



In this section of Jesus' prayer in John 17 He turns His attention to the disciples. His time on earth was wrapping up (His hour had come). Immediately in front of Him was the cross where He would finish His work on earth. The work the Father had given Him to do culminated in the cross but also included everything He had done in His life. He had lived a perfect life, fulfilling the Law. His sinlessness is what made Him a worthy sacrifice for sin.

We give Christ glory for His perfect life (which His righteousness is imputed to us), and His sacrifice (which takes away our sin). But scripture says that He has a "greater work." Hebrews 7:25 says that *"Therefore He is able also to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them."* He died to save us but He lives to make intercession for us which makes our salvation sure (save forever).

Romans 5:8-10 speaks of this as well. Because He died for us (verse 8) "we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life (verse 10). How does He save us by His life? His intercession for us.

This prayer in John 17 is called His High Priestly Prayer because in it He intercedes for His disciples and all who believe. This prayer is a foreshadowing of the work that He does for us right now. His intercession for us.

John 17:6-10 ⁶ *"I have manifested Your name to the men whom You gave Me out of the world; they were Yours and You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word. ⁷ Now they have come to know that everything You have given Me is from You; ⁸ for the words which You gave Me I have given to them; and they received them and truly understood that I came forth from You, and they believed that You sent Me. ⁹ I ask on their behalf; I do not ask on behalf of the world but of those whom You have given Me; for they are Yours; ¹⁰ and all things that are Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine; and I have been glorified in them.*

In these verses Jesus lays the foundation for the requests that He will make in the following verses. Here we see

the twin truths of salvation. Salvation is by God alone, but man is responsible to believe.

Jesus Prays for the disciples because the Father had given them to Him

Verse 6 - I have manifested Your name to the men whom You gave Me out of the world; they were Yours and You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word.

Manifest means to reveal or make known. Name includes all that a person is. Jesus revealed the Father (God) to the disciples. In John chapter one Jesus is Word – "and the Word was with God and the Word was God... and the Word became flesh and dwelt among us."

Later in chapter 12 Jesus says "He who sees Me sees the One who sent Me," and in chapter 14 "He who has seen me has seen the Father." New testament writers declare Jesus to be "the image of the invisible God," in whom "all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form." Hebrews 1:3 says that Jesus "is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature.

Jesus had revealed God to the disciples (and us) whom God had given Him from out of the world. Again we see the eternal plan of God revealed. Jesus affirms that the disciples (minus Judas) were the Fathers (past tense) and that they had been given by the Father to the Son. They had been called out of the world, the system of sin, and evil and dominated by Satan.

Jesus also recognized that the disciples had been obedient. They had kept the Father's word. Obedience is the inevitable result of saving faith. In fact the New Testament often uses the two terms as synonyms. The disciples had believed the words of Christ as evidenced by their obedience.

So we see the twin truths of salvation. The disciples were the Fathers and were given to the Son and that they believed.

Jesus would now continue to explain why He knew the Father would grant His

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requests regarding the Disciples based on these two truths.

Because They had Believed in Him as the Son

⁷Now they have come to know that everything You have given Me is from You; ⁸for the words which You gave Me I have given to them; and they received them and truly understood that I came forth from You, and they believed that You sent Me.

It has often been noted that the disciples understanding was lacking and a bit slow. But on some basic truths they did truly believe. They did truly believe that Jesus was God and did the works of God. They knew that the miracles Jesus did were because He was God. They believed that everything Jesus did was by the power of God and did everything according to the Father’s will.

This was in stark contrast to everyone else, especially the religious leaders. Their understanding of God’s plan may have been lacking but their faith in Jesus was solid.

The disciples had heard the “words” of Jesus and had received them. They knew that Jesus was sent by the Father into the world as the “light” and that in Him was eternal life.

Because They Were Given to Him From the Father

⁹I ask on their behalf; I do not ask on behalf of the world but of those whom You have given Me; for they are Yours; ¹⁰and all things that are Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine; and I have been glorified in them.

Jesus was not only confident that the Father would grant His requests because the Disciples had believed in Him but because they had been given to Him by the Father.

Jesus was not praying for everyone in the world but specifically for the disciples. Those who had been given to Him as a love gift by the Father.

It is true that God shows a kind of love to all people of the world, know as common grace. He causes the sun to shine on all, and the rain to fall on all. He extends the gospel invitation to all.

But Christ’s work of intercession as High Priest in only for those who belong eternally to Him because they have been given to Him by the Father.

As Jesus prayed His concern was for the disciples. That the Father would protect them in the coming hours

as the events of His arrest and crucifixion unfolded.

“and all things that are Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine; and I have been glorified in them.”

Jesus was confident in the fact the disciples belonged to God. The phrase “Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine’ is a claim to deity. The Father and the Son are one. They share all things. Jesus is also glorified by the disciples because of their faith in Him.

Those who like the disciples have put their faith in Jesus can rest in the assurance that they are God’s and that Jesus will intercede for them and preserve them.

There are three persons (groups) that feature prominently in these verses.

The Father:

- All things are His
- The disciples are His
- He gives everything to the Son
- He gives words to the Son
- He gives the disciples to the Son
- He gives the Son to the World
- He and the Son Share all things

The Son:

- Receives from the Father
- Manifests the Father
- Gives the words of the Father to the disciples
- Comes from the Father
- Is sent by the Father
- Shares all things with the Father
- Is glorified

The Disciples:

- Were saved from the world
- Belonged to the Father
- Were given by the Father to the Son
- Kept the Father’s word
- Know the Son receives everything from the Father
- Received the words of the Father from the son
- Understood the Son came from and was sent by the Father
- Glorify the Son

Bible Studies:

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

8:00 pm Tuesdays: Legislator Only Bible Study – Perkins

