

173. The Gospel of John—17:7-8

“With Jesus Behind the Veil” Part 7

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Find this weeks’ sermon audio and video message [HERE](#).

In our study in John’s Gospel, we are currently in Chapter 17 looking at the true Lord’s Prayer— the deepest and most profound prayer in the Bible!

This prayer is divided up into 3 main parts:

- I. **Jesus Prays for Himself—verses 1-5**
- II. **Jesus Prays for His Disciples—verses 6-19**
- III. **Jesus Prays for All Believers—verses 20-26**

Last week we started looking at the second main part of this prayer—“**Jesus Prays for His Disciples.**”—which covers verses 6-19.

II. Jesus Prays for His Disciples—verses 6-19

John 17:6-19 (NKJV)

⁶ "I have manifested Your name to the men whom You have given Me out of the world. They were Yours, You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word. ⁷ Now they have known that all things which You have given Me are from You. ⁸ For I have given to them the words which You have given Me; and they have received *them*, and have known surely that I came forth from You; and they have believed that You sent Me. ⁹ I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for those whom You have given Me, for they are Yours. ¹⁰ And all Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine, and I am glorified in them. ¹¹ Now I am no longer in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep through Your name those whom You have given Me, that they may be one as *We are*. ¹² While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Your name. Those whom You gave Me I have kept; and none of them is lost except the son of perdition, that the Scripture might be fulfilled. ¹³ But now I come to You, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy fulfilled in themselves. ¹⁴ I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. ¹⁵ I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one. ¹⁶ They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. ¹⁷ Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth. ¹⁸ As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. ¹⁹ And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also may be sanctified by the truth.

As we said last week, at the heart of Jesus’ prayer in these verses is spiritual warfare.

And in particular His concern for His disciples once He returned back to His Father and they took up the mantle of the ministry He had begun while on the earth.

Jesus knew that as they went into the world preaching the gospel of the Kingdom—they would face incredible persecution from the Devil, his demons, and all those in the world whose lives were (and are) under the control of the god of this world—Satan!

And so, the Lord, Who ever lives to make intercession for those who belong to Him (Heb.7:25)—intercedes for them right here out of a heart of deep love and concern for their welfare.

This prayer by Jesus for His disciples in verses 6-19 can be divided this way—

- **Identification—verse 6**
- **Revelation—verses 7-8**
- **Supplication—verses 9-13**
- **Separation—verses 14-16**
- **Sanctification—verses 17-19**

A. Identification—verse 6

John 17:6 (NKJV)

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

Our identification with Jesus actually began in eternity past when we were chosen to belong to Jesus as His Bride—

Ephesians 1:3-4 (NKJV)

³ Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly *places* in Christ, ⁴ just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love...

(See John 15:14-16 "Chosen by God" Part 1 & 2)

From that point our identification with Jesus was ratified (made official) through a blood covenant when Jesus shed His blood on Calvary's Cross to redeem us to God out of our slavery to Satan, sin and death.

His death for our sins made our identification with Him—possible.

The dictionary defines the concept of *identifying* with someone, in part, as: "*to become the same (oneness); to be united in spirit, outlook and principle (doctrine).*"

One of the classic passages in the New Testament on the subject of identifying (or becoming one) with Jesus is found in John 6—in His famous "Bread of Life" discourse:

John 6:35, 47, 49-55, 60-61, 63 (NKJV)

³⁵ And Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life...

⁴⁷ Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me has everlasting life...

⁴⁹ Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and are dead. ⁵⁰ This is the bread which comes down from

heaven, that one may eat of it and not die. ⁵¹ I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world." ⁵² The Jews therefore quarreled among themselves, saying, "How can this *Man* give us *His* flesh to eat?" ⁵³ Then Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you. ⁵⁴ Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. ⁵⁵ For My flesh is food indeed, and My blood is drink indeed...

⁶⁰ Therefore many of His disciples, when they heard *this*, said, "This is a hard saying; who can understand it?"

⁶¹ When Jesus knew in Himself that His disciples complained about this, He said to them, "Does this offend you?..."

⁶³ It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and *they* are life.

The main idea Jesus is expressing in this discourse is a person becoming one with Him through faith—which is what salvation (eternal life) is all about. You see, the Scribes and Pharisees had religion which at best put them in the *vicinity* of God—but could never make them *one* with God.

When a person believes in Jesus to the point of commitment—which is what saving faith is all about (see our study "With Jesus Behind the Veil" Part 4 from 3 weeks ago)—they become one with Him.

