



PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

JOHN 17:6-21

LESSON: JESUS PRAYS FOR BELIEVERS –

May 28, 2023

INTRODUCTION:

The entire chapter is Jesus' prayer. His earthly mission is about to end, but before He departs, prayer is needed. He prays first for Himself (vv.1-5), then for His disciples (17:6-19), and finally for future believers (17:20-26).

17:1 These words spake Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee:— This was a prayer for Himself. As He lifted up His eyes to heaven, He called on His Father saying that His hour had come, meaning the time of His death had come. The hour is the particular time that Jesus' mission is coming to an end, starting with His arrest. Many types and symbols for hundreds and thousands of years had pointed toward this time. In this He was claiming to know God intimately; to be the very Son of God. The first thing Jesus asked was for the Father to glorify Him—and "His Father in turn be glorified." You see they are really one and the same. If one is glorified, the other is glorified.

- ...glorify thy Son...that thy Son also may glorify thee— How?
 - In the Son's obedience to what the Father sent Him to do, glorifies the Father.
 - In the Son always saying that the Father sent me, glorifies the Father.
 - In the Son's character of love that is shared, displays the Father's character, glorifies the Father.
 - In the Son's completion of the mission, glorifies the Father.
 - In the Son's endurance of the cross, glorifies the Father.

So, God's glory and Jesus' glory are found in the completion of the great work of salvation; And the great work of salvation leads to man receiving eternal life. And the only way a person can glorify God is to receive the Son, and do what God says.

17:2 As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him.

The Father has given Jesus power and authority over all living beings; flesh. And this authority enables Him to give eternal life (live forever) to as many as was given Him (the disciples and *those who seek to know God, the Father through Christ Jesus*). He had finished the work God had given Him to do, thereby glorifying God.

17:3 And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.

"Eternal life" means to live forever, but more exactly, it is the quality of life. To possess this quality of eternal life means to know the only true God and to know who has sent Jesus Christ.

17:4 I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do. Jesus has brought glory to the Father by fulfilling His Will and completing His task He had been given to do.

17:5 And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was. The second thing Jesus asked in prayer was to be restored to His former glory in which He had before the world began.

LESSON: I. PRAYER FOR GOD'S GLORY JOHN 17:6-8

17:6 I have manifested thy name unto the men which thou gavest me out of the world: thine

www.pitwm.net/pitwm-versebyverse.html





PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

they were, and thou gavest them me; and they have kept thy word. God gave Jesus men from out of the world and Jesus taught and made God's Name known. God stirred and led these men, (the first believers) from the world's standard of thinking to receive and follow Jesus, and be shown the revelation of God! You have to remember, *"No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him..."* Jh.6:44a. The first believers belonged to God, and He drew them to His Son by His sovereignty and power and fore-knowledge. Jesus was speaking to His Father about them, letting Him know that they have kept His Word!

17:7 Now they have known that all things whatsoever thou hast given me are of thee. Their listening to Jesus, brought them to know that all things given to Him were from God; whatsoever Jesus commanded of them was from God the Father.

17:8 For I have given unto them the words which thou gavest me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came out from thee, and they have believed that thou didst send me. Those given to Jesus by the Father, now know that Jesus was the Son of God. They know that He was the embodiment and revelation of God. Three things occurred in this verse.

1. They had received the Words, the very Words of God.
2. They now know Jesus' origin. He had come from God.
3. They now believed who sent Jesus. God hath sent Him.

II. PRAYER FOR HIS DISCIPLES JOHN 17:9-19

17:9 I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me; for they are thine. What Jesus prayed for is meaningful for believers. I found seven reasons why Jesus was praying only for His disciples: (1) Jesus prayed for the ones God had given Him and not for the world. It was not because the world didn't need prayer, for they did. But He considered those the Father gave Him to be the ones marked for a special duty. They were given to Him for a reason, and He was responsible for their welfare; their knowing; and they were entrusted into His hands by the Father. It's the same as those in your household. You are responsible to pray for them. You want the best for them.

