

NEW SERIES: “The REAL Lord’s Prayer”

Jesus Prays for You & Me

John 17:20-26

Big Idea – Jesus prayed for us before we even knew Him.

Jn 17:20 “I am praying not only for these disciples but also for all who will ever believe in me through their message.

21 I pray that they will all be one, just as you and I are one—as you are in me, Father, and I am in you. And may they be in us so that the world will believe you sent me.

22 “I have given them the glory you gave me, so they may be one as we are one.

23 I am in them and you are in me. May they experience such perfect unity that the world will know that you sent me and that you love them as much as you love me.

24 Father, I want these whom you have given me to be with me where I am. Then they can see all the glory you gave me because you loved me even before the world began!

25 “O righteous Father, the world doesn’t know you, but I do; and these disciples know you sent me.

26 I have revealed you to them, and I will continue to do so. Then your love for me will be in them, and I will be in them.”

1. The people of His prayer – vs. 20

All future believers – Acts 16:31 Jesus by his omniscience as God knew all who would believe in Him

Everyone in the future got saved directly or indirectly through the word of the apostles

2. The petitions in His prayer – vs. 21 – 24

Unity – that our practice would match our position

Our position: Ephesians 2:14 For Christ himself has brought peace to us. He united Jews and Gentiles into one people when, in his own body on the cross, he broke down the wall of hostility that separated us.

20 You are like a building that was built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets. Christ Jesus himself is the most important stone in that building,

21 and that whole building is joined together in Christ. He makes it grow and become a holy temple in the Lord.

22 And in Christ you, too, are being built together with the Jews into a place where God lives through the Spirit.

our practice - Ephesians 4:11 – 14 Till we all come in the unity of the faith

Our example – Jesus Christ and the Father

Our motive – love – for the redemption of men through Christ

Possible by the “glory of God” – vs. 22

All believers have the life of God, the same Holy Spirit, the same indwelling Christ

Col 1:27 For God wanted them to know that the riches and glory of Christ are for you Gentiles, too. And this is the secret: Christ lives in you. This gives you assurance of sharing his glory.

2 Peter 1:4 ... he has given us great and precious promises. These promises enable you to share his divine nature and escape the world’s corruption caused by human desires & lusts.

Col 2:9 For in Christ lives all the fullness of God in a human body.

10 So you also are complete through your union with Christ, who is the head over every ruler and authority.

Our eternal fellowship with Him – vs. 24

How do we know that Christians go to heaven? Because of the price that Jesus paid (1 Thes. 5:9-10), and the promise that Jesus made (John 14:1-6), and this prayer that Jesus prayed (John 17:24). The Father always answers His Son's prayers, so we know that believers who die do go to heaven to behold the glory of God.

(our presence with Him in full glory actually involves 4 areas:

Death – 2 Cor. 5:8 “...absent from the body, present with the Lord in Heaven”

Rapture – 1 Thess. 4:17 “...we who are alive and remain shall be caught up...

Kingdom – Matt. 26:26 – 29

Eternal state in heaven – Rev. 21:3

3. The positive confidence in His prayer – vs. 25, 26

Jesus simply reported to His Father about the ministry in the world, and He made a couple statements important to us.

He declared that the world does not know the Father, but that we believers know Him because the Son has revealed the Father to us. The world has many opportunities to get to know the Father, but it prefers to go on in blindness and hardness of heart. Our task as Christians is to bear witness to the lost world and share God's saving message.

He also declares the importance of truth and love in the church. Believers know God's name (nature) and even share in that divine nature. Jesus makes it clear that truth and love must go together (see Eph. 4:15). It's been said that truth without love is brutality, but love without truth is hypocrisy.

Your mind grows by taking in truth, but the heart grows by giving out in love.

Knowledge alone can lead to pride (1 Cor. 8:1), and love alone can lead to wrong decisions (see Phil. 1:9-10). Christian love must not be blind!

As we finish studying this prayer, note the **spiritual priorities** that were in the Savior's heart: the glory of God; the sanctity/holiness of God's people; the unity of the church; the ministry of sharing the Gospel with a lost world.

We today would be wise to focus on these same priorities.

One day, each of us will have to give an account of his or her ministry. It is a solemn thought that we shall stand before the Judgment Seat of Christ and give our "final report."

I pray that each one of us will be able to say, "I have glorified You on the earth; I have finished the work which You gave me to do" (John 17:4).