

John 17:6-10, “Christ Prays for the Disciples—Mission Accomplished”

Last Sunday: Christ Prays for Himself.

Today: Christ Prays for His Disciples. Mission Accomplished?

Outline:

- 17:1-5, Christ prays that he would be glorified.
- 17:6-10, Christ prays for the disciples—mission accomplished.
- 17:11-19, Christ prays that his disciples would be kept.
- 17:20-26, Christ prays that the future church would be one.

17:6/ “I have manifested your name to the people”

What is God like?

- He is sovereign, yet weeps at the tomb of Lazarus, a man he could have kept from dying.
- He is the very definition of love, yet condemns the Pharisees who reject him.
- He is holy and yet has mercy on the wicked (Matthew, the thief on the cross, etc.).

Question: Are the elect (all of those who would one day become believers) born under the wrath of God (Jn. 3:36) OR do they belong to God (Jn. 17:6) before the world was created?

- As part of “the world,” all believers are originally born under the wrath of God (Jn. 3:36), and are in that situation until the Holy Spirit performs heart surgery, causing them to be born again, given the two-sided coin of repentance and faith, God’s righteousness, etc.
- All believers also originally belonged to God, and their names were “written before the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who was slain” (Rev. 13:8).

“Yours they were, and you gave them to me”

- Eph. 1:4, God “chose us in Him before the creation of the world.”
- Acts 18:9-10, “The Lord said to Paul one night in a vision, ‘Do not be afraid, but go on speaking and do not be silent, for I am with you, and no one will attack you to harm you, for I have many in this city who are my people.’”

“And they have kept your word”

J. C. Ryle, “The lesson before us is full of comfort and instruction. It is evident that the Lord sees far more in his believing people that they see in themselves, or than others see in them. The least degree of faith is very precious in His sight. Though it be no larger than a grain of mustard seed, it is a plant of heavenly growth, and makes a boundless difference between the possessors of it and the men of the world. The eleven apostles were weak and unstable as water; but they believed and loved their Master when millions refused to own Him.”

17:9/ “I am not praying for the world”

Why doesn't Jesus pray for the world?

- Option #1 – Jesus restricts himself to praying for his disciples because they are the means for reaching the world (vss. 18, 20).
- Option #2 – Jesus restricts himself to praying for his disciples because “they are yours” (they belong to the Father unlike the rest of the world). This better fits the context.