

# “Jesus Prays...”

John Chapter 17

## Read 17:1-5 “Jesus Prays for Himself”

v.1- The Hymn “Glorify Thy Name” says: “*Father, we love You. We worship and adore You. Glorify Thy Name in all the earth.*” This is Jesus’ prayer; that the Father may receive the ultimate glory by way of the Son.

Throughout the book of John *glorification* has had a specific meaning: “the sacrifice of the Son of God”. In the sacrificial death of Jesus, God’s love is overwhelmingly revealed. ( John 3:16, John 15:13)

v.3 – What is eternal life, and how is it obtained? Look up: 1 John 5:11-13

Eternal life is not just knowledge of God; it includes acceptance of the Son, who God sent. Look up: James 2:19

v.5 - The mystery of the perfect unity of the Father and Son is revealed once again. God proclaims that He shares His glory with no one. If the Father and Son share their glory, they must be one. Look up: Isaiah 42:8, John 1:1-2 & 1:14

## Read 17:6-19 “Jesus Prays for His Disciples”

v.6-8 – The KJV reads; “*I have manifested your name to men...*” - Jesus did not simply teach about the name (character) of God, He manifested (displayed) that character. Look up: Ephesians 5:1

v.10 – God’s glory is the revelation of His character and presence. The lives of Jesus’ true followers reveal both.

v.11 – Jesus speaks more of this “*oneness*” in v.21-23. This is not merely an agreement of common thought among those who have heard the teaching of Jesus. It is a matter of shared purpose and life, and a unity steadfast on a specific goal.

v.12 – Judas’ betrayal was a fulfillment prophecy (Psalm 41:9, John 13:18). This does not mean God predestined Judas for Hell, but rather the choice Judas was going to make was foreknown.

The reference is to Judas's own character (John 12:6). Judas had heard the words and seen the deeds and even been the recipient of Jesus’ love, but in his heart he did not receive with humility, faith and obedience the one sent from the Father. When someone rejects the offer of life he is doomed to destruction. The tree became known by its fruit. Jesus offered life to Judas, but he did not force Judas to accept it. Jesus does not force anyone to acceptance.

v. 14 - This word of God sets believers apart from the world and causes the world to hate what it does not understand.

## Read 17:20-26 “Jesus Prays for Future Believers”

v.20 – This prayer is for us! This verse could appropriately be translated... “*My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for \_\_\_\_\_ (insert your name) who will believe in me through their message.*” Today Jesus continues to petition His Father on our behalf. He is also praying for those yet to believe, but will because of the message they’ll hear from us.

v. 21, 23 – Why did Jesus desire the unity of believers?

Jesus did not pray for uniformity, or institutional duplicates of believers; but rather a bringing together of the Church’s diversity and individual gifts. The foundation of our unity is the same as the foundation of unity between the Father and the Son: equality of person. When looking up at the cross, we are all on the same ground. Look up: 1 Corinthians 12:12

v.25-26 - Jesus begins with the bad news: “*the world does not know you*”: the Father. But then comes “*The Good News*” (The Gospel). Jesus knows the Father and the world may know the Father through the Son.

The purpose of Jesus' making God's name known to them is not that they would merely have information about God, but that they would have intimacy with God. In his ministry Jesus revealed the Father's love for them (v. 23). It is through Jesus’ being in them that they will receive the love of the Father; it is the Father's love for the Son that they are enabled to share. Our relationship with God the Father is mediated through Jesus the Son. Look up: 1 Timothy 2:5