

## **Bibles???**

### **The Word of God is the Absolute Truth and the Final Authority**

Turn your bibles with me to John 17

We are continuing our verse by verse study through the Gospel of John –

For the past several months, we have been studying what is known as the Upper Room discourse – this was Jesus' farewell to His disciples

This was Jesus pouring Himself into His disciples – teaching them what is going to happen on the cross, preparing them for what's going to happen to them and one of the things that we have seen over our studies is that Jesus also prepared them by giving them hope.

So what we are going to see today – as we start a new chapter – we see a transition into something new.

Jesus has finished His teaching

And we will see that Jesus is no longer speaking to His disciples

He is now speaking to the Father

You see, All of chapter 17 – is a prayer

A prayer in which Jesus prays for Himself, for His current disciples and for His future disciples as well (that's us)

And as we study this amazing prayer over the next few weeks –

We will learn how to pray like Jesus

But something else we are going to see in this prayer – especially in our text this morning –

Is a beautiful peak behind the curtain of how Jesus, the divine ruler over all, how He relates to the Father, how the Son and the Father relate to one another.

So as we study this prayer, we will learn more about Jesus and what He came to accomplish for us.

As His death was on the horizon – Jesus directs His attention to the Father and goes to Him in prayer, and commits Himself to glorifying the Father – through His obedience and faithfulness to the cross.

Let's pray...

Read our text John 17:1-5

Now, when most of us hear the phrase, “the Lord’s prayer” – we almost always refer back to a prayer that many of us may have learned as a child.

Of course I am referring to the model prayer that Jesus gave His disciples in Matt 6

**[Mat 6:9-13 NKJV] 9 "In this manner, therefore, pray:**

**Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name.**

**10 Your kingdom come. Your will be done**

**On earth as [it is] in heaven.**

**11 Give us this day our daily bread.**

**12 And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors.**

**13 And do not lead us into temptation,**

**But deliver us from the evil one.**

**For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

Now, - this isn't the Lord's prayer

This is actually the disciple's prayer – not the Lord's prayer

Jesus was simply giving them and us a model on how to pray - **In this manner, therefore, pray:**

It was never intended to be repeated verbatim

Jesus was instructing His disciples on the heart of the matter when it comes to prayer

Because the disciples needed to learn real prayer that flows from a real relationship with a real God, through a real Savior, Jesus Christ

BTW -

This is a prayer that Jesus could never have prayed -

**forgive us our debts (forgive us our sins)**

Jesus didn't have any debts, He never sinned

If we are looking for the real Lord's prayer – we go to Ch 17

Because this is where Jesus prayed

This is the greatest prayer ever prayed on earth and the greatest prayer recorded anywhere in the bible.

[Jhn 17:1-5 NKJV] 1 Jesus spoke these words, **lifted up His eyes to heaven**, and said: "Father, **the hour has come**. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You,

I had you make a note that Jesus lifted up His eyes to heaven –

This is the normal way that people prayed in biblical times –

**[Psa 123:1 NKJV] 1 A Song of Ascents. Unto You I lift up my eyes, O You who dwell in the heavens.**

In our studies through the Gospel of John – we have seen Jesus pray in this exact manner when He raised Lazarus from the dead –

**[Jhn 11:41 NKJV] 41 Then they took away the stone [from the place] where the dead man was lying. And Jesus lifted up [His] eyes and said, "Father, I thank You that You have heard Me.**

In Mark 7:34 – He does the same thing when He heals a deaf-mute

Jesus looks up, opens His eyes and begins to pray –

Very different than how most of us were taught to pray.

From a very young age – I was taught to bring my hands together, bow my head and close my eyes –

My daughters – when they went to Sunday school – they were taught the same

When my family and I go out to dinner – we still pray in the same way.

But that certainly is not the only way to pray

Jesus is praying the exact opposite

He is praying with His eyes wide open and He is praying out loud

You want to know why?

Because,

It is not the posture of prayer that matters – it's the position of the heart

I pray on my drive to work every morning – are my eyes open – they better be

I pray on my lunch walk as I walk around the commercial buildings by work – are my eyes open – they better be

On Wednesday nights' we finished Nehemiah a few weeks ago – the bible records him praying a silent prayer as he sat before King Artaxerxes –

Jesus prays out loud , Nehemiah prays silently

Again, we can pray anyway, at anytime and anywhere

God hears our out loud prayers and He hears our silent prayers

We just need to pray

What did Jesus pray –

First thing He says -

"Father, the hour has come – I had you make a note of that

That is a technical phrase –

You see, we were introduced to this phrase back in John 2 at the wedding in Cana –

You might remember, Mary walks into the room and tells Jesus, “They have no wine”

And Jesus says, “Woman, what does your concern have to do with Me? My hour has not yet come.”

