

2.03.19 ~ **John 17:20-26**,
Jesus Prays for All Who Will Believe in Him

Read John 17:20-21... Clearly, there is a transition in Jesus' prayer at this point. He has been praying for the eleven, but now He goes on to pray for everyone who will believe in Him throughout time.

Jesus prays for believers to be in Him and the Father, this made effectual by the presence of the Holy Spirit. True belief is in the Son and the Father, that the Son was sent from the Father into the world.

The fulfillment of Jesus' prayer began on the day of Pentecost; when the 120 believers in Jerusalem were filled with God's Spirit, at the same time being made as one, placed into the body of Christ (**1Corinthians 12:13**), "For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit."

Read John 17:22-23... The glory of the Father is in the Son, and the glory of the Son is in the Father, for they are in total unity; therefore, believers are able to be in total unity, just as the Father and the Son are in unity; in fact, unity is a character trait of God and is to be exemplified in God's Church (see **Ephesians 4:4-6**).

The Father is in the Son, the Son is in us, and we are in Him (cf. **2Corinthians 5:17; Galatians 2:20**). Our purpose is to expose the world to the love of the Father through Christ in us, as Jesus said (**John 14:21**), "he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and will disclose Myself to him," (**verse 23**), "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our [home] with him."

Look again at **John 17:23...** This is indeed a marvelous statement, God the Father loves us as He loves His own Son. The Father gave us to His Son as a love gift, and because of what Jesus accomplished on the cross, He is actually a gift to us (cf. **Romans 5:8; 6:23**).

Read John 17:24... The greatest desire of Christ is for us to be with Him in heaven for eternity, where we will see the Son of God unveiled in the fullness of His glory, not as Peter, James and John saw Him (**Matthew 17:1-2**), "Jesus took with Him Peter and James and John his brother, and led them up on a high mountain by themselves. And He was transfigured before them; and His face shone like the sun, and His garments became as white as light."

Paul said it this way:

1Corinthians 13:12, "For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face; now I know in part, but then I will know fully just as I also have been fully known."

We'll see God's Son, in all His majesty, as John records:

Revelation 5:11, "Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing," (**verse 13**), "To Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, *be* blessing and honor and glory and dominion forever and ever." Amen.

Read John 17:25-26... Most of the world, at the time of Christ, like most of the world today, did not know the love of the Father, because they did not believe in or know the love of the Son.

John 3:18, "He who believes in [the Son] is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God." **36**, "He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him."

The Son of God knows the Father intimately and has always known Him, just as the Father has always known the Son and has been in fellowship with Him. True believers and followers of Jesus Christ know the Father, for they have come to know Him through the witness of Christ to the eleven disciples and then the ministry of the disciples to the world, as Jesus told them (**Acts 1:8**), "you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth."

Jesus made the Father known to everyone who would listen and believe, for He is the Word of God, the Revelation of God in human flesh.

See **John 1:1-2**. The Greek word translated "Word" [*Logos*] means the embodiment of all things God, with full authority, power and wisdom. Jesus is God's revelation of Himself to the world.

John tells us that not only was the Word in the beginning, but that *the Word was with God* - the Greek phrase actually means "face to face," i.e., the *Word* [Christ, God the Son] was in an intimate, up close and personal, relationship with God the Father long before anything was created; and not only that, *the Word was God*. Jesus Christ is God!

John 1:14, "The Word became flesh and made "His" dwelling among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of *grace* and *truth*," (**verse 18**), "No one has seen God at any time; the only begotten God who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained Him."

No wonder Jesus said (**John 14:6-7**), "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; from now on you know Him, and have seen Him." (**verse 9**), "He who has seen Me has seen the Father."

Paul proclaims (**Colossians 2:9**), "in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form."

Hebrews 1:3, "[Christ] is the radiance of [God's] glory, the exact representation of His nature."

The love the Father and the love of the Son is known by those who are saved; in fact, Christ lives in you, if your faith is genuine, as Paul tells us:

2Corinthians 13:5, "Test yourselves *to see* if you are in the faith; examine yourselves! Or do you not recognize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you—unless indeed you fail the test."

Jesus commands us:

Luke 10:27, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and [love] your neighbor as yourself." You cannot obey that command unless you genuinely belong to God the Father through Jesus Christ the Son.

John declares

1John 5:11-13, "God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life. These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life."

How do you know you are saved?

Mark 1:15, "Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of God, and saying, 'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.'"

Mark 1:17, "And Jesus said to them, 'Follow Me, and I will make you become fishers of men.'"

What is the gospel?

1Corinthians 15:1-4, "Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and He was buried, and He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures."

[After which He appeared to Peter, then to the Twelve, and then to many more over a 40 day period, at the end of which He ascended back to the Father in heaven.

No wonder Paul declares:

Romans 10:9-10, "that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation."

So, what must you do to be saved?

Repent of your sins, confessing Jesus Christ as Lord, believing in Him alone as the Savior who died on a cross, taking your punishment for sin; and that He was buried, but God raised Him back to life, so that everyone who calls on Him [prays to Him] for the forgiveness of sin, will be saved.

Peter proclaims (**Acts 4:12**), "there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved" [This is clearly speaking of Jesus Christ, God's Son, Lord and Savior: crucified, resurrected, and coming again].

In **John 17:20-26**, Jesus prays for all who will believe in Him, setting us an example the we are to pray to God continually, with confidence, without ceasing, knowing that He hears and responds to the prayers of His people.

Hebrews 4:16, "Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in [our] time of need."

Pastor Mike
>'(((><