

1.20.19 ~ John 17:6-10,
Jesus Prays for His Disciples: Part 1.

Read John 17:6-10... Before the foundations of the earth were laid, God determined that He would have a people of His very own, and that He would adopt them (**Ephesians 1:5**) as His own children and would provide for them an eternal inheritance (**Ephesians 1:11-14**).

Without God's mercy and grace, all humans would have remained dead in their sins (**Ephesians 2:1**); for it is only because of God's great love and mercy that we are made acceptable to Him, and are able to experience life with God (**Ephesians 2:4-5**).

We cannot acquire righteousness through any human virtue, act, or heritage, but only through the love of God in Christ (cf **Romans 3:23; 6:23; 5:8**). The truth is (**1 Timothy 2:3-4**), God wants everyone to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth; meaning, we must acknowledge our sinfulness, asking God to forgive and save us (cf **Romans 10:9-10, 13**).

Read John 17:6... Jesus makes it clear that He is praying for those to whom He has manifested the Father's name, i.e., for those to whom He has revealed the Father: what He is like, what He desires, what He commands.

John 1:17-18 tells us no one has seen God except God's Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth, for He alone has made Him known to us.

John 14:6, Jesus said to His Disciples, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me." **7**, "If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; from now on you know Him, and have seen Him."

Colossians 1:15, "He [Jesus] is the image of the invisible God."

Colossians 2:9, "For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form" [*Immanuel*, God with us].

So, we are able to know the Father through the death, and resurrection of His Son, Jesus Christ. All those who repent, placing their trust and faith in Jesus, have their sins forgiven and they immediately come into an intimate and eternal relationship with the Father.

Jesus (**John 17:6**) is talking about the men given to Him by the Father, out of the world. As believers, the disciples (and subsequently all true Christians) are no longer a part of the world system that rejects and opposes God, for God has (**Colossians 1:13**), "rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son."

Before anything was created, God the Father chose to redeem and give these men to His Son, not because they deserved it, but as an expression of His love for

His Son; although, it is said of them in **John 17:6** that, “they have kept [the Father’s] word.”

The disciples had believed and obeyed God’s Word, resulting in saving faith (see **Ephesians 2:8-10**). Obedience is a synonym for faith, without which, there can be no sincere love for, or intimate relationship with, Christ (cf **John 14:15, 21, 24; 15:10**).

Read John 17:7-8... Jesus is praying for these 11, who had been with Him for several years; they are just now really beginning to understand the depth of the ministry the Father had sent His One and Only Son, to fulfill.

These men would not fully understand the divine ramifications of what Jesus accomplished, until after his death and resurrection; but even now, they believed He came from and spoke for God.

The disciples had repeatedly observed Jesus praying to God, His Father (Matthew 14:23; Mark 1:35; Luke 5:16; 6:12; 9:18, 28; 11:1-4); and they had witnessed the Father’s expressed approval of His Son, on the mountain (with Moses and Elijah, Matthew 17:5), when Jesus was transfigured before Peter, James, and John, and the Father said, “This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased; listen to Him!”

The disciples believed the words of Jesus were from the Father and that they were true (see **John 6:68-69; 14:10, 24**). Scripture is replete with examples of the disciples’ expressed belief in the divine origin and mission of Jesus Christ, even if they did not fully understand it at that time.

Most of us, who belong to the Lord, understand the tension between genuinely believing what the Bible says, and yet, not being able to completely understand what it means or how it can be so.

Read John 17:9-10... These eleven had walked with Jesus and demonstrated the genuineness of their faith; they were a gift to Jesus from the Father, and Jesus was confident that the Father would protect them, while He was on the cross and in the grave, and even as He returned to heaven, to be with the Father.

God loves all people, even those who reject the Son and the message of salvation. But Jesus is praying here for those who do believe, and ultimately, for those who will believe, in Him.

Jesus does ultimately pray for unbelievers, from the cross (**Luke 23:34**), “Father forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.” But here before His arrest and subsequent crucifixion, He prays for those who have been given to Him by the Father, for His death will provide atonement [eternal redemption] for them.

The eleven disciples belong to God and they will soon receive the indwelling of God's Spirit. They were the first Christians, the adopted children of God, members of God's household, sheep of His flock, bond slaves of Christ Jesus, and citizens of the eternal kingdom of God.

Jesus declares all things that are the Father's are His, and all that are His are the Father's, for there is total impartiality in ownership between the Father and the Son, and therefore all Christians, in fact all things, belong to the Father and the Son equally.

The faith of these men, their belief that Jesus is God's Son, brings glory to the Lord, even now, prior to the cross; and after Jesus ascends back to the Father, these disciples will continue to bring glory to both the Father and the Son, as will all those who trust and believe in Christ from that time on.

Just like those first believers, we are all commanded (**Matthew 5:16**) to let the Light of Christ show in and through our lives, so that others might ultimately come to salvation, giving glory to the Father in heaven.

2Corinthians 4:6, "For God, who said, 'Light shall shine out of darkness,' is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ."

1Peter 1:3-9, "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials, so that the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ; and though you have not seen Him, you love Him, and though you do not see Him now, but believe in Him, you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, obtaining as the outcome of your faith the salvation of your souls."

God will receive glory throughout eternity, as exemplified by John's narrative of a great scene in heaven (**Revelation 4:8-11; 5:11-14**), ..."Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God, the Almighty, who was and who is and who is to come." ..."Worthy are You, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and because of Your will they existed, and were created." ..."Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing." And every created thing which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all things in them, I heard

saying, 'To Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, be blessing and honor and glory and dominion forever and ever.'" Amen!

What an honor and joy it is to know, to love, and to serve the Living God by feeding upon, obeying, and proclaiming His Word; for we have been granted eternal life through God's Son, and we have His Spirit in us, in order for us to demonstrate the presence, pleasure, and power of God through our lives, as we are conformed to the character and nature of Christ.

We need not fear anything, but have full confidence that (**Romans 8:1**), "there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus," and the sovereign truth is (**Romans 8:38-39**), "neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Christians, above all the people in the world, have reason for hope, now and forever, because of Jesus Christ, God's Son, Lord and Savior.

He was crucified to take our punishment for sin, resurrected to demonstrate and eternal life, while proclaiming victory over sin, death and hell; and He is coming back to take us to be with Him in heaven forever!

That is the message we each need to be proclaiming, for as long as we have life on this earth, to anyone and everyone who will listen, so that they might hear, believe, and be saved.

Pastor Mike

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