And also saw a few chapters later that they sought to take Him; but no one laid a hand on Him, because His hour had not yet come.

The hour is speaking of the crucifixion

He is talking about His death

He is talking about His earthly ministry coming to an end

It's time – my hour has come

—the hour that all of human history has been waiting for— the crucial hour in the redemptive plan of God for the human race!

The hour has finally come for Jesus to bear the sins of mankind—

Jesus is saying, “The time had come to blot out the curse, to reconcile man to God, to destroy the power of sin, Satan and death—

The time has come to disposes the usurper and take the world back to God and begin the process of bringing the Kingdom of God to the earth—the hour has come!”

And then notice the 2<sup>nd</sup> part of verse 1

## **Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You,**

The word that is used here for glorify – is the word that means to magnify

Church, one of the things we need to learn to grasp is that prayer is for the glory of God

That is the ultimate purpose of our prayer life – to bring God glory

Prayer is not a way to get God to do what we want Him to do or to accomplish our desires or our will or to demand anything from Him

What Jesus says here should change our perspective on prayer –

Glorify Your Son

And we may think He is saying –

make something good for Me

Make Me popular

He is asking for the glory from the Father – but not in the way that most of us would think

He is asking for God to accomplish His will

His is saying glorify Me in My hour – which is really asking God to make His crucifixion worth while

“I want to be glorified so that You can be glorified”

How is that going to happen? Through His viscous death

We must understand that for all the pain, all the anguish, all of the suffering, and all of the sin-bearing that Jesus was about to go through on the cross—it was all for the glory for the Son and would bring glory to the Father as well!

From man’s point of view, Calvary was a revolting display of man's sin; but from the divine point of view, the cross revealed and magnified the grace and glory of God.

You see church, prayer is the means by which God gets man to do the things that He wants them to do.

It is a place of submission on our part

And that is what Jesus is doing here

Here is something I want us to consider –

Could it be that in God's way of doing things, our greatest glory might actually come from our greatest pain?

Look at the life of Paul –

**[2Co 12:9-10 NKJV] 9 And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore most gladly I will rather boast**

**(btw – that is the word glory) in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest**

upon me. **10 Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.**

It was Paul's great thorn in the flesh that brought him closest to the Lord's grace.

And for this, Paul was grateful.

We hate our own thorn in the flesh

But, it could also be the thing God wants to use the most in our life.

**2 "as You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him.**

This is how the Father would be glorified through Jesus' death on the cross

Notice – Jesus was given authority over all flesh – You have given – past tense.

He was given authority over all flesh before He came to dwell among us.

He was given authority over all flesh before the foundations of the world – as Paul says in Ephesians 4

You see, the cross was the purpose that Jesus came.

Our Creator, the All Powerful One, the One who was given All Authority, came to give eternal life to His people through His death on the cross.

I had you make a note of the phrase eternal life –

Jesus uses it twice – once here in verse 2 and in verse 3

Jesus is referring to our salvation

He is referring to us being born again

He is referring to our deliverance from our sinful pass

You see, eternal life is passed from the Father to the Son to those who receive Jesus by faith and are made one with Him through the new birth (That is what Jesus told Nicodemus – John 3)

Look at verse 3 –

**3 "And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.**

Jesus defines eternal life for us -

Eternal life doesn't start in heaven—it starts right here on earth the moment a person receives Jesus into their heart as their Savior—

Turn with me to 1 John 5

**[1Jo 5:11-13 NKJV] 11 And this is the testimony: that God has given (now) us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. 12 He who has the Son has life; he who**

**does not have the Son of God does not have life. 13 These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have (now) eternal life, and that you may [continue to] believe in the name of the Son of God.**

This eternal life that Jesus imparts to those who believe in Him - —it is given the moment a person opens their heart to Him and receives Him by faith.

In other words, we're not waiting to enter into eternal life as Christians—we're living it right now!

It is not something that we look forward to – we can enjoy it now, as believers.

