

C H A P T E R

◇ 17

The importance of this chapter can not be over estimated. It should be read and read again. It should be read and prayed over. It should be read and meditated upon. It is Christ's intercessory prayer for His disciples, and it shows His love for them and His deep concern that they fulfill their ministry. Paul, in his letters, speaks of several mysteries, including the mystery of how Jews and Gentiles would be joined in one body, Ephesians 3:3-8; the mystery of Godliness, 1 Timothy 3:16; and the mystery of the indwelling Christ, Col. 1:26-27. This latter mystery is still little understood and even more important, it is very little in evidence in the lives of Christians today. The basis for this teaching is laid in Christ's teaching in this chapter and these mysteries will remain mysteries until Christ's teaching is understood and accepted. Read the entire chapter.

Verse 1. This verse marks a transition from teaching His disciples, chapters 13 through 16, to prayer addressed to the Father, first for Himself and then for His disciples. But it is not a self-centered petition. He prays to be glorified that glory may rebound to the Father. No greater honor could come to the Father than that the Son finish the work He was sent into the world to do.

350. Jesus prayed that He might be _____ only that the Father might be _____ through Him.

Verses 2 and 3. Early in His ministry, Jesus had said that He had not come to condemn nor to judge, but to save. Here again He said that He came to give eternal life to all whom God had given, and God had given Him all who accepted Him. Jesus said that "eternal life" is to know God and Jesus Christ. To know God and Christ is much more than just knowing about them. We get to know about God and Christ through Bible study. We get to know Him better and better by letting the Holy Spirit live a life like Christ's in us.

351. Jesus came into the world to give _____ and _____ is knowing the only true God. Christ's life, seen in the believer, is evidence that he knows God.

Verses 4 and 5. Jesus prayed what might be called conversational prayer. Jesus said that He had completed the work He had been given to do and that brought glory to God. Jesus saw the work was completed, for He knew He would die for the sins of mankind the following day. Then He asked the Father to share His own glory again with Him, the same glory they had shared before the world was created. Christ had left that glory when He was born as Mary's son, now He asked that on His return, He be reinstated in that glory. See Phil. 2:6 for Paul's commentary on this.

352. Jesus' work of redemption would be completed on the next day, and He knew it would bring _____ to God, He asks that the _____ He shared with God in the beginning would again be His.

Verses 7 and 8. Jesus continued, "I have given these men, the men you gave me, your word and they have believed and have been obedient to your word. Now they believe that I came from you and that the message I have given them is your message."

353. Jesus witnessed to the _____, the _____, and the courage of the disciples when He told how they received Him and believed His word.

Verses 9 and 10. Jesus continued to plead for His disciples, saying, "They are as much yours as mine, and I know you care for them. I am not praying for the world. I pray only for them that you have given me out of the world. Their lives stand out in such contrast to the lives of the worldly that they bring me much glory."

354. Jesus gave several reasons why the Father should have special care for the disciples. "You _____ them out of the world, and _____ them to me, they are not of the _____ and their lives bring _____ to me."

Verse 11. Jesus continued in the same pleading vein, "You know, Father, that I am leaving them and they are going to feel very much alone. Let them know that they are not alone, that you do care, and in that security may they know among themselves the unity which you and I know."

355. Jesus knew that His disciples were going to feel very much _____ when He left them. He asked the Father to make Himself known so as to make them feel secure, and in that security, they would know the same _____ that existed between Father and Son.

Verse 12. Jesus continued, "While I was in the world with them, I kept those whom you had given me and I kept them safe so that they did not dishonor your name. None were lost except the son of perdition, as had been predicted."

356. While He was with them in the world, Jesus had _____ all the disciples except Judas. He had taught them, guided them, and encouraged them.

In effect, He was saying, "You see how tenderly I _____
for
them, please give them the same loving care."

Verse 13. Jesus had previously taught His disciples of His oneness with the Father. Now He is praying that they may know that oneness with the Father that brings unspeakable joy. Much more on this profound subject will be taught in the following verses.

357. Jesus wished His disciples to know among themselves the same

_____ and the same _____ that He
and the Father know.

Verse 14. The world is always suspicious of those who do not conform, and it hates those whose conduct is a reproach to its own evil ways. The world hated the disciples just as it hated their Lord. They had no part in the world and the world would have no part of them. The only recourse they knew was to try to get rid of that which was a reproach to them. The threat of persecution hanging over them was another reason why the disciples would need special counsel and encouragement after Jesus departed. The Word of God, which Jesus gave them, would be the source of strength, but they would need the Holy Spirit's help in making the Word the active principle in their lives.

358. The disciples would be _____ by the world because they had
received the Word of God and it had changed their lives, making them a
_____ to the world.

Verse 15. Jesus was concerned about the persecution which He knew would come upon the disciples after His departure. He asked not that they be taken out of this world, but that they be preserved from the evil. They could not do the work they would be called upon to do unless they remained in the world, but they would certainly need divine help just to remain alive, to say nothing of fulfilling His calling.

359. Jesus' request was not that the disciples be _____ from this
world, but that they be _____ from the evil.

Verses 16 and 17. "They are not of the world for they have been called and set apart for a holy purpose. Purify them, make them fit, fit for their appointed task through your word, which is the truth." This seems to be what Jesus was saying. This theme was developed further in the following verse.

