

Prayer for Future Christians

Study Outline – Grace Bible Chapel

John's Gospel Study - John 17:20-26

Sunday –December 4th, 2011

Context: Christ is praying in the presence of His eleven remaining disciples, knowing that He will soon be on the cross. This, His high priestly prayer, is significantly important because it is a view of a conversation between two members of the Godhead. It also shows us what is important to God, and thereby brings great insight, joy, and comfort to God's people. In these final two paragraphs of John 17 (17:20–26) Christ prays for those “who will believe in Him.”

This prayer follows the statement made by Christ in verse 17:9 that this is a particular prayer not for just everyone, but for those who are “given Him” by the Father. As He now prays for all future Christians (future from the standpoint of the time of the prayer), this prayer includes those of us today in the 21st century as well as all those who have gone before us down through the years, and those yet in the future who will be His. It shows God's special love and plan for His own. This prayer follows a pattern of desires for these to mature in their faith, their testimony, and their relationship with God. This process of maturing is described in Christian theology as sanctification. The sanctification of God's own is a reality in this life, and is followed by glorification when moving beyond this life. Christ's prayer incorporates both sanctification and glorification. There are several key things emphasized in His prayer: Vs 21 – a testimony to the world of God's transforming salvation, Vs 22-23 – a testimony to the world of unity, Vs 24 – the ultimate arrival in glorification, and Vs 24-25 – the progress and final destiny of perfect unified love. God is desirous of showing His glory throughout the world, and the emphasis here shows this significant responsibility for Christians. The prayer provides Christians a wonderful view of God's will for us now, and our future destiny. As this is the prayer of Christ it must and will be answered. Nothing could be more delightful than to know this prayer. It brings understanding, comfort, joy, a determination for living by faith in the present and bringing a testimony to the world.

Broad outline of the Gospel of John (underlined is the immediate context).

VII. The Performance of Christ followed by irrational rejection (6:1-12:50)

VIII. The Personal Ministry of Christ to His own (13:1-17:26)

N. The Closing words of instruction (16:16-33)

O. The Conquerors prayer (17:1-26)

1. Sacred Personal Request (God's glory) (17:1-5)

2. Specific Prayer for the Disciples (17:6-19)

3. Sublime Prayer for future Christians (17:20-26)

Key Words (17: 20-26)

- known (5 times)
- given (4 times)
- loved (4 times)
- one (3 times)
- sent (3 times)



Introduction:

a. Sanctified unto God (17:20-24)

i. Shown as a work of God (17:20-21)

ii. Special testimony of unity (17:22-23)

iii. Secure glorification (17:24)

b. Sanctification summation (17:25-26)

i. Sufficient understanding...start (17:25)

ii. State of sacred unified love...goal (17:26)

Conclusion:
