



John 17:24-26

Association and Glorification

As we wrap up our study of Jesus' high priestly prayer in John 17, we come to probably His greatest request yet. But before we do that, we will review some of the truths we have studied so far.

As Jesus intercedes (something He is doing right now) He makes some specific requests of the Father on our behalf. In verse 11 He prays for our preservation, in verse 13 for our jubilation, in verse 15 for our liberation, in verse 17 for our sanctification, in verse 21 for our unification, and in verse 24, which we will consider now, for our association and glorification.

That Jesus is currently before the Father interceding for those who are His is a mindboggling truth that should have profound impact on how we live life. In verses 24-26 we will look at those last two requests in this great prayer.

John 17:24-26

²⁴ Father, I desire that they also, whom You have given Me, be with Me where I am, so that they may see My glory which You have given Me, for You loved Me before the foundation of the world.

²⁵ "O righteous Father, although the world has not known You, yet I have known You; and these have known that You sent Me; ²⁶ and I have made Your name known to them, and will make it known, so that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them."

Association - *²⁴ Father, I desire that they also, whom You have given Me, be with Me where I am*

There are a number of themes throughout John's gospel that unsurprisingly show up here in Jesus' prayer. We have looked at the idea that the Father gives a people to His Son. This is brought out in John chapter 6 –

³⁷ "All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will never cast out. ³⁸ For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me. ³⁹ 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. ⁴⁰ 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."

Jesus' prayer for those given to Him by the Father (those who will believe in Him and are saved) is that they be with Him in Heaven. Earlier that night when Jesus had told the disciples that He would be leaving them He had given them this promise –

John 14 - *"Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. ² In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also. ⁴ And you know the way where I am going."* ⁵ Thomas said to Him, "Lord, we do not know where You are going. How do we know the way?" ⁶ Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father but through Me."

Glorification - so that they may see My glory which You have given Me

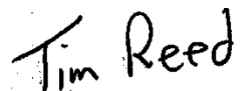
Jesus' prayer is that those who are His be with Him so that they can see His glory. The word glory is used 15 times in John's gospel and is a theme John introduces in chapter one. John 1:14 - *And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.*

At His first miracle in John chapter 2 His glory is manifested as He displays His power over the natural laws of the world.

Earlier in this prayer Jesus had prayed that the Father would give Him back the glory that He had before the foundation of the world and that He had given up to come to earth.

While there were times when His glory had been displayed to the disciples while He was on

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earth the extent of His glory was veiled. It is only when we see Him in heaven that we will see His full glory on display. 1 John 3:2 - *Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not been manifested as yet what we will be. We know that when He is manifested, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is.*

The apostle John writes about this glory of Christ in heaven in Revelations 21. In this Chapter John describes the glories of the New Heaven and New Earth and then in verse 22 he comes to the greatest part - *And I saw no sanctuary in it, for the Lord God the Almighty and the **Lamb** are its sanctuary.* ²³ *And the city has no need of the sun or of the moon to shine on it, for the **glory** of God has illumined it, and its **lamp is the Lamb.*** ²⁴ *And the nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it.* ²⁵ *And its gates will never be closed by day, for there will be no night there;* ²⁶ *and they will bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it.* ²⁷ *And nothing defiled, and no one who practices abomination and lying, shall ever come into it, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life.*

The glory of the Lamb (Jesus) will be such that He will be the lamp of heaven! No sun, moon, or stars, only the glory of Christ for light in heaven. No wonder Jesus wanted to return to the Father, no wonder He wants us to be with Him.

for You loved Me before the foundation of the world.

God is love and that love has always existed. Love can only exist between persons. The trinitarian aspect of God (One God in three persons) is how that is possible. The glory that the Father gives the Son is because of Their love for one another.

Jesus wraps up His prayer with these words - ²⁵ ***"O righteous Father, although the world has not known You, yet I have known You; and these have known that You sent Me; ²⁶ and I have made Your name known to them, and will make it known, so that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them."***

Going back to the prologue of John again we are reminded that Jesus came into a world that did not know God and He revealed God to us.

John 1:9 - ⁹There was the true Light which, coming into the world, enlightens everyone. ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. ¹¹He came to what was His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him.

Jesus (who is God) came from the Father and revealed God to us. He is the exact representation of the Father. He did this so that we might believe in Him and be saved. Not only does He save, but those who are saved will be brought to be with Him and will see the fullness of His glory. What amazing truth!

Does this include you? Earlier in this prayer Jesus said, ***"I do not ask on behalf of the world but of those whom You have given Me; for they are Yours"***

This means that this prayer is not for every single person but only for those who have repented of their sin and put their faith in Jesus Christ. Do you believe in Jesus? Do you believe that He is God, that He lived a perfect life, that He died as the sacrifice for your sin, and that He rose again (conquering sin and death)?

Only if you do, does this great prayer in John 17 apply to you. But if you do, what a great thought that Jesus intercedes for you in this way!

Bible Studies:

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

8:00 pm Wednesday: Legislator Only Bible Study – Red Rosa

