to be glorified through it. Notice in vs 23 that this is the 2<sup>nd</sup> time that He says in the span of 3 vs that our unity carries with it that which validates to the world the fact of His divine origin. That the way we interact with one another is a witness of the reality of who He is and is a ratification of His mission. To me that’s pretty heavy.

In John 13:35 He said it like this, *“By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”* How high are the stakes of unity? God help us to crucify the flesh to lead consecrated lives, for the sake of others, that they might believe in the reality of the atoning sacrifice of Jesus Christ and Of course we can't let this vs go with out blowing our minds on the fact that there's no variance in the way the Father loves you vs the way He loves His own Son! Did you see what Jesus said? “You... have loved them as You have loved Me.” How amazing is that!? *“Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God!”* 1 John 3:1

#### Vs24

It's Jesus' prayer that you would endure to the end, that you might be with Him where He is. Why? That we might behold His glory, that which is His intrinsically, and that which He acquired personally via the cross. The bible says, *“Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him.”* 1 Cor 2:9 and You know, God has created some amazing things on this earth, some of the tropical beauty takes your breath away, and as beautiful as are some parts of creation, we have no clue what we're to behold, it's never even entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him. We'll see Jesus in all His glory, that's His prayer, that where He is, there you'll be. and As we read in vs 23 how the Father loves you just as He loves His own Son, here we read that He's loved His Son before the foundation of the world. Translation; He's loved you with an everlasting love, a love that transcends time.

#### Vs25-26

# 8 “I have declared to them Your name” I've not only demonstrated it tangibly and observably, I've not only lived it out practically, I've taught them the depths of it principally. When Moses asked God who He should say (to the Pharaoh) who sent him, God said I Am that I Am. Which leads us to as, “I Am... what?” Jesus taught us when He came along and filled in the blank. If you're hungering for more than what this life has to offer Jesus would say, “I am the bread of life” If you're feeling like you're in the dark Jesus would say, “I Am the light of the world.” Want to know how to enter into the Kingdom? Jesus would say, “I Am the door” Feel like you've gone astray? Jesus said, “I Am the Good Shepherd” whatever your need may be Jesus is there to meet the need of the deep recesses of your heart and of your soul. He lived it practically, and taught it principally.

We might say that Jesus practiced what He preached, He talked it and walked it. What about you, how about me, to preach it and not to practice it, is pointless. and As Jesus closes this prayer it all culminates in the secret of Christian living, the Father's love flowing through us, and Jesus Christ living in us, that's the secret of the Christian life. To have the love God as by the Son of God flowing into and out through you by the power of the Spirit of God.

The Lord's prayer, your preservation, sanctification, and unification, and may those things that we're of priority to our High Priest, be of priority to you and to Me. May you glorify the Father on the earth, finish His work which He's given you to do, may you manifest His name, give to people His Word, pray for those He's given into the sphere of your life, may you be of service to Him, walking in the glory He's given you, declaring in truth the reality of His name. These are the things that He came here to do, and may He continue to do them through you.

Today He has given to you His word, and if it's stirring in your heart, and there's something in you bearing witness to the reality of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ for your sin, and you know in your heart that you need to give your life to Him and today you're willing to respond to the message of Jesus Christ and Him crucified for your transgression and raised for your justification then today is the day of salvation for you. All you have to do is open your heart to Jesus, invite Him into your life, and as far as the east is from the west so far will your sin be cast from you and you'll leave this place with new life. That's the Lord's prayer for you, that you might believe that the Father sent Him and that by believing in Him you'll receive everlasting life.