When a person exercises saving faith, they invite Jesus into their heart—and they literally (spiritually speaking) become one with Him and He becomes one with them. And that's why He used the analogy of eating bread—it's because when you eat food it enters your mouth, then your stomach where it is digested, and from there it is assimilated into every part of your body where it literally becomes one with you.

This is what Jesus was getting at—this is why He likened His body and blood to food and drink.

The Lord was differentiating the difference between *religion* (head-knowledge which the Scribes and Pharisees had), and a *relationship* through genuine saving faith which makes you *one* with Jesus.

Saving faith starts with:

- Knowing who Jesus is;
- What He taught about salvation/eternal life (John 6 and many other passages); and
- What He did (died on Calvary's Cross and rose from the dead 3 days later).

Believing in Jesus with your '*head*' is important but by itself it's not enough to get you to heaven (the demons believe and tremble)—unless you take the next step and *receive* Him into your *heart* by committing your life to Him—"*That's salvation through works!*"—No that's salvation through saving faith!

John 1:12 (NKJV)

¹² But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name.

So, saving faith is believing in Jesus with your *head*—but then receiving Him into your *heart* as your Savior.

This is what is called "*believing to the point of commitment!*"

After we identify with Jesus by believing in Him to the point of commitment (we are saved)—we further identify with Him by getting baptized in water as a beautiful symbol of our commitment to Him.

Water baptism isn't essential for salvation—but it is a beautiful symbol of your commitment to Jesus. Just like a wedding ring isn't essential for marriage—but is a beautiful symbol of your commitment to your spouse.

If you don't wear a wedding ring it doesn't mean you're not married (just ask my wife!)—the symbol isn't the reality—but it is a sign (a visible symbol of commitment) to all you come in contact with that you have entered into the covenant of marriage with another.

The same is true with water baptism.

Water baptism is an outward *symbol* that represents a beautiful inward spiritual *reality*—but without the reality that it represents (a deep and abiding commitment to Jesus as in a marriage commitment)—it would be *meaningless* and most importantly—*powerless* to save!

As we just said, saving faith starts with the right *information* (the gospel)—and the gospel started with revelation.

B. Revelation—verses 7-8

John 17:7-8 (NKJV)

⁷ Now they have known that all things which You have given Me are from You. ⁸ For I have given to them the words which You have given Me; and they have received *them*, and have known surely that I came forth from You; and they have believed that You sent Me.

When Jesus talked about the words that His Father had given Him to deliver to His disciples (God's truth, the gospel)—He was talking about revelation.

Think of it this way—revelation is the *package* from heaven containing divine truth.

Now this is important because Christianity claims to be a revealed truth. A revelation is something that has been made known to us by God. We see the *very first* verse in the Bible (Genesis 1:1) says—“*In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth*”—verse three says, “*Then God said...*”

So, in the first few verses of the Bible, we learn:

- That there is a God.
- We learn that He is a powerful, intelligent Being who created everything and that He speaks—
- and later we learn He desires to speak or to communicate with us.

Theologians tell us that God speaks to us in two primary ways—through the creation (*'general revelation'*), and then through the Scriptures (*'special revelation'*).

Once again, a revelation is something that is made known to us by God. It is something that would be impossible for us to know through our own logic or intelligence or normal thought processes—it is knowledge that comes through divine input.

The Bible says that God is Spirit—spirits can interact with those in the physical realm—whereas man is locked or trapped in the physical realm.

Because man is physical and God is Spirit there is no way a physical human being trapped in a *'box'*, we call the 4-dimensional physical universe, can, through the use of techniques like: visualization, Transcendental Meditation...can poke a hole in the box, climb out and find God.

Now, those in the occult who engage in these practices (what the Bible calls ‘divination’) think they are crossing the barrier that separates the natural realm from the supernatural—but that is nothing more than the devil deceiving them into thinking that’s what is going on. (Elaborate)

No matter how sincere a person is and how hard they try they are incapable of reaching beyond the boundaries of the physical, natural realm they find themselves trapped in—and therefore are incapable of knowing or understanding anything about the *supernatural* God.

Many centuries ago Job asked the rhetorical question—“*Can a man by searching find God?*” → And the answer of course is—NO!

As one pastor said,

“We can’t expect the bug in the bottle to understand the little boy that put it there anymore than we can expect the natural man with his natural capacities to understand the supernatural God—unless that God chose to condescend and reveal Himself to man.”

And of course, God did this by giving to us ‘*special revelation.*’ Special revelation is where God invaded the “box” to communicate to us His truth.

