

JESUS' HIGH-PRIESTLY PRAYER (Part II)

TEXT: John 17:1-26

PLACE: Somewhere between the upper room and Gethsemane

NOTE: In our last lesson we noted Jesus' prayer for Himself and His disciples. Today we will note Jesus' prayer for all believers of all ages.

III. JESUS PRAYS FOR ALL BELIEVERS OF ALL AGES, vs. 20-26

(Three things to note for which Jesus prayed:)

1. That they (we) may be one.

"...That they may all be _____; even as _____,
Father, art in _____, and _____ I _____, ..."

- What should result in this unity?

⇒ What are some of the major hindrances to this unity?

⇒ What false remedies have men proposed to restore this unity?

⇒ What can we do to promote this unity Christ prayed for?

SUPPLEMENTAL STUDY:

"Why Must We Have Unity of Christians?" (Seth Wilson, Ozark Christian College)

1- Jesus wants it that way.

2- The Holy Spirit through the apostles urged unity. (1 Corinthians 1:10, Ephesians 4:1-6, Philippians 2:2, 1 Peter 4:8-11)

3- The practice of division will condemn us. (Galatians 5:20-21, 1 Corinthians 3:16-17)

4- That the world may believe. (Division is a bad witness to the world.)

5- We are commanded to avoid or turn from those who cause division. (Romans 16:17. Titus 3:10-11, II John. 9-11)

6- Because division comes from putting human authority in the place of Christ. (Ephesians 1:20-23)

7- Because division comes from putting the words of men in the place of the infallible Word of God.

8- Because Christ is One and not divided.

9- Because division wastes and dissipates the energies and resources of evangelistic workers and supporters.

On the other hand, the practice of unity is sweet and blessed in God's sight. Psalm 133:1

2. That they may have His glory.

-What does it mean to have His glory in us? (What a concept!)

- As time permits, study Romans 8 and Ephesians 3:17-19.

What a powerful thought Paul expresses in Col. 1:27!

If we have Christ's power in us, why do we fail and live defeated lives sometimes?

- What can we do to keep on the victorious side of life?

-What future glory shall we someday receive?

3. That they may have the love of the Father.

- Vs. 24-26 are the climactic crescendo of the whole night's discourse (chapters 13,14, 15, 16 and 17). He has explained so much and now He sums it all up.

"...That the _____ wherewith Thou didst love Me may be in _____, and _____ in them."

Simple- Christ, nor His Spirit, cannot dwell in us until the love of the Father dwells in us. It is a reciprocating thing, circular, triangular affair with the Father, Son and believers and the Bible as the hub.

Consider:

First: God's love for us. John 3:16, Romans 5:8, 8:35, 1 John. 4:7, Jeremiah 31:3

Second: Our love for God. Matthew 22:37-38

Third: Our love for each other. Matthew 22:39, Philippians 2:2, 1 Thessalonians 3:12, Hebrews 13:1, 1 Peter 1:22, 2:17, 3:8, 1 John. 3-4

Fourth: Our love for this world. I John. 2:15, Revelation 2:4