

The Lord's Prayer, Part 2

There are three phases to this prayer:

- (1) The Lord prays for Himself (John 17:1-5).
- (2) The Lord prays for the disciples (John 17:6-19).
- (3) The Lord prays for the disciples yet to be (John 17:20-26).

I. THE LORD PRAYS FOR HIMSELF (John 17:1-5).

John 17:1-5

- A. Demarcation (verse 1)
- B. Designation (verse 2)
- C. Definition (verse 3)
- D. Declaration (verse 4)

[This is where we left off last Sunday.]

F. Deification (verse 5)

When Christ speaks of the glory He had with the Father before the creation of the world, He was declaring His Deity. Colossians 1:16, 17: "For by Him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by Him, and for Him: And He is before all things, and by Him all things consist."

II. THE LORD PRAYS FOR HIS DISCIPLES (John 17:6-19)

A. Present (verse 6)

The believers are the love gift from the Father to the Son. There is a loving interconnection in the Personalities of the Trinity. I John 5:7: "For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one." In the case of some religions, there is one personality of a tyrannical, uncaring god. When this god is by himself, there is no love to be offered or to be received. Therefore he has no love to give his followers. In contrast, we see the infinite love of God in this beautiful chapter showing us that God was loving within the Holy Trinity long before mankind or this world was even created. This is seen in the last words of this great prayer, "...that the love wherewith thou hast loved Me may be in them, and I in them" (John 17:26c).

B. Proof (verses 7, 8)

These verses remind of us of the life-changing quality of the Word of God. John 6:63: "It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, *they* are spirit, and *they* are life."

Proverbs 30:5: "Every word of God *is* pure: he *is* a shield unto them that put their trust in him."

Ephesians 3:4: "Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand...."

Colossians 1:26, 27

C. Priest (verses 9, 10)

What a privilege to know that Christ, our High Priest prays for us. It is a terrifying thought to think that a person can reject Christ and His offer of salvation and get to the point that he or she is no longer prayed for. Genesis 6:3; Proverbs 29:1; Matthew 11:23; Proverbs 1:22-33; Hebrews 10:31.

D. Preserved (verses 11, 12)

I Thessalonians 5:23; II Timothy 1:12; Jude, verse 24.

E. Pleasure (verse 13)

Psalm 16:11: "Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence *is* fulness of joy; at thy right hand *there are* pleasures for evermore."

John 16:24: "Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full."

A miserable Christian is a contradiction.

Samuel Rutherford spoke much about the "beatific vision," which is the vision of Christ in glory. Two hundred years later a dear Scottish pastor's wife named Anne Cousins wrote a hymn, a poem based on Rutherford's words in 1854 and the title of it was "The Last Words of Samuel Rutherford." It was based on the *sehnsucht* (deep yearning and longing) for the person of Christ whom he had loved without seeing for all those many years. The hymn was re-named "The Sands of Time Are Sinking. It has 19 verses. This is my favorite one that reminds all who know and love the Lord Jesus what divine pleasure we have to look forward to:

The Bride eyes not her garment,
But her dear Bridegroom's face;
I will not gaze at glory
But on my King of grace;
Not at the crown He giveth
But on His pierced hand:
The Lamb is all the glory
Of Immanuel's land.

F. Patrilineal

John 15:14

Because of our inextricable connection to our Father through Jesus by the Holy Spirit, our acceptance in this world will be the same as Christ's acceptance.

John 15:18-20

G. Protection

John 17:15, 16

Isaiah 54:17, "No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue *that* shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This *is* the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their righteousness *is* of me, saith the LORD."

H. Purpose

John 17:17-19

"Sanctify" means so much more than to separate from the world unto holiness. Sanctification means not only separation from the world as spoken of in I John 2:15, but it also means separation unto Christ (John 14:23). But in the context of our passage it means separation for service. The Lord Jesus says in John 17:19, "...I sanctify myself..." So it cannot pertain to becoming holy, because Christ cannot become holier than He already is. Our Lord is saying that He was separating Himself to His death on the cross, His burial and subsequent resurrection. This was His purpose for coming into the world. The Lord said to Pilate, "...To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world..." (John 18:37b). Through Christ's driving purpose in dying for our sins, His prayer will be answered that we might be sanctified. And we are not separated to sit upon the stool of "do nothing" and whittle on the stick of "do less." Christ has sanctified us for the purpose to serve Him. John 17:18: "As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world."

Returning to John 18:37b-38a, we read, "...To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice. Pilate saith unto him, What is truth? And when he had said this, he went out again..." How sad; Pilate asks the question, "...What is truth?" but does not give Jesus, the full embodiment of all the truth in the universe, an opportunity to answer. On the other hand, the true disciples of our Lord are sanctified by the Living Word, through the written word (John 17:17). And thus our purpose is revealed in I John 3:18, 19a: "My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth. And hereby we know that we are of the truth..."

-Pastor Pope-