It is where God has gotten ‘*up close and personal*’ with us, revealing personal information about Himself to us—even telling us His name (unlike the general information the creation reveals about God).

The writer to the Hebrews talked about special revelation when he said—

Hebrews 1:1 (NKJV)

¹God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets...

For centuries God revealed Himself to man in ‘bits and pieces’—what the theologians call the ‘progressive revelation of God’.

Some of the ways God has revealed divine truth to us in the past was through—prophets, angels, dreams, and visions.

This is something the writer acknowledges in Hebrews 1:1 but then adds in verse 2—“**[but] in these last days He has spoken to us by His Son...**”

The point he is making is that God did speak through the Jewish prophets to the fathers (Jewish patriarchs and leaders of Israel) but the revelation He gave them of Himself was, although true, it was still incomplete. However, the greatest and most complete *revelation* that God ever gave to mankind of Himself was through the *incarnation*—where the Word of God became flesh and dwelt among us (John 1:14).

Jesus Christ became the full disclosure of God to man—and therefore He was superior to the Jewish prophets as a source of revelation—

John 1:18 (NKJV)

¹⁸No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared *Him*.

John 14:9 (NKJV)

⁹ Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"

In John 17:7-8, Jesus is making reference to how He revealed God's truth to His disciples—and that they believed that everything Jesus revealed to them came from God in heaven—

John 17:7-8 (NKJV)

⁷ Now they have known that all things which You have given Me are from You. ⁸ For I have given to them the words which You have given Me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came forth from You; and they have believed that You sent Me.

One of the ways we know a person has true saving faith is whether or not they believe that the Bible is the Word of God and Jesus is the only way to God (heaven).

There are many 'religious' people in the world who reject the Bible as being the Word of God and Jesus as the only Way to God (heaven)—just like the Scribes and Pharisees in John 8:

John 8:37-47 (NKJV)

³⁷ "I know that you are Abraham's descendants, but you seek to kill Me, because My word has no place in you. ³⁸ I speak what I have seen with My Father, and you do what you have seen with your father." ³⁹ They answered and said to Him, "Abraham is our father." Jesus said to them, "If you were Abraham's children, you would do the works of Abraham. ⁴⁰ But now you seek to kill Me, a Man who has told you the truth which I heard from God. Abraham did not do this. ⁴¹ You do the deeds of your father." Then they said to Him, "We were not born of fornication; we have one Father--God." ⁴² Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love Me, for I proceeded forth and came from God; nor have I come of Myself, but He sent Me. ⁴³ Why do you not understand My speech? Because you are not able to listen to My word. ⁴⁴ You are of *your* father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and *does not* stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own *resources*, for he is a liar and the father of it. ⁴⁵ But because I tell the truth, you do not believe Me. ⁴⁶ Which of you convicts Me of sin? And if I tell the truth, why do you not believe Me? ⁴⁷ He who is of God hears God's words; therefore you do not hear, because you are not of God."

When Jesus said to these religious leaders, "**My word has no place in you**" (verse 37)—the Greek word means "to advance," "to make progress," or "to go forward."

The Pharisees, even though they *heard* Jesus' words—willfully rejected His teaching and hence His words never *progressed* from their heads to their hearts (a commitment to Jesus) where they would have brought forth the *fruit* of salvation. (2 Corinthians 5:17)

In that regard, they were just like those in Jesus' parable of the Sower (Mark 4:3-4, 14-15).

Unbelievers can come to church and hear God's word when it's presented to them (as the pastor sows the seed of the Word)—but if they don't embrace it with their heart as truth—the devil will eventually 'snatch' it from them.

Luke 8:18 (NLT2)

¹⁸ "So pay attention to how you hear. To those who listen to my teaching, more understanding will be given. But for those who are not listening, even what they think they understand will be taken away from them."

As we said a couple of weeks ago—this is one of the main ways we know the children of God from the children of the devil—the children of God have God’s word securely planted in their hearts—it ‘abides’ in them:

1 John 2:24-25 (NKJV)

²⁴ Therefore let that abide in you which you heard from the beginning. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, you also will abide in the Son and in the Father. ²⁵ And this is the promise that He has promised us--eternal life.

The reason the Word of God “**abides**” (remains, continues) in a believer’s heart is because they believe it *is* the Word of God and therefore, they have made room for it in their lives—they have given it ‘place’ in their heart.

And again, this is one of the main ways that we know we are children of God—God’s children love His Word, while the children of the devil (unbelievers) don’t love God’s Word (*love* in the sense of obey