

## **John 17: The Greatest Prayer Ever Prayed**

**09-11-16 PM**

*Note: The main idea and many points for this outline came from a book by Warren Wiersbe and from Mark Copeland (Executable Outlines) BH*

When we consider the many Prayers of the Bible, we tend to rank them by their impact or effectiveness. There are approximately 650 prayers recorded in the Bible. Jesus prayer in John 17 is not His first or last. It takes about six minutes to reverently read it aloud; by size this prayer is quite brief. Yet we understand that length does not equal content (consider the brevity of the prayer in Matthew 6). Let us consider four reasons this prayer is the most important of all prayers in the Bible.

### **I. The One who offered this prayer**

- A. We struggle to understand how and why Jesus prayed
  - 1. We say "But He WAS God; how could He pray to Himself?"
  - 2. Perhaps the WHY of prayer is answered here
- B. Until now we have been told that Jesus is:
  - 1. The Seven I AMs
  - 2. The Seven Miracles
  - 3. The Seven Testimonies
- C. Thus this prayer comes by Jesus after we have affirmed His identity

### **II. The Circumstances of the prayer**

- A. Often it is the occasion that makes a prayer (or statement) weighty
  - 1. Neil Armstrong said, "That's one small step for a man, one giant leap for mankind."
    - a. If he had made the statement anywhere else, it would not be remembered
    - b. He made it stepping down from his spacecraft, the first man on the moon
  - 2. The situation helped give weight to his words!
- B. The occasion of Jesus' prayer
  - 1. Notice His first words: "Father, the hour has come" - Jn 17:1
  - 2. What 'hour' is that?
    - a. His appointment with the cross - cf. Jn 16:31-32
    - b. A time of separation, betrayal, suffering, and crucifixion
    - c. A time in which God's eternal purpose is about to be executed

### **III. The contents of the prayer**

- A. There are vital themes here
  - 1. It deals with the history and future of all things
    - a. Back to eternity past - Jn 17:5
    - b. Forward into the future glory in heaven - Jn 17:24
  - 2. It deals with glory
    - a. The glory of the Father and the Son - Jn 17:1
    - b. The disciples glorifying God on earth - Jn 17:10
    - c. The Son giving glory to His disciples - Jn 17:22
    - d. The disciples beholding the glory of the Son - Jn 17:24
  - 3. It discusses love
    - a. The Father's love for believers - Jn 17:23
    - b. The Father's love for Jesus - Jn 17:23-24

B. What Jesus asks of the Father:

1. "Glorify Me" - Jn 17:1-5
2. "Keep them" - Jn 17:6-12
3. "Sanctify them" - Jn 17:13-19
4. "That they all might be one" - Jn 17:20-23
5. "That they may behold My glory" - Jn 17:24-26

C. Three things Jesus prayed for:

1. Jesus prays for Himself - Jn 17:1-5
2. Jesus prays for His disciples - Jn 17:6-19
3. Jesus prays for all believers - Jn 17:20-26

**IV. The ultimate victory revealed in the prayer**

A. Jesus has great concern for us in the world

1. Pertaining to "the world" (used 19 times!) and the effect it can have on believers
2. A justifiable concern, for we live in a world which is:
  - a. Deceived (blinded by Satan) - cf. 2Co 4:3-4
  - b. Dangerous (promises fulfillment, but will pass away) - cf. 1Jn 2:15-17
  - c. Defiled (defiling those who accept it) - cf. Jm 1:27
  - d. Divided (this is self-evident, especially in regards to religion)

B. But Jesus also knew that in this moment He was overcoming the world

1. As He told His disciples prior to this prayer - cf. Jn 16:33
2. How did Jesus reveal he had overcome the world? They world is:
  - a. Deceived, but Jesus has shown us reality, in revealing the true God - Jn 17:3
  - b. Dangerous, but Jesus provides security as we are in God's name - Jn 17:11-12
  - c. Defiled, but Jesus provides sanctification through God's word - Jn 17:17
  - d. Divided, but Jesus offers unity through His glory - Jn 17:22