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**APOSTOLIC VERSE BY VERSE BIBLE STUDY**

**Straightway Church of Christ, Inc.**

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**"JESUS’ PRIESTLY PRAYER"**

**John 17:1-5**

***John 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:"***

In chapters 13–16, John presents Jesus’s “Swan Song,” the final teachings and exhortations he gave to his disciples in the upper room after the Passover supper. In chapter 17, John records the prayer Jesus spoke at the conclusion of their time together, just before his betrayal. Jesus began His priestly prayer by lifting up His eyes to heaven, a common Jewish custom suggesting His confidence in the Father. This speaking directly to the Father was partially for the benefit of Jesus' followers. This looking toward heaven tells these disciples of the home of the Father.

***Mark 7:33-35***

***33 And he took him aside from the multitude, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spit, and touched his tongue;***

***34 And looking up to heaven, he sighed, and saith unto him, Ephphatha, that is, Be opened.***

***35 And straightway his ears were opened, and the string of his tongue was loosed, and he spake plain.***

***John 11:41-43***

***41 Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead was laid. And Jesus lifted up his eyes, and said, Father, I thank thee that thou hast heard me.***

***42 And I knew that thou hearest me always: but because of the people which stand by I said it, that they may believe that thou hast sent me.***

***43 And when he thus had spoken, he cried with a loud voice, Lazarus, come forth.***

Jesus’ first priestly prayer request was for the Father to glorify His Son. All true believers should likewise should prayer this prayer. This was not self-seeking since its purpose was that the Son may glorify the Father in return. Jesus recognized that the hour had come for the Son and the Father to glorify each other. The Father and Son love one another and desire to make much of one another before a watching world. Those who come to God through Jesus Christ are called to participate in this divine “oneness” love, bringing glory to God through our faith in and obedience to the Son. This glory of Jesus would appear to be anything but glory. This victory that Jesus wins here is victory over the flesh, as well as victory over Satan and death.

***John 17:22 “And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one:”***

***Romans 8:18 “For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.”***

***1 Peter 1:7-8***

***7 That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:***

***8 Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory:***

***John 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."***

As John has already made clear in previous lessons, Jesus is ruler over everything and everyone who believes in Jesus receives eternal life. The Father loves the Son so much that he desired to give this redeemed humanity to him as a gift. The Father gave the Son authority over all flesh and then gave us to him so that the King would have a people to rule.

***John 1:1-3***

***1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.***

***2 The same was in the beginning with God.***

***3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.***

***John 3:16 “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”***

The Creator has dominion over His creation. Our flesh was made from the dust of the earth by creator God. The life we experience is the result of the breath of life breathed into us by God. We are a free moral agent. We can refuse eternal life. Jesus purchased eternal life for all of mankind. Those who accept it will have eternal life with Him. We are His workmanship.

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

Jesus received delegated authority from His Father over all His children, including authority to give eternal life and to judge. Those who refuse to know Jesus as Saviour and Lord shall experience death, and not life. If we recognize Jesus as Saviour and Lord, we have eternal life. Jesus is the Way, Truth, and Life. No man comes to the Father except by Him. In his prayer, Jesus gave a definition of eternal life. Eternal life is defined as coming (by faith) to know personally both the only true God, and Jesus Christ. This is important because it does not merely refer to an existence that lasts forever. After all, everyone will live eternally, either in heaven or in hell. Eternal life, then, is not merely the continuation of life but the experience of God’s reality. This is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and the one you have sent Jesus Christ. To receive eternal life is to enter into the divine realm with the goal of experiencing an intimate relationship with God through Jesus, a relationship that will grow throughout eternity. It is the uninterrupted, deepening knowledge and experience of God. This is the purpose for which we were created.

***John 5:26-27***

***26 For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself;***

***27 And hath given him authority to execute judgment also, because he is the Son of man.***

Jesus breathed on his disciples and said, Receive the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit would come to dwell within the apostles on the day of Pentecost, enabling them to accomplish the mission on which Jesus was sending them. Here, then, Jesus was visibly and physically preparing them for what was spiritually to come. They would be granted kingdom authority. The Holy Spirit would enable them to authoritatively declare that God had indeed forgiven the sins of any who believe in Jesus.

***John 20:22-23***

***22 And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost:***

***23 Whose soever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; and whose soever sins ye retain, they are retained.***

Interestingly, Jesus by divine authority and prerogative has delegated authority to his disciples “bind and loose” sin.

***Matthew 16:19 “And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.”***

***Matthew 18:18 “Verily I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.***

***John 17:4, "I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do."***

Jesus glorified God in that He accomplished the work (the earthly ministry) God gave Him to do. He emphatically declared,

***John 4:34, “My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work.”***

***Luke 22:42 “Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done.”***

***Hebrews 10:7 “Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me,) to do thy will, O God.”***

We bring glory to God in the same way, by pursuing his will for our lives. The verb “glorify” in these verses means “to manifest the splendid greatness of another,” in this case God and Christ. This work was finalized on the cross when Jesus cried, “It is finished” in John 19:30. Through the miracles Jesus did and the messages He brought, He brought glory to the Father. He said He had done the works of the Father. He also said in John 14:9, “if they had seen Him they had seen the Father.” Jesus brought the good news of the gospel to the earth. Jesus also brought salvation through faith, and not works. His miracles caused many to believe on the Father and the Son. The cross would be the final work.

***John 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 request for the Father to glorify the Son in verse 1 is repeated in verse 5. “Glory” and “glorify” carry slightly different nuances.

(1) The Son is to be glorified in His “hour,” i.e., the cross and resurrection (v. 1).

(2) The cross and resurrection would glorify the Father in that it would complete the Son’s authority to give eternal life to all who believe (v. 2).

(3) The Son has glorified the Father on earth by His works (v. 4).

(4) The Son will be glorified in heaven together with the Father in the ascension and eternity future (v. 17:5a).

(5) The future glory of the Son will equal the glory He had with the Father in eternity past (17: 5b).

Since this glory will be equal to the glory that Jesus had with God before the world was created, Jesus’ resurrection and ascension (exaltation) are included in the “work.” Jesus prayed the Father would glorify him in [his] presence with that glory he had with the Father before the world existed. Notice that Jesus clearly affirmed his pre-existence. Before the incarnation, before Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit in the womb of Mary, before the creation week even began, Jesus eternally existed in the glorious presence of God the Father.

***Matthew 22:45-46***

***45 If David then call him Lord, how is he his son?***

***46 And no man was able to answer him a word, neither durst any man from that day forth ask him any more questions.***

***John 8:58 “Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am.”***

The glory of the Father is in the Son. The Son will return to His original glory in heaven, and we will join Him there. And to this glory he would soon return. For the Creator of the world to be housed in a body of flesh, had to be a terrible come-down. This had all been planned from the beginning to restore fallen man to fellowship with the Father. The first flesh man (Adam) had failed. This is why it was necessary for Jesus to take on the form of flesh. The second Adam (Jesus) would restore mankind to full fellowship with God.

***I Corinthians 15:22, "For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive."***

***I Corinthians 15:45, "And so it is written. The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit."***

***John 3:6 "That which is born of flesh is flesh: and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit."***

**QUESTIONS**

1. Where did Jesus look when He prayed?

2. What hour was He speaking of?

3. Who would be glorified in this?

4. Who had the Father given Jesus power over?

5. What would Jesus give to those who the Father gave Him?

6. What is life eternal in verse 3?  
7. What did Jesus say He had finished?  
8. How long had Jesus had this glory with the Father?  
9. As in Adam, all die in Christ, all shall be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

10. That which is born of flesh is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.