

THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

JOHN 17:20 - 23

“THE HIGH PRIESTLY PRAYER”

Introduction

I. Jesus Prays for All Those Who Will Ever Believe in Him

A. Question #1 - FOR WHOM does Jesus pray???

Answer #1 - Jesus prays (with absolute certainty!) for those who will believe in Him!

Note: That phrase “those who will believe” is in the present active tense, which means it could be translated as “those who are believing in Me through their word.”

Note: This is an “anticipatory prayer”. So confident was Jesus that this would happen, He prays for it as if it is already accomplished.

Note: Jesus is absolutely certain that the Gospel would prevail!

Matthew 16:18b - *“I will build My Church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”*

Isaiah 53:10b-11 - *“He shall see His offspring; He shall prolong His days; the will of the Lord will prosper in His hand. Out of the anguish of His soul He shall see and be satisfied; by His knowledge shall the righteous One, My Servant, make many to be accounted righteous, and He shall bear their iniquities.”*

Answer #2 - Jesus prays for those who will make Him the sole object of their faith!

John 3:16-17; 20:30-31; Acts 4:12; Matthew 11:28-29; John 11:25-26 -

Answer #3 - Jesus prays for those who will believe in the Gospel preached by the Apostles!

Acts 4:8-12; 1 Corinthians 15:1-6 -

- The Holiness of God
- The Sinfulness of Man
- The Sufficiency of Christ
- The Necessity of Faith IN Christ
- The Urgency of Eternity

Romans 10:17 - *“...faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.”*

B. Question #2 - FOR WHAT does Jesus pray???

Request Summary: Jesus prays that believers would be unified in such a way that one day the world will be brought to absolute conclusions concerning Himself and His people.

Principle #1 - True spiritual unity is possible only among those who have believed in Jesus Christ.

Principle #2 - True spiritual unity between believers is rooted in (grows out of!) our mutual union with God the Father and God the Son.

John 14:10a - *“Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me?”*

Metaphors like...

Head & Body - Colossians 1:18 -

Shepherd & Sheep - John 10:14-18 -

Groom & Bride - Ephesians 5:32 -

The Vine and The Branches - **John 15:5a** - *“I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in Me and I in him...”*

Note: A Christian is a person in whom God dwells (God places His very presence in His people), but a Christian is also a person who is in God.

Gal. 3:27-28; Phil. 3:8b-9; 1 Thess. 4:16; Col. 3:3; 1 Thess. 1:1 -

Note: Our union with God now becomes the basis of our unity with one another.

Note: Christ creating unity among His people is Christ reversing the horrible consequences of sin; sin shattered not only our unity with God but our unity with one another.

Principle #3 - True spiritual unity is not fully realized until our glorification.

Side Note: The closer Jesus got to the cross, the more Jesus spoke this way, in these kinds of terms, focusing on heaven and on His ultimate glory.

Note: It is Jesus' victorious, conquering, triumphant glory that we will share in!

Ephesians 1:20-23; 2:6; Philippians 2:8-11; Hebrews 1 -

Note: The value of praise is determined by the stature of the one who gives it.

Note: It's this glory that Jesus has in mind in verse 22 that He longs to share with us.

Colossians 3:4; Romans 8:17; Revelation 3:21 -