

“THE LORD’S PRAYER”

John 17:1-5

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INTRODUCTION

This chapter is unique. As Plummer states, *it is “the simplest in language, the profoundest in meaning, in the whole Bible” (p. 298)*. The chapter has **simplicity**, **subtlety**, and **sublimity**. Here we have the Son of God in the flesh praying to His heavenly Father: *the second Person of the Godhead praying to the first Person of the Godhead*. Notice how often He refers to Him as Father (vv. 1, 5, 11, 21, 24, 25).

Jesus refers to His perfect obedience and His totally finished work. He makes **requests** here; these are not the **petitions** of an inferior. Jesus asks for three things in this prayer: 1) For the Father to glorify Him so that He may in turn glorify the Father (vv. 1-5); 2) For the Father to keep and use the disciples (vv. 6-19); 3) For the whole body of believers who would become part of His people one day (vv. 20-26).

Jesus’ prayer for Himself has **two** primary petitions:

- 1) That the Father would restore Him to His pre-incarnate glory (4-5)
- 2) That the Father would use Him to fulfill the mission for which He had been sent—to save the lost and to give them eternal life.

So what was it that Jesus was primarily concerned with?—**THE SALVATION OF SOULS**.

I submit to you that this is what He wants us to be concerned with: **SAVING SOULS!**

I. JESUS IS GLORIFIED (4-5)

A. A Fully Finished Work (4)

1. Given by God (“Given” is used 17 times in this prayer)
The believer, like the Lord, must **accept and do** our God-given job.
2. Glorified the Lord—by manifesting His divine nature in our obedience
It is not about us—it is about the Lord!

B. A Restoration to Glory (5)

1. The Lord’s glory *alongside the Father* before the Creation

This glory He “**ever had**” with the Father.

- Jesus is eternal—He existed in glory with the Father.
- Jesus is distinct from the Father
- Jesus did the Father’s work on earth

Jesus points out that “the hour has come”—it is now time to finish the job that He came to do (1). The work of redemption is almost complete.

2. The Father restores Him to the same glory upon His resurrection and ascension
He asks the Father to glorify Him: “Thy Son” (v. 1) and “Me” (v. 5)

- See Phil. 2:9-11
- He is the *same person* now that He was then.

II. JESUS GLORIFIES THE FATHER

He glorifies the Father once the Father glorifies Him (v. 1)

A. The Father Gave Him Authority (v. 2)

See Mt. 28:18; 11:27; Jn. 5:27)

Over **all flesh**—here all human beings

B. The Son Gives Eternal Life (2-3)

1. This is life with God forever.

2. This life is only to those “given Him” by the Father (See 6:37, 44).

C. Eternal Life Exists in Knowing God (3)

This is not mere intellectual knowledge—it comes from appropriating Him (See **John 1:11-12; 20:31**). One comes to know Him more and more in a personal relationship with Him!

1. Knowing the Father

- The **only** God—contrast with paganism.
- The true God—contrast with perverse monotheism—seek God apart from Christ (Judaism, Islam, etc.)

2. Knowing the Son

- Jesus—Savior
- Christ—Anointed One
- The Sent One—on a Mission from the Father

One can only know God through Jesus Christ; He reveals the Father.

CONCLUSION

There are some key truths here for us:

- **We can only glorify God by doing His work—and that is spreading the gospel and bringing souls to saving faith in Jesus Christ.**
- **If you have not personally appropriated Jesus Christ by simple saving faith you cannot have eternal life.**
- **When you receive the Son you also receive the Father.**
- **When you receive eternal life you glorify God**

IT IS NOT ABOUT US AND OUR AGENDA!

Jesus was always about His Father’s agenda. So must we.

So why do we work; why do we get married; why do we raise children; why do we participate in recreation; why do we live life?

What are you living for; what are you accomplishing in your life? What will you have to show at the end?