

III. MANIFESTATIONS OF CHRIST'S POWER IN PRIVATE MINISTRY

John 17

A. THE PETITIONS WHICH JESUS ASKED OF THE FATHER FOR HIMSELF (1-5)

1. Firstly, the Lord Jesus asked the Father to glorify His position as the Son of God so that others might see that He has the authority to give eternal life (17:1-3). This request was answered when Christ was raised from the dead (Acts 2:23,24).
2. Secondly the Lord Jesus asked the Father to glorify His person based upon the fact that He had finished His work (17:4-8).
 - a. To glorify His person meant to return to His pre-incarnate glory which He had shared with the Father.
 - b. To glorify His person meant to be restored to His rightful place of equality with the Father (Phil. 2:6).
 - c. Note Jesus' work had involved manifesting God's name meaning His character and giving His Words to those who received them (17:6-8).

B. THE PETITIONS WHICH JESUS ASKED OF THE FATHER FOR HIS DISCIPLES (6-19)

1. Firstly, the Lord Jesus asked the Father to "keep" His disciples or to give them protection from the evil one of this world (17:9-16).
 - a. His purpose in this petition was for them to experience spiritual union (12).
 - b. His purpose was for them to experience joy as His disciples even in the midst of persecution (13-14).
 - c. His purpose was for them to be protected from the power of the evil one or the devil (15,16).
2. Secondly, the Lord Jesus asked the Father to "sanctify" His disciples or to perfect holiness in them (17-19). This would set them apart for divine use rather than being used as instruments of the devil.

C. THE PETITIONS WHICH JESUS ASKED OF THE FATHER FOR FUTURE BELIEVERS (20-26).

1. Firstly, the Lord Jesus asked that others would enjoy the same kind of spiritual union who believed through the witness of His disciples (20-22).
2. Secondly, the Lord Jesus asked that those future believers would experience the same kind of

sanctification that He had asked for His disciples (23).

3. Thirdly, the Lord Jesus stated His desire for all believers - that they might be with Him and behold His glory (24). Someone has said, "every time a believer dies, in a sense, it is an answer to this prayer.

QUESTIONS WHICH WE MAY APPLY TO OUR LIVES

- (1) What is "the hour" of which Jesus spoke in 17:1? _____

- (2) What is the "work" to which Jesus referred in 17:4? _____

- (3) According to verse eight what is evident in the believer's life? _____

- (4) To what does the word "world" refer to in verse 6? 9? 15? _____

- (5) According to verse seventeen what does God use to sanctify or "set apart" believers _____

- How does this process come about? _____

- (6) What basic hermeneutical principle must be applied using the word "world" in this chapter? _____

- (7) Who is the son of perdition mentioned in verse twelve? _____

- (8) How did this one become known by this name? _____
- (9) What does verse twenty-four say about heaven for the believer? _____

- (10) What does Christ's high priestly prayer of this chapter picture for us who believe? _____

- (11) Of what is there no mention made in Christ's prayer concerning believers? _____

- (12) To what do the words "that they may be one" refer in verses 11,22? _____

EXPOSITORY NOTES

- 17:1 The "hour" of which Jesus spoke here refers not only to His death, but also to his resurrection and exaltation. Notice on earlier occasions He had stated that this time was not yet come (Jn. 2:4; 7:8-30; 8:20) , but now it was here.
- 17:1 Notice the prayer accorded in this chapter is the "real" Lord's prayer. The pattern for prayer which Jesus gave to His disciples (Lk. 11:1-4) has often been called the Lord's prayer but it is not Jesus' prayer. He said, "when y pray, say..." (Lk. 11:2).
- This prayer of John 17 has been called our Lord's high priestly prayer. Here we find Jesus as our High Priest is interceding for His own. In the O.T. this was the order of the high priest. He prayed for himself and then he prayed for God's people (Heb. 9:7).
- 17:3 The word "know" (ginosko) means to know by experience not just to know by impartation of some information. This means to know God is to experience the power of God in one's life and the changes which come about when one receives Christ (II Cor. 5:17).
- 17:4 Here we see that Christ had finished the work the Father had given Him to do. He had revealed God the Father to men through His words and works (John 14:8-12).
- 17:5 This verse asserts the fact of Christ's pre-existence. Before the world was created Christ occupied a position of glory with the Father (Jn. 1:1).
- 17:5 Notice the word "world" mentioned here is used some nineteen times in this prayer. It is used here in all three senses - of God's creation, or Satan's system, and of unsaved people. Note that chapter seventeen ends the private ministry of the Son of God which began in Chapter thirteen.