17:10 And all mine are thine, and thine are mine; and I am glorified in them. The disciples belonged to the Father, as well as the Son. This was mutual possession, claiming deity and oneness with God. God could count on Jesus for hearing and answering Him. (2) Therefore, Jesus prayed for the disciples because He was glorified in the disciples.

- The disciples lived for Him by obeying His Word and working with Him.
- The disciples showed loyalty and allegiance to Jesus.
- The disciples lifted Jesus up to the world and proclaimed Him to be the Savior of the world and Lord of the universe.

They would become strong in their continued witnessing to glorify Jesus.

17:11 And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are. Jesus already sees the end and speaks His existence as not in the world. (3) Jesus prayed that the Father keep the disciples through His own name, those whom He had given Him in the world that be one. Those He would leave in the world would be the ones to carry the Gospel after His departure. Jesus was faithful to God's Name, faithful to revealing God and lifting His Name up to the disciples. Why?- Because God would be faithful to keep them. This keeping power of God means that God delivers believers through the trials of this world, for the Word says *"In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world"* (Jh.16:33). God will allow absolutely nothing to separate Christian believers from His Son! Therefore, the disciples being in a divisive world and Jesus

www.pitwm.net/pitwm-versebyverse.html





PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

having to leave, (4) Jesus' prayed for the disciples that they be one, just as Jesus and the Father are one.

Divisiveness comes from the depraved nature of man, but the nature of Christ came to change and convert to

love. Believers are to be unified, just as Jesus and the Father are one. We are to also be one in...

—nature: been born-again; made into a new creature; become a partaker of the divine nature, etc.

—character: godly and holy, denying the works of the flesh and living pure lives as Jesus and the Father; bearing the fruit of the Spirit.

—and purpose: surrendering and giving all to minister and proclaim the message of salvation to a lost and dying world.

17:12 While I was with them in the world, I kept them in thy name: those that thou gavest me I have kept, and none of them is lost, but the son of perdition; that the scripture might be fulfilled. Jesus kept the disciples while He was in the world. He also kept them covered in the Father's Name! He lost none except Judas, for Judas' betrayal was to fulfill Scripture. "Perdition" means Hell or eternal punishment and damnation into which a sinful and unrepentant person (their soul) passes after death, and is utterly loss.

17:13 And now come I to thee; and these things I speak in the world, that they might have my joy fulfilled in themselves. (5) Jesus prayed for the disciples that they would have His joy in all its fullness. The joy of Christ is the depth of assurance and confidence that ignites a cheerful heart. And it is that cheerful heart that leads to cheerful behavior. And from that, we know that:

- Joy is divine.
- Joy does not depend upon circumstances or happiness.

The key to joy is living in close contact with Jesus, the source of all joy! So...

- Knowing that God loves you brings joy.
- The fellowship of the Father and the Son brings joy
- Victory over sin, death, and hell brings joy.
- Repentance brings joy.
- The hope of glory brings joy.
- The Lord's Word, the revelations, commandments, and promises which He made brings joy.
- The commandments of Christ and the Will of God brings joy.
- Prayer brings joy.
- The presence and fellowship of believers brings joy.
- Converts bring joy.
- Hearing that others walk in the truth brings joy.
- Giving brings joy.
- There is a future reward.

17:14 I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. Because Christians have the Word within them, the world hates them. The disciples received God's Word and went through many hardships in the world. Just as Christ was not of the world, they also were not of the world and were hated.

17:15 I pray not that thou shouldst take them out of the world, but that thou shouldst keep them from the evil. There was a need for the disciples to be in the world, and not be taken out of the world, for they had God's Word to give to others. (6) Jesus prayed for the disciples that they be kept from the evil one.

17:16 They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. Those that are "not of this world" would mean that they have an entirely different nature, including different heart desires, different fundamental goals, and ultimately a different God.



PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

- Jesus came from the presence of God out of heaven.
- The disciples and other believers were born again by the Spirit of God and given the very nature of God.

The world and the devil want nothing to do with the selfless and sacrificial nature that's giving the Word to others. God's mission is to save the world, and depend upon the disciples' loyalty and faithfulness. Therefore, Jesus prayed for their joy and preservation.

