

For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little and there a little.

Isaiah 28:10

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First Love Ministries, Inc.

PRAYER STUDY #205

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN

CHAPTER 17

Christ's high priestly, intercessory prayer

1. These words spake Jesus, and lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour is come; glorify Thy Son, that Thy Son also may glorify Thee.
2. As thou hast given Him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as Thou hast given Him.
3. And this is life eternal, that they might know Thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom Thou hast sent.
4. I have glorified Thee on the earth; I have finished the work which Thou gavest Me to do.
5. And now, O Father, glorify Thou Me with Thine own self with the glory which I had with Thee before the world was.
6. I have manifested Thy name unto the men which Thou gavest Me out of the world: Thine they were, and Thou gavest them Me; and they have kept Thy word.
7. Now they have known that all things whatsoever Thou hast give Me are of Thee.
8. For I have given unto them the words which Thou gavest Me, and they have received them, and have known surely that I came out of Thee, and they have believe that Thou didst send Me.
9. I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which Thou hast given Me; for they are Thine.
10. And all Mine are Thine, and Thine are Mine; and I am glorified in them.
11. And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to Thee. Holy Father, keep through Thine own name those whom Thou hast given Me, that they may be one, as We are.
12. While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Thy name: those that Thou gavest Me I have kept, and none of them is lost, but the son of perdition; that the scripture might be fulfilled.
13. And now come I to Thee, and these things I speak in the world, that they might have my joy fulfilled in themselves.

14. I have given them Thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.
15. I pray not that Thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that Thou shouldest keep them from evil.
16. They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.
17. Sanctify them through Thy truth: Thy word is truth.
18. As thou hast sent Me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world.
19. And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth.
20. Neither pray I for these alone, but of them also which shall believe on Me through their word;
21. That they all may be one, as Thou Father, art in Me, and I in Thee, that they also may be one in Us; that the world may believe that Thou hast sent Me.
22. And the glory which Thou gavest Me I have given them; that they may be one, even as We are one.
23. I in them, and Thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that Thou hast sent Me and hast loved them, as Thou hast loved Me.
24. Father, I will that they also, whom Thou hast given Me, be with Me where I am; that they may behold My glory, which Thou hast given Me; for Thou lovest Me before the foundation of the world.
25. O righteous Father, the world hath not known Thee; but I have known Thee, and these are known that Thou hast sent Me.
26. And I have declared unto them Thy name, and will declare it: that the love wherewith Thou hast loved Me may be in them, and I in them.

This is the longest prayer in the Bible.

Sometimes between his betrayal and his arrest, Jesus prays this high priestly prayer for His people. Jesus knew what lay ahead, and He knew that His disciples would scatter, but with great love He intercedes to the Father for those He loved. This prayer, however, is not just on behalf of those who believed then, but it is also for all who would believe in Him in the future.

One of His requests to the Father is that His disciples might be in unity with each other. He asks that His disciples be as one even as He and His Father are one. That is an astonishing request that we are so quick to overlook. Being in one accord for the body was of extreme importance to Jesus. Yet we are so easily offended with each other and divided.

Another request is that His followers have fullness of joy. We know that one of the main ways that joy comes is being in His presence. Hebrews 12:3

tells us that He Himself went to the cross for the joy that was set before Him. For Jesus that joy was the joy of fellowship with His Bride. He wants all of us to know that joy, the joy of fellowship with Him.

Finally, Jesus gives believers the glory that His Father gave to Him. This seems to contradict Isaiah 42:8 and 48:11 which tells us that He does not share His glory with another. The context of these scriptures implies sharing His glory with another rival or with an idol, but John 17:22 suggests that, since we are in Him, that we are not “another” but in the family and His glory is our glory and our glory is His.

The ugly and cruel cross glorified God because Jesus went to the cross in obedience to the Father, and it completed His work. By going to the cross Jesus showed that there was absolutely nothing that God was not willing to do to redeem mankind from the legal right of Satan to send them to Hell. Barclay says of the cross, “It was the proof that human beings could do their worst and that Jesus could still triumph. It was as if God pointed at the cross and said: ‘That is what *human beings* think of my Son,’ and then pointed at the resurrection and said, ‘That is what *I* think of my Son.’ The cross was the worst that could be done to Jesus; but not even that could conquer Him. The glory of the resurrection obliterated the shame of the cross.” The Lord paid the supreme sacrifice but came back home to the Father in triumph. He had defeated all the power of Satan, Hell, death, and the grave.

Barclay also tells us of how important verses 6-8 are in reference to the name of the Lord. Barclay says, “In the time of Jesus the name of God was so sacred that ordinary people were not even suppose to know it, far less to speak it. God was the remote, invisible king, whose name was not for ordinary men and women to speak. So Jesus is saying: ‘I have told you God’s name; that name which is so sacred can be spoken now because of what I have done. I have brought the remote, invisible God, so close that even ordinary mortals can speak to him and take his name up on their lips.’”

Notice in verses 9-19 that Jesus did not ask that His disciples be taken out of this world. He prayed that they might have victory in the world. Remember last week that Jesus ends Chapter 16 telling His disciples to be of good cheer because He has overcome the world. He intends for us to overcome in this life even in a world that is spinning out of control. We are to live in this world and yet not be of the world. This is a difficult but possible task, and increasingly we must walk in the way of the cross as the evil around us grows greater.

The excellent Bible teacher J. Vernon McGee summarizes this wonderful prayer as follows:

In review, this is what this prayer says about believers and the world: 1. Given to Christ out of the world (v.6), 2. Left in the world (v.11), 3. Not of the world (v.14), 4. Hated by the world (v.14), 5. Kept from the evil one (v.15), 6. Sent into the world (v.18), 7. Manifested in unity before the world (v. 23).

In addition, McGee points out: *These are the requests of Christ for His own: 1. Preservation (v. 11), 2. Joy-fullness of the Spirit (v.13), 3. Deliverance-from evil (v. 15), 4. To be set apart-“sanctified” (v. 17), 5. Unity-“be one”-(v. 21), 6. Fellowship-“be with me” (v.24), 7.Satisfaction-“behold my glory” (v.24).*

Not of This World **Bob Hartman**

We are pilgrims in a strange land
We are so far from our homeland
With each passing day it seems so clear
This world will never want us here
We're not welcome in this world of wrong
We are foreigners who don't belong

We are envoys, we must tarry
With this message we must carry
There's so much to do before we leave
Our mission here can never fail
And the gates of Hell will not prevail

Jesus told us men would hate us
But we must be of good cheer
He has overcome this world of darkness
And soon we will depart from here.

CHORUS

We are strangers, we are aliens
We are not of this world.