



# The Eternal Plan of God

## John 17:1-5

As we continue to look at Jesus prayer in John chapter 17 we notice his references to “the hour,” and “the work you have given me to do,” as well as “on earth,” and “before the world was.” These phrases tie to the *Eternal Plan of God*.

The events that were about to take place (Jesus crucifixion and resurrection) did not happen by chance. They were no accident. It may have looked like the Jews who were plotting to kill Jesus got their way and that Rome was exercising its power and authority but God was not surprised by these events.

That Jesus would take on flesh and dwell among us, and suffer and die on the cross was the Plan all along. God promised in eternity past before He created the world that He would redeem a people for His own glory. (see Hebrews 6:17-18, Titus 1:2, Ephesians 1:4-5, and more)

In John’s gospel Jesus had often referred to His divine time table. He had often said it was “my hour has not yet come.” But now His hour had come, God’s eternal plan was unfolding without mistake or delay.

In Matthew 16 when Jesus had told His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem to die and rise again Peter had tried to rebuke Him. Peter could not comprehend a messiah that died. Jesus rebuked Peter harshly for trying to interfere with the plan of God.

Fast forward to after Jesus resurrection and ascension and in Peter’s great sermon on Pentecost he said – *“this Man, delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of lawless men and put Him to death.”* (acts 2:23) Now Peter finally understood that Jesus had not come to rule but to save, and that this had been the plan all along.

Jesus had earlier spoken of this eternal plan of God in John 6: 37,39,40 - ***All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will never cast out.*** <sup>38</sup> ***For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.*** <sup>39</sup> ***Now this is the will of Him who sent Me, that of all that He has given Me I lose nothing, but raise it up on the last***

***day.*** <sup>40</sup> ***For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him will have eternal life, and I Myself will raise him up on the last day.” No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day.”***

God’s eternal plan that He promised from eternity past was that He would give a redeemed people to His Son as a love gift, who would glorify the Son. The Son, would lay down His life to give eternal life to those The Father gave Him, and would give them back to the Father. (see also Ephesians 2, Romans 8, I Corinthians 15 and others)

As Jesus begins His prayer in John 17 that eternal plan of God was front and center in His mind.

***John 17:1-5*** <sup>1</sup> ***Jesus spoke these things; and lifting up His eyes to heaven, He said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify Your Son, that the Son may glorify You,*** <sup>2</sup> ***even as You gave Him authority over all flesh, that to all whom You have given Him, He may give eternal life.*** <sup>3</sup> ***And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.*** <sup>4</sup> ***I glorified You on the earth, having finished the work which You have given Me to do.*** <sup>5</sup> ***Now, Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.***

We covered verse one last week so we will focus on verses 2-5 here.

[Authority to Give v2](#)

[Relationship to Offer v3](#)

[Work Accomplished v4](#)

[Glory Deserved v5](#)

### **Authority to Give v2**

Jesus prayed that the plan would be fulfilled. The father had given Him authority to give life and the way He would do that was the cross. Back in John 10 He had stated - <sup>17</sup> *“For this reason the Father loves Me, because I lay down My life so that I may take it again.”* <sup>18</sup> *No*

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*one takes it away from Me, but from Myself, I lay it down. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This commandment I received from My Father."*

This idea is tied with John 3:35-36 as well. ***"The Father loves the Son and has given all things into His hand. <sup>36</sup> He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him."***

Jesus would with the authority given to Him by the Father and consistent with the plan of God lay day His life, in order to give life to all who believe in Him.

### **Relationship to Offer v3**

Often we think of eternal life in terms of length of time, but the Bible says that those who do not believe and are condemned to hell also live forever. Here Jesus tells us that eternal life is not primarily about quantity of life but quality of life. Eternal life is knowing God. That idea of knowing is to have a deep, intimate love relationship.

Back in John chapter 14 Jesus told the disciples that they would be in Him, and He in them. They would have union with Him. This is the relationship Jesus offers. Eternal life is not some future thing. For the believer eternal life is now, a deep, intimate relationship with Christ that is real now but fully realized in the future.

As believers we have union with Christ and therefore we have His joy, His peace, His love. The relationship with Christ brings quality of life right now.

### **Work Accomplished v4**

Jesus next stated that He had glorified the Father by finishing the work that He had been given to do on earth. He had often said that "I do the works the Father has given me," and "I only speak the words the Father has given Me to speak." On earth He had been completely obedient to the Father and had done everything He had been given to do.

The life Jesus lived was perfect. He had fulfilled the Law. Everyone else who has ever lived has sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. Jesus, however was perfect.

Jesus work would culminate in the cross where He would pay the penalty for the sins of all who believe in Him. But what made Him worthy, and able to be the "Lamb of

God, who take away the sin of the world," was that He was perfect. "A lamb with out blemish or spot."

Only a someone who was perfect could be a sacrifice worthy to pay for sin. But not only did Jesus pay the penalty for sin (death) for all who believe, but then His righteousness is then imputed (given) to those who believe. Those that have been purchased with the blood of Christ stand before God, not as sinners, but as sinless. When God looks at a redeemed person He sees the perfection of Christ. Jesus came into the world to save sinners and He accomplished it.

### **Glory Deserved v5**

Jesus desired was to complete the eternal plan of God. He wanted to be glorified that He might glorify the father (verse1) and they would be together in glory. John chapter one comes quickly to mind – ***"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God."***

Jesus had fulfilled that plan of God, He had overcome the world, He had lived a perfect life, He had paid the penalty for sin and purchased eternal life. He is worthy. His glory is deserved.

***Philippians 2:5-11 - Have this way of thinking in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup>who, although existing in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, <sup>7</sup>but emptied Himself, by taking the form of a slave, by being made in the likeness of men. <sup>8</sup>Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. <sup>9</sup>Therefore, God also highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, <sup>10</sup>so that at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE WILL BOW, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup>and that EVERY TONGUE WILL CONFESS that Jesus Christ is LORD, to the glory of God the Father.***

### **Bible Studies:**

**7:00 am Tuesdays:** Bible Study – Governor’s Large Conference Room – Open to All: Legislators, Constitutional Officers, Lobbyists, Staff

**8:00 pm Wednesdays:** Legislator Only Bible Study – Red Rosa



