

“The Time Has Come To Pray (Part 7)”

Knowing what ahead for Himself and for His followers on the night He was betrayed, Jesus prayed. The last part of Jesus’ prayer is recorded in John 17:20-26: *“I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; ²¹ that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me. ²² And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: ²³ I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me. ²⁴ Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world. ²⁵ O righteous Father! The world has not known You, but I have known You; and these have known that You sent Me. ²⁶ And I have declared to them Your name, and will declare it, that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them.”*

In His prayer, Jesus says: ***“I pray also for those who will believe in Me through their message.”*** Here Jesus is praying for all future converts, which includes you and me. Just as Jesus prayed for those who were not yet Christians, so we should pray for those who are spiritually lost and unsaved. These prayers prepare the soil of their heart to receive the Gospel seed that is sown, whether we are the ones who share the Good News with them or whether it’s someone else. It’s remarkable to consider that others believe in Jesus through our word.

Jesus prays in 17:21: ***“that all of them may be one.”*** Jesus often prayed for unity throughout this prayer. The Christian Church has faced many challenges to unity throughout history. We need to pray as Jesus prayed – for the Christian Church to be one. Jesus reveals in His prayer that unity is possible by the glory which Christ gave us, which the Father had given to Him. He also reveals that unity is a powerful testimony to the world. If the Church is one, the world may believe that God sent the Son, and the world may know that God loves the world. It’s no wonder the enemy tries to stir up dissension and division in the Body of Christ to keep the lost world in the dark.

Jesus prays in 17:24: ***“Father, I desire...”*** What He means is, *I will*. This can be considered the last will and testament of Jesus. What was Jesus bequeathing to His followers? *“I want those You have given Me to be with Me where I am.”* Jesus wants His followers to join Him in heaven and spend eternity in His presence! We, too, should let our heirs know that our greatest desire for them is to join us in heaven. As followers of Jesus, we should seek to behold as much of His glory as we can here on earth. Then, when we die, we will behold the fullness of His glory in heaven!

Discussion Guide/Action Steps

1. Who are the pre-Christians you should be praying regularly for?
2. Are you praying for unity in the Christian Church?