- The disciples were now of the same nature as Jesus.

17:17 Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth. (7) Jesus prayed for the disciples that the Father sanctify them through His truth (vv.17, 19). "*Sanctify them*" means set apart, be separated, consecrate, dedicate, holy, purify. We are sanctified unto God, but through His truth we are made holy. God's truth is said to God's Word (*both living and spoken Word*). The sanctification of Christians is a lifelong process, but come in three stages:

1. There is the initial or positional sanctification—when a person believes in Jesus Christ, he is immediately set apart for God permanently, once-for-all (Heb.3:1. 10:10).
2. There is progressive sanctification—when the true believer makes a determined and disciplined effort to allow the Spirit of God to set him apart day by day as the believer walks upon this earth (Jh.17:17, 2Cor.3:18; Eph.5:25-26; 1Th.5:23-24).
3. There is eternal sanctification—the day is coming when the believer will be perfectly set apart unto God and His service—without any sin or failure whatsoever; the day of the believer's eternal redemption (Eph.5:27; 1Jh.3:2).

The process of holiness is only accomplished through the Word of God. "*Be ye holy for I am holy*" 1Pt.1:16.

17:18 As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world. We have the same assignment as Jesus gave to His disciples, because we are also disciples. The disciples were to be sent into the world just as Jesus sent His disciples into the world to bring men back to God through reconciliation. And the disciples had to be set apart to God to be used in this same task.

17:19 And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth. This means that Jesus was totally set apart for the Father's Will. He did that in order for believers to be set apart to God by the truth He brought.

III. PRAYER FOR FUTURE JOHN 17:20-21

17:20 Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word;— This part of the prayer is for future believers; those who will believe on Him through the Word they will teach from that moment to the end of the world.

17:21 That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.. The prayer is always for unity; that all Disciples of Christ be one. Jesus and His Father are one—the Father in Him and He in the Father. Now, the disciples are to be one in the Father and Son. Why?— That the world may believe that the Father had sent Jesus. This was very important for all to know who sent Jesus! It establishes credibility. There are many voices proclaiming so many different messages. This one message has to stand out as the truth!

- There is only one central message: that God sent Jesus out of heaven into the world.
- There is only one request of men: to believe that God did send Jesus into the world.
- There is only one mission: that men be one (unified), in proclaiming the message of the glorious gospel!



PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

SUMMARY:

6God gave Jesus men from out of the world and Jesus taught and made God's Name known. **7**Now, the disciples know that all the things that was given Jesus was from the Father, **8**for Jesus has given them the words which the Father gave Him; and they have received them, and know surely that Jesus came from the Father, and they believe that the Father did send Jesus (**17:6-8**).

9Jesus says that He's praying for those He's been given, but not for the world, for those in which the Father had given Him are marked for a special duty. They were given to Him for a specific reason. **10**All those Jesus had were the Father's, and those that were the Father's were Jesus' and Jesus is glorified in them. **11**He knows that He will leave them behind as He leaves this world to go back to the Father, and He prays for their unity; their oneness, and protection. **12**While Jesus was with them, He was able to preserve, guard, and watch over them in God's Name, and none were lost, except Judas, the son of perdition, that the scripture might be fulfilled. **13**He tells the Father that He is coming to Him after speaking to the disciples about many things. He wants them to be filled with His joy. **14**The Word has been given to the disciples, and the world hated them because they were not of the world, just as Jesus was not. **15**Jesus prayed that they shouldn't be taken out of the world, but that the Father would protect them from Satan's power. **16**They were not of the world, but were needed in the world. **17**Jesus asked the Father to sanctify them through the truth, which His Word. **18**Just as Jesus was sent into the world, He also sent the disciples into the world, **19**and for their sakes they needed to be sanctified through His truth (**17:9-19**).

20Jesus is not only praying for the disciples alone, but for future believers who will come to Jesus for they believed because of the disciples' Word. **21**Also, that they all be one, as the Father and Jesus are one; and that these disciples be one heart, and mind in the Father and Jesus. This would bring about the world believing that the Father sent Jesus (**17:20-21**).