360. The disciples were called and _____
for a holy purpose and were purified through God's _____.

Verse 18. Everyone who is called to minister to the Word needs a sense of mission. Here it is: "As the Father has sent me, even so send I you." What blessed assurance! How rich the promise and how great the blessing! Hardships? Yes, but they are not to be compared with the glory that will follow. See Romans 8:16-18.

361. True or False? The Christian is sent out into the world as was Christ, with the same purpose, and backed by the same power.

Verse 19. The Living New Testament's paraphrase of this verse is, "And I consecrate myself to meet their need for growth and holiness." It is far from accurate as a translation but comes quite close to the meaning. Rotherham's translation is as follows: "And on their behalf, I hallow myself, that they also may become hallowed in truth." Christ was an example to His disciples in consecration and in holiness, but He was more than that. He was Truth, and the disciples had access to that truth.

362. Christ consecrated (sanctified) Himself as an example to His disciples, but He was also the source of _____ by which they could become consecrated.

Verse 20. Thank God for the truth found in this verse. Christ was praying for you and me the same prayer He prayed for His disciples. And thank God for the apostles who wrote down their remembrances of these things through the help of the Holy Spirit. Christ prayed for the unity of believers. "That they may all be one as you, Father, are in me and I in you." This was a perfect unity, a unity of love and purpose grounded in truth. That we have not attained that unity should cause us to examine ourselves. Is it perhaps self-righteousness and a lack of love that blinds us to the truth. Denominationalism is sin; our lack of unity is a stumbling block to the unbeliever. Christ prayed for unity among His followers, "That the world may believe that You sent Me."

363. Christ prayed for the _____ of all His followers everywhere and through all the years of time. He prayed for the same unity that existed between Father and Son, and the reason for this prayer was that the world may _____ that God had sent Him."

Verses 22 and 23. "And the glory you have given me, I have given them." The implications of this statement are so awesome that they stagger us that most have not accepted them or acted upon them. And the purpose; Christ said, "I have given them this glory that they may be **one**." We would probably say, "Let us attain unity that we might get the glory." But He has given us this glory, as unmerited as the grace by which we are saved. McGarvey was correct when he pointed out that this unity of believers is not a separate but a similar unity to that of Father and Son. It is the same unity. "That they may be one as you Father are in Me and I in you, that they may be one in Us," is the way Christ prayed. We find in the family a good representation of this. When children are born into the family, they become a part of the family unit. The church is God's family; God is the Father, Christ the Son

and elder brother, and believers born into the family become joint-heirs with Christ. The apostle Paul described it in this way, "If children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint-heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with Him in order that we may be glorified with Him." There is glory in just being part of the family, but according to Paul, there is added glory when we suffer with Christ.

364. When born again believers realize the privileges, the honor, and the -
_____ they receive when they become members of God's family,
and they also recognize the responsibilities that accompany their exalted position,
then the _____ for which Christ prayed must become a
reality.

Verse 24. In verse 3 of this chapter, we have Jesus' definition of "eternal life" as "knowing you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent." Now Christ in prayer said, "Father, I wish that these you have given me, these whom We love and who have returned our love, I wish them to be with Me that they may see glory and really understand our relationship and know the love You had for Me from the beginning." There is the solution to a very basic problem here; how to know God. One must first believe that good is stronger than evil and be in sympathy with the purpose of a good God. "He that cometh unto God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him." See Hebrews 11:6. By faith, love reaches out for God and receives a loving response. The better we love Him, the more we know, and the more we know, the better we love. That knowledge and that love will never come to perfection until we meet with Father and Son in heaven. Jesus asked not for the salvation of His disciples. They were already assured of that; but that their close personal relationship would continue and that they might observe the splendor of His glory, the eternal glory shared with the Father. Three of His disciples got a glimpse of this glory when they were together on the Mount of Transfiguration. See Luke 9:32; John 1:14.

365. Jesus was not praying here for the salvation of His disciples, but that they might be
with Him in heaven and behold His _____. And as for us, as we
get to know him better and love Him more, we see and appreciate His
_____ more and more.

Verses 25 and 26. Jesus continued, "O righteous Father, the world does not know you, but I know you and these, My disciples, have come to know you and to know that it was you who sent Me into the world. I have made your name known to them and will continue to do so, that the same love you have for Me will be in them and that I also may be in them." The world does not know Him because their hearts are filled with the pride of life, their eyes are filled with adultery and their ears tuned to the praise of man. They have rejected the revelation of God which we have in Jesus Christ. His disciples had accepted this revelation and their reward was great,

having a share of the love of Father and Son and having Christ in their lives, they shared also in His glory.

366. Jesus said of His disciples that they had come to _____ the Father through His teaching and He prayed that the same _____ that He had known would be given to them and that they would have the joy of having the very life of Christ within. "But we all, with open face beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord."

ANSWERS:

350. Glorified, glorified
351. Eternal life, eternal life
352. Glory, glory
353. Faith, obedience
354. Took, gave, world, glory
355. Alone, unity
356. Kept, cared
357. Oneness, joy
358. Hated, reproach

359. Taken out, preserved
360. Set apart, Word
361. True
362. Truth
363. Unity, believe
364. Glorify, unity
365. Glory, glory
366. Know, love