



## **“The Greatest Prayer Of All!”**

### **John Chapter 17**

#### **I) JESUS PRAYS FOR HIMSELF (v1-5)**

#### **II) JESUS PRAYS FOR HIS DISCIPLES (v6-19)**

#### **III) JESUS PRAYS FOR US! (v20-26)**

**Intro: There are five fabulous gifts of Christ for the believer John Chapter 17:**

- 1. *Eternal Life* (v2)**
- 2. *The Father’s Name* (v6, 26)**
- 3. *The Father’s Words* (v8, 14)**
- 4. *His Own Joy* (v14)**
- 5. *His Own Glory* (v22)**

**~ The order of events on this solemn evening appears as follows:**

- (1) Jesus partakes of the Passover with the apostles and rebukes their contention (Mt. 26:20; Mk. 14:17; Lk. 22:14-16, 24-30);**
- (2) washes their feet (Jn. 13:1-20);**
- (3) identifies Judas as the traitor (Mt. 26:21-25; Mk. 14:18-21; Lk. 22:21-23; Jn. 13:21-29);**
- (4) Judas withdraws, the others profess loyalty (Jn. 13:30-38; cp. Mt. 26:31-35; Mk. 14:27-31; Lk. 22:31-38);**
- (5) Jesus institutes the Lord’s Supper (Mt. 26:26-29; Mk. 14:22-25; Lk. 22:17-20);**
- (6) addresses the eleven in the upper room (Jn. 14);**
- (7) again on the way to Gethsemane (Jn. 15—16);**
- (8) intercedes with the Father for His own (Jn. 17); and**
- (9) agonizes in the garden, is betrayed, and arrested (Mt. 26:30,36-50; Mk. 14:26,32-52; Lk. 22:39-53; Jn. 18:1-12).**

#### **I) JESUS PRAYS FOR HIMSELF (v1-5)**

**- In regard to:**

##### **(v1) GLORIFICATION of the Son & the Father**

**John 12:23-3 - *But Jesus answered them, saying, “The hour has come that the Son of Man should be glorified. Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain. He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. If anyone serves Me, let***

*him follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also. If anyone serves Me, him My Father will honor.*

*"Now My soul is troubled, and what shall I say? 'Father, save Me from this hour'? But for this purpose I came to this hour. Father, glorify Your name."*

*Then a voice came from heaven, saying, "I have both glorified it and will glorify it again." Therefore the people who stood by and heard it said that it had thundered. Others said, "An angel has spoken to Him." Jesus answered and said, "This voice did not come because of Me, but for your sake. Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out. And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself." This He said, signifying by what death He would die.*

**(v2) The gift of ETERNAL LIFE to all believers - John 3:16**

**(v3) Believers to KNOW the TRUE GOD & His SON (Acts 17:22-34; Ro. 1:21-32)**

**- To know the true God is to know the doctrine of the Trinity, the Trinity or Triunity is a central fact of Christian faith, it is best defined as holding that, while God is one, He exists as three persons—three coexistent, co-eternal Persons who make up God. These persons are equally worthy of adoration, worship, and faith.** Yet the doctrine of the unity of the Godhead makes clear that they are not three separate gods, like three separate human beings, such as Peter, James, and John. The persons of the Trinity, while having equal attributes, differ in certain properties. Hence, the First Person of the Trinity is called the Father. The Second Person is called the Son and is sent forth by the Father. The Third person is the Holy Spirit who is sent forth by the Father and the Son. This is called in theology, the doctrine of procession. The three persons, consequently, are not three parts of God, but three personal distinctions within God, each of whom is fully God.

**- Trinity Historically:** The early church fathers, such as Justin Martyr, Irenaeus, Clement of Alexandria, Tertullian, Hippolytus, Origen, believed and taught the Trinity. However, the doctrine of the Trinity was disregarded by several FALSE religious systems, which emerged during the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. These false religions (which call themselves Christians) include Unitarianism, Mormonism, New Thought/modern spiritism (New Age), and Jehovah's Witnesses.

**- Paul proclaims in Acts 17:23-34 - Therefore, the One whom you worship without knowing, Him I proclaim to you: God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands. Nor is He worshiped with men's hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath, and all things. And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of**

*the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings, so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us; for in Him we live and move and have our being, as also some of your own poets have said, 'For we are also His offspring.' Therefore, since we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Divine Nature is like gold or silver or stone, something shaped by art and man's devising. Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead." And when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked, while others said, "We will hear you again on this matter." So Paul departed from among them. However, some men joined him and believed, among them Dionysius the Areopagite, a woman named Damaris, and others with them.*

(v4) The FINISHED WORK of God – John 19:30 (“It is finished!”)

(v5) Jesus’ request to return to HEAVEN (to glory!)

- Jesus said in John 6:38 - For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.

And in John 6:62-63 - What then if you should see the Son of Man ascend where He was before? It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life.

In Acts 1:4-11 we read, *And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, "which," He said, "you have heard from Me; for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, "Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" And He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, who also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven."*

## II) JESUS PRAYS FOR HIS DISCIPLES (v6-19)

(v6) Regarding God’s NAME (refers to His nature) John 1:18

(v7-8) To keep His WORD through FAITH - Jn. 6:68,69; Rev. 3:8  
(Church of Philadelphia)

(v9-12) For UNITY with God & with one another.

(v13) To have His JOY fulfilled in themselves – 1 Peter 1:8; 4:13  
- Peter & James Acts 5:40-42 - *And they agreed with him, and when they had called for the apostles and beaten them, they commanded that they should not speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. So they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His name. And daily in the temple, and in every house, they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.*

- Philip (Joy in the City!) Acts 8:4-8 - *Those who had been scattered preached the word wherever they went. Philip went down to a city in Samaria and proclaimed the Christ there. When the crowds heard Philip and saw the miraculous signs he did, they all paid close attention to what he said. With shrieks, evil spirits came out of many, and many paralytics and cripples were healed. So there was great joy in that city.*

- Paul & Barnabas - Acts 13:44-52 - *On the next Sabbath almost the whole city gathered to hear the word of the Lord. When the Jews saw the crowds, they were filled with jealousy and talked abusively against what Paul was saying.*

*Then Paul and Barnabas answered them boldly: "We had to speak the word of God to you first. Since you reject it and do not consider yourselves worthy of eternal life, we now turn to the Gentiles. For this is what the Lord has commanded us: "I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth." When the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and honored the word of the Lord; and all who were appointed for eternal life believed. The word of the Lord spread through the whole region. But the Jews incited the God-fearing women of high standing and the leading men of the city. They stirred up persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and expelled them from their region. So they shook the dust from their feet in protest against them and went to Iconium. And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.*

(v14-16) To be KEPT FROM THE EVIL ONE - Eph. 6; James 4:7-8; 1 Peter 5:8-9

(v17-19) To be SANCTIFIED IN GOD'S TRUTH – 1 Cor. 1:30; Eph. 5:26

### III) JESUS PRAYS FOR US! (v20-26)

(v20-21) To be a WITNESS to SAVE others - Matthew 9:37,38

**(v22-23) That we will be made PERFECT (complete) – Eph. 2:10; 4:13**

**(v24) For the HOPE OF GLORY in us – John 14:1-3**

**(v25-26) To share God's LOVE – John 3:16; 15:13**