

Title: What Christ Prays For Us (Part 1)

Passage: John 17

Introduction

Surrounding Broken Culture

Romans 1:18, 21-24, 26, 28, 32

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth....For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Claiming to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things.

Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity...For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions...And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done...Though they know God's righteous decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them.

Still, Nothing Hinders the Advance of God's Kingdom and Purposes

Acts 15:14

Simeon has related how God first visited the Gentiles, to take from them a people for his name.

Matthew 16:18

And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

- Therefore, we should still be filled with joyful expectation.
- We have God's timeless assurance that His timeless purposes will prevail.

Context of Passage:

John 16:33

I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."

I have said these things to you

- John chapters 13-16
- What: Jesus' sharing of key truths and promises during Last Supper
- When: final hours before Jesus' arrest and crucifixion.

that in me you may have peace

- Why? Jesus knows what is to come

In the world you will have tribulation.

- tribulation
 - refers to end times

- refers to persecution of Christians

But take heart; I have overcome the world.

- have = past tense = certainty of promises fulfilled.

After Jesus prayed:

John 18:1

When Jesus had spoken these words, he went out with his disciples across the brook Kidron, where there was a garden, which he and his disciples entered.

- Proceeded out to see ravine that would have been spilled blood of sacrificed lambs for the Passover.

Passage: John 17:1-11

When Jesus had spoken these words, he lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do. And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed.

"I have manifested your name to the people whom you gave me out of the world. Yours they were, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything that you have given me is from you. For I have given them the words that you gave me, and they have received them and have come to know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am praying for them. I am not praying for the world but for those whom you have given me, for they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I am glorified in them. And I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one.

EXPOSITION

Introduction

Question: If your name could be at the top of someone's prayer list, who's list would you want it to be on?

What is Jesus doing right now?

Romans 8:34

Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.

- for us = those who belong to Him through faith in Christ

Hebrews 7:25

Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.

- Jesus
 - Is able to save to the uttermost
 - Lives to make intercession for us
- Implications
 - When you feel weary or discouraged, find comfort and joy knowing the truth of Jesus' praying for you
- When did Jesus ministry of intercession begin? John 17

John 17:20

"I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word,

- includes today to those who believe in Jesus!

Overview

Jesus' Requests in His Prayer:

1. Eternal security
2. Joy
3. Safety
4. Sanctity/Purity
5. Unity
6. Testimony
7. Charity

1 John 5:14-15

And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him.

I. ETERNAL SECURITY

John 17:11b-12

Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one. While I was with them, I kept them in your name, which you have given me. I have guarded them, and not one of them has been lost except the son of destruction, that the Scripture might be fulfilled.

Keep them

- Keep = keep secure/protect
 - How? By God's name

in Your name

- Name = God's essence (character, attributes) = who He is.

- Power
- Faithfulness
- Love
- Sovereign

- In Your Name = Illustration like being placed within a protective fortress

Proverbs 18:10

The name of the LORD is a strong tower; the righteous man runs into it and is safe.

God is always faithful / keeps His own

- Perseverance of the Savior

Philippians 1:6

And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

John 10:28-30

I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. I and the Father are one."

- If you are God's through faith in Christ, no one can take you out of God's hand!

II. JOY

John 17:13

But now I am coming to you, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have my joy fulfilled in themselves.

III. SAFETY

John 17:14-15

I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one.

IV. SANCTITY/PURITY

John 17:16-18

They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world.

V. UNITY

John 17:20-22

"I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one,

VI. TESTIMONY

John 17:23-24

I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me. Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.

VII. CHARITY

John 17:25-26

O righteous Father, even though the world does not know you, I know you, and these know that you have sent me. I made known to them your name, and I will continue to make it known, that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.