

Title: What Christ Prays For Us (Part 2)

Passage: John 17

Context of Passage:

After Last Supper in the Upper Room, Jesus and His disciples left and were making their way to the Garden of Gethsamane.

- Along the way, passed along the Kidron Ravine where Passover lambs were being slaughtered.
- Here, Jesus stopped and prayed to God the Father. (John 17)
 - John 17: a picture of Jesus' ministry of prayer

Jesus Ministry of Prayer

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.

When did Jesus' ministry of intercession begin?

- Here as recorded in John 17

John 17:9, 20

I am praying for them. I am not praying for the world but for those whom you have given me, for they are yours...I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word,

- includes today to those who come to Jesus by faith!
- Story: John Knox - repetitive reading of John 17

Passage: John 17:9-26

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. 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. But now I am coming to you, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have my joy fulfilled in themselves. 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. 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. And for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth.

"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, 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. 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."

EXPOSITION

Overview

Jesus' Requests in His Prayer:

1. Eternal security
2. Joy
3. Safety
4. Sanctity/Purity
5. Unity
6. Eternal destiny

I. ETERNAL SECURITY

- Be kept secure

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 secure
- In Your name = based in the full character and attributes of God

John 10:27-30

My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. 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.

2 Timothy 2:13

if we are faithless, He remains faithful— for He cannot deny himself.

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.

Question: Which doctrine brings great assurance?

- Consider: Knowing those who truly know the Lord Jesus Christ will be taken up in the glories of heaven.

Romans 8:29-30

For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

- justified / glorified = past tense (it is done!)

II. JOY

- Have Jesus' joy within.

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.

- My joy = joy based in relationship with God the Father to the fullest measure (not mere happiness or avoid grief/difficulty)
- Joy = divine joy from an unwavering relationship with God where no change in circumstances can shake it (doesn't mean feelings of sadness and pain won't be felt but grounded in the truth)

Jesus' love

- everything He did and does is motivated by His love for you.

John 13:1

Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.

John 15:11

These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

- "these things I have spoken to o you" = repeated words in John 13 and in John 17 = where does true joy come from = His Word, which is true.

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.

Romans 5:10

For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life.

- Point: Joy = right understanding of who God is as revealed in His Word = joy in God's Word.

Psalms 19:8

the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes;

Psalms 16:11

You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

III. SAFETY

- spiritual safety and protection from the evil one.

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.

- I have given them your word = God's Word is the key and foundation of faith
- I do not ask that you take them out of the world = God has a calling on your life towards the proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ
- you keep them from the evil one = prayer request

you keep them from the evil one

Ephesians 6:12

For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

- Goal of enemies = destruction of saving faith in Christ

2 Corinthians 4:4

In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

Example of Job

Job 1:7-9

The LORD said to Satan, "From where have you come?" Satan answered the LORD and said, "From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking up and down on it." And the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, who fears God and turns away from evil?" Then Satan answered the LORD and said, "Does Job fear God for no reason?"

Job 19:25-27a

For I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last he will stand upon the earth. And after my skin has been thus destroyed, yet in my flesh I shall see God, whom I shall see for myself, and my eyes shall behold, and not another.

Example of Peter

Luke 22:31-32 (Jesus Foretells Peter's Denial)

"Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat, but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers."

- prayed for you that your faith may not fail = Jesus prayer
- And when you have turned again = even with failure, he will turn back to God
- When Satan says he is done with you, Jesus is never done with you.

2 Thessalonians 3:3-4

But the Lord is faithful. He will establish you and guard you against the evil one. And we have confidence in the Lord about you, that you are doing and will do the things that we command. 1 John 4:4

Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.

IV. SANCTITY/PURITY

- Make holy and pure through God's Word

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.

Sanctify them in the truth; your Word is truth.

- sanctify = make them holy = set them apart = make them and keep them pure
- How sanctify? "In the truth; your Word is truth".
 - God's Word is key.

Psalms 119:9

How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to your word.

Hebrews 4:12

For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

2 Timothy 3:16-17

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

- breathed out by God = inspired and comes from God
- Effect? Profitable for teaching, reproof, correction, and training in righteousness.

Romans 12:2

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

- "Dusty Bibles leads to dirty lives."
- If you are not being continually refined by God's Word, you will be conformed to the world. The world's standards are every-changing and worthless. They are intended to destroy God's people.

Luke 16:15

And he said to them, "You are those who justify yourselves before men, but God knows your hearts. For what is exalted among men is an abomination in the sight of God.

Mark 8:36

For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul?

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; He will surely do it.

V. UNITY

- spiritual internal 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,

they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us

- spiritual unity grounded in God and His truth
- Not meaning to compromise doctrine to superficial external unity)

Internal spiritual unity

Ephesians 4:4-6

There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

- One church = church of Jesus Christ
- One spirit = Holy Spirit
- One hope = heaven
- One Lord = only Jesus Christ as revealed in His Word
- One faith = in God's truth, doesn't change
- One baptism = death = crucifixion of Christ
- One God and Father of all

VI. ETERNAL DESTINY

- Be in heaven where Jesus is.

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.

- whom you have given me = you are love gift from God the Father to God the Son.

I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am

- Jesus prayer is that He wants us to be with where He is - heaven!

to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.

VII. HIS LOVE

- experience Jesus' love.

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.

John 14:3

And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.

- God wants you to be where He is in heaven and to know His love.

Ephesians 3:17-19

so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.