

Sunday Celebration (October 25, 2009)

**John 17:6-26**

**"JESUS is Praying for You"**

## **INTRO**

“...it is wonderful as an example of the sort of things that believers should mention in prayer. What Christ asks for his people, His people should ask for themselves.” **J.C. Ryle**, “Expository Thoughts on John”, vol 3, p. 188

### Outline of Prayer:

- v. 1-5 ... Jesus Prays Concerning Himself
- v. 6-19 ... Jesus Prays for His Disciples
- v. 20-26 ... Jesus Prays for His Church

**NOTE: THE BASIS FOR JESUS' REQUESTS** ..... WHY Does Jesus Ask for What He Does?

- **His Preoccupation with the Father being Glorified**

“ Jesus concern as the eternal Son of God, is that his Father might be seen and known for who He is, for what He is like, and for all that He has done. This helps us to appreciate more fully the reason why John saw fit to include this prayer in his Gospel. It is no just that the prayer was, and ultimately will be fulfilled in its entirety so that it therefore provides an assurance that undergirds the truth of the gospel, but it also helps us to understand the gospel.

Too often people fail to understand the gospel properly because they try to squeeze it into the pattern of their own ideas about salvation. Almost invariably that means construing salvation as something purely man-centered. However, as we listen to Jesus pray in this chapter, it becomes abundantly clear that salvation is supremely God-centered, though it also contains unimaginable benefits for man. It brings home to us in the most powerful way possible that it is only when God is acknowledged in his true place in the world and in our lives, that all other aspects of life begin to fall into their proper place.” **Mark Johnston**, “Let’s Study John”, p. 223

- **His Angle/Argument as to Why God Should Do What He Requests**

- v. 6-10 ... They are unique because they are yours and they are associated with your name**

- This is similar to the way that Moses & Daniel intercede for the Israelites (Ex 32:1, 9-14; Nu 14:13-19; Dan 9:15-19)

- Motivated by the Doctrine of Election ... v. 6, 9, 10**

- “ We learn, for one thing, that the Lord Jesus does things for His believing people which he does not do for the wicked and unbelieving. He helps their souls by special intercession.”

- J.C. Ryle, “Expository Thoughts on John”, vol 3, p. 204

- Eph 2:4-7 .... WHY Should You Receive Special Treatment?**

- **Insights on “Asking” .... (v. 5) Jesus didn’t assume He Asked — even though He knew it was God’s desire to do these things.**

- Will Jesus Prayer be Heard and Answered?***

- 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. 15 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. JESUS PRAYS CONCERNING HIMSELF .... v. 1-5**

- Jeff covered the content of this part of Jesus prayer, so I just want to make a brief comment on the observation that Jesus did spend time praying about himself

- v. 1 ... *Does This Preside Over How I Pray for Myself?***

## II. JESUS PRAYS FOR HIS DISCIPLES .... v. 6-19

### 1. "Keep Them".... v. 11-12, 15

- a Prayer for PROTECTION ... Not REMOVAL.

*What does it mean to be "KEPT"? ... Does it mean we'll never suffer discomfort or loss or setback or health problems or financial challenge or natural disaster or unrighteous criticism?*

2 **Cor 11:24-27** Five times I received at the hands of the Jews the forty lashes less one. 25 Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I was stoned. Three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I was adrift at sea; 26 on frequent journeys, in danger from rivers, danger from robbers, danger from my own people, danger from Gentiles, danger in the city, danger in the wilderness, danger at sea, danger from false brothers; 27 in toil and hardship, through many a sleepless night, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure.

— How do we interpret these types of events in our lives—  
While Jesus has Perfectly Interceded for Us to be "Kept"?

**2Cor 4:8-12** ...While you are being "afflicted", "perplexed", "persecuted", "struck down", "dying" — You Are Being KEPT!

Ultimately this is protection unto ETERNAL LIFE, to finishing the course, and from ever being LOST from God.

### 2. "Sanctify Them"

**Being Born Again is NOT a FINISH LINE ...**

**What does "truth" have to do with this? ...**

### 3. To Have His Joy Fulfilled in Them

**"MEASURED by JOY" ....**

### III. JESUS PRAYS FOR HIS CHURCH ..... v. 20-26

#### 1. Make Them One with God (v. 20-23)

- This is not the 70's Coke commercial; it isn't New Age Spirituality; it's not Feel Good Humanism ... because it includes ONENESS WITH GOD — And that's a Problem! It is not merely a prayer for the brotherhood of man— it is about fellowship with God.

.... *Why Can't Humanity all Just Get Along?*— NOT because of the existence of "Religion" but because of the existence of SIN!!!

#### - The Biblical Emphasis in Unity is UNITY in the GOD EXALTING GOSPEL MISSION

**Jn 17:18, 23**

**Phil 1:27** Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel,

**Eph 4:1-3** I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, 2 with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, 3 eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

... **This is the Same Mission of the HOLY SPIRIT** (Jn 14-16) who is being sent to CONVICT the WORLD, to Reveal Christ, and to Lead the Believer into the Truth!

*This is NOT a Unity Centered in the Brotherhood of Man, coupled with VAGUE Notions of Spirituality, with the Ultimate Aim that we just get along better.*

#### 2. To Be with Him Where He is and Behold His Glory