Eternal life is essentially God living His life in us—that means that when I received Jesus into my heart the Holy Spirit moved in and filled me with the life of God which I'm enjoying right now—not waiting for someday.

Jesus says that it's all about coming to know God personally and intimately.

That's true eternal life, having a personal relationship with God.

God wants a relationship with you.

It's not just knowing about God.

It's knowing God.

I had you make a note of the word “know”

It means to learn to know, to come to know

It goes beyond intellectually knowing something – it speaks of an intimate knowledge

I know my wife. I know my kids. I know my friends.

It's not just intellectually knowing things in the Bible, like how to find the book of Malachi or the name of all the judges

It's intimately knowing the Author behind the Bible.

And through the cross – we can know Him

Jesus came to restore what was broken

This means that apart from the cross – we cannot know Him

Apart from Jesus, we cannot truly, rightly know God

That is what sets Christianity apart

God is not distant

We don't have to earn our way into receiving His favor

He came into this world – died for you and me – so that we might know Him

He is giving us this intimate access to God

So that we might be able to walk with Him and know Him intimately.

**4 "I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do.**

I had you make a note – “I have finished the work”

The last three and half years of the life of Jesus is what we refer to His ministry years or His serving years

For three years, we see Him, loving, caring, teaching, feeding, healing and discipling the men that were going to carry on His ministry after His death.

And as we follow His life – one of the things we have to realize is that Jesus didn't feed everyone, Jesus didn't heal everybody and Jesus didn't cast out every demon

So there will be critics who will make the argument – how can Jesus say , “I have finished the work” – when there could have been people that said “Jesus didn't heal me or He didn't help my son or my daughter in their time of need – He didn't give me food”

There are still sick people on the earth

There are still people dying from starvation

How could Jesus say – “He finished the work” – I wish He would have finished the work by including me or by including my loved ones

And of course, it is a misunderstanding – because we know that through His death on the cross and His resurrection – (that is the work)

Because even on the cross – Jesus cries out “It is finished”

And I think that we can learn a very important lesson from Jesus here so that we might be able to say that we finished the work.

The key is the last part of verse 4

I have finished the work which You have given Me to do.

Jesus prioritized His life to do the things that God had told Him to do

Which meant that there were many urgent things that Jesus could not address

For example – it wasn't too long ago when we were in John 5 – when we read about Jesus' encounter with the lame man at the Pool of Bethesda

John tells us that there were clearly a great multitude of sick people around the pool

We get a sense of people moaning and groaning and there was a sense of desperation because they were physically challenged.

And Jesus shows up – by the way, how many people did He heal that day?

One - and everyone else He left unhealed.

The scriptures do not record Jesus going back and healing the rest of the multitude that was by the pool

Jesus healed one person there – because that is what the Father had for Him

That was God's will

And we would do well to understand this in our own lives – there will always be needs about us – but we need to discern what is the Father's will for each one of our lives

We need to learn to be able to do and finish what God has called us to do

Because you and I – not matter how hard we try – we are not going to be able to meet everyone's needs – and if we try to, it will only lead to frustration.

We will become tired and weary – trying to do things that God never told us to do.

It is something that I myself have had to learn – as a pastor

I need to learn what God wants me to do – and be very faithful in doing it

I need to learn that I will not be able to meet everyone's needs – so I don't beat myself up at night because I couldn't do this or I couldn't do that for that brother or that sister.

I am never going to be able to meet everyone's needs – that is why it is very important to be able to discern what God wants us to do.

And that is why prayer is very important –

That is why being in His Word is very important

Because we need to hear where He is calling us to serve.

And the only way we are going to hear from Him – is if we know Him

**5 "And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.**

Jesus is God in human flesh

He existed before the world did because He is eternal

He is the Creator of everything -

And He is returning to that glory

No other human lips – could have uttered these words that Jesus made here in verse 5

None of us can look back to a time when we were with the Father before the world was made, but here was one who could.

If there is any verse in the Bible which single-handedly, standing by itself, unmistakably reflects the Deity of Jesus Christ, it is this verse.

Jesus is asking for the glory which was the Father's glory as well.

Jesus set aside His glory when He became man

And now that He has finished the work –

He is ready to resume the glory which was properly his, but He is thinking back over thirty-three years of his life and recognizing that all during that time He had voluntarily surrendered His right to be worshipped, His right to the glory that belonged to God.

