

John 17:1-5, “Christ Prays for Himself”

Last Sunday: Christ Overcoming the World

Today: Christ Praying for Himself?

Welcome to the longest recorded prayer in the New Testament:

- 17:1-5, Christ prays that he would be glorified.
- 17:6-19, Christ prays that his disciples would be kept.
- 17:20-26, Christ prays that the future church would be one.

17:1/ “Glorify your Son”

Glory - *doxa* (weight). To glorify is to give praise, or to honor; to give God “weightiness” by displaying his attributes so that others may worship Him. Christ is asking his Father to glorify himself as he goes to the cross and after his resurrection. Will this happen?

- Pilate’s testimony: “I find no fault in him” (Jn. 19:4).
- Thief’s pleading: “Lord, deliver me when you come into your kingdom” (Lk. 23:42).
- Centurion’s confession: “Certainly this man was innocent” (Lk. 23:47).

Are there applications for us as we witness Christ going into the valley of the shadow of death?

1. Christ wanted to glorify God more than anything on earth; not to be famous, or rich, or for selfish gain, but to glorify God. What was Jesus’ rebuke to his enemies in John 5:44? They received honor from one another instead of seeking the honor that comes from God. Why did they do that? They loved the praise of men rather than the praise of God, Jn. 12:43 (A. W. Pink).
2. Christ looked to the future. “The true remedy of tribulation is to look to the succeeding glory and to counterbalance future dangers with present hopes. This was comfort against that sad hour. So it must be our course: not to look at things which are seen, but to things which are not seen (2 Cor. 4:17); to defeat sense by faith. When the mind is in heaven it is fortified against the pains which the body feeleth on earth” (Thomas Manton).

17:2/ “To give eternal life to all whom you have given him”

D. A. Carson, “Christians often think of Jesus as God’s gift to us; we rarely think of ourselves as God’s gift to Jesus.”

Jn. 6:39, “And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day.”

17:4/ “Having accomplished the work that you gave me to do”

Greek verb τελειόω (te-lei-O-o) – “to accomplish, to reach the end”

The aim of Christ was always to accomplish the work of the Father in his life:

- In his pre-incarnate self? “Behold, I have come to do your will, O God, as it is written of me in the scroll of the book” (Heb. 10:7).
- As a 12-year-old? “Did you not know that I must be in my Father’s house?” (Lk. 2:49).
- In his last words? “It is finished” (Jn. 19:30).

Applications

1. Prayer
2. Glory
3. Sovereignty
4. Knowledge