

THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

PART FORTY-SIX

The Word Made Flesh



JOHN 17:1-8

The Prayer of the Savior

1. The Glory of the Father and the Son (vv.1-8)

a. Jesus prays for His own exaltation

i. It is in conjunction with the Father's plan and ultimate exaltation



ii. It is not necessarily wrong to pray for one's own benefit when there is true concern for the name and glory of the Father

(1) Psa 115:1-9

(2) Psa 79:9

(3) 1Pet 4:11



iii. While this kind of prayer may seem out of place, when you want what God wants, you're okay with asking Him to do whatever He needs to do to make Himself known and famous.



b. Jesus notes the importance of authority with a purpose (v.2)

i. Meaning, 'Father you have given me authority with a specific purpose, which is to give eternal life to those (disciples) you have given me'



ii. Translation: God doesn't mind giving you authority when you know why He's given it to you--it is always to complete the assignment He has for you and not for you to do whatever you want with the authority

iii. It's the reason it can be gained but not kept...



iv. We pray Lord bless me, and enlarge my territory--nothing wrong with that, but what will you do with it if He gives it, **AND** how are you managing the territory you currently have?



c. Jesus defines eternal life as knowing the Father (v.3)

i. Eternal life is in the predicate position with a definite article in the nominative case for emphasis, which is intended to be communicate equity.



(1) In other words, if you ever wanted a definition for eternal life, this is it

(2) Eternal life is not jus about



(3) Eternal life is not only about getting to heaven

(4) It IS about knowing the Father through the Son



ii. NET Bible note: "This is eternal life. The author here defines eternal life for the readers, although it is worked into the prayer in such a way that many interpreters do not regard it as another of the author's parenthetical comments.



It is not just unending life in the sense of prolonged duration. Rather it is a quality of life, with its quality derived from a relationship with God. Having eternal life is here defined as being in relationship with the Father, the one true God, and Jesus Christ whom the Father sent."



iii. Life expectancy statistics confuse
us

iv. Because you know the Father
through the Son, you have access to and
are experiencing (contingent on
obedience) eternal life even now



(1) The meaning of abundance has to do with a life of a certain kind as opposed to a degree of life

(2) It is the promise of understanding what true life is and the promise of its quality



Application: Jesus promises not just to offer existence or preservation of life, but a life that has been given meaning in the truest sense, which is the ultimate advantage provided by eternal life.