Jesus is saying, "I am going back to glory the way it was before I took on this earthly body"

How was it going to happen? Through the cross

Church, may we, like Christ, live for the glory of God?

Jesus Christ, from the cradle to the grave, was bent on bringing glory, honor, and praise to the Father.

So too should we!

Let's pray...

To Receive Christ do the following:

Admit, "I am a sinner."

Confess and be willing to turn from your sin.

Believe, by faith that Jesus Christ died for you on the cross.

Receive, through prayer, Jesus Christ into your heart and receive eternal life.

Dear Lord Jesus,

I know that I am a sinner and need Your forgiveness. I believe that You died on the cross for my sins. Please forgive me for my sins and cleanse me by Your blood. I accept You by faith as my personal Lord and Savior. Give me a thirst for Your Word and Help me to follow You all of my days. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.

We saw in our text today that Jesus was able to say He finished the work which God had given Him to do

However – we have other examples of individuals that didn't finish the work that God called them to do.

King Saul in the OT - failed to kill the Amalekites,

Demas in the NT abandoned Paul because he loved the world.

I want to finish the work that God has given me to do and I am pretty sure you do too.

The only way you and I are going to finish the work that God has called us to do by having an intimate relationship with the Father, through the Son and the empowerment of the Holy Spirit

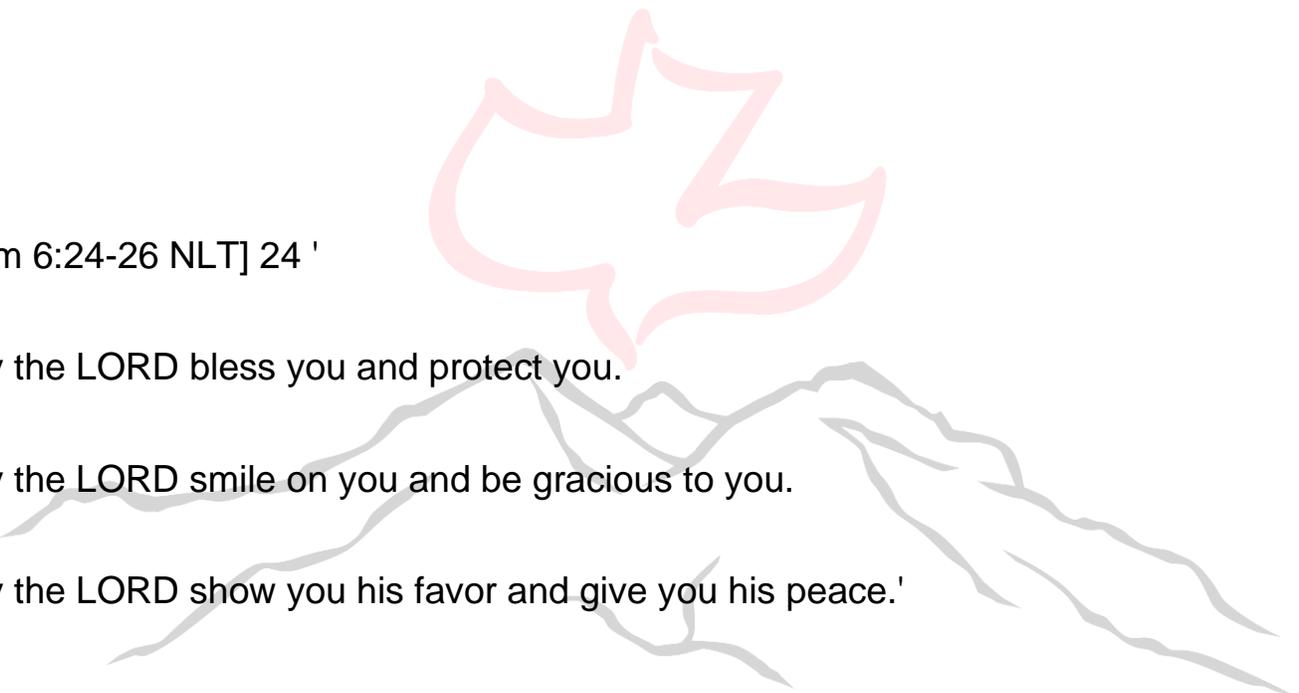
Amen

[Num 6:24-26 NLT] 24 '

May the LORD bless you and protect you.

May the LORD smile on you and be gracious to you.

May the LORD show you his favor and give you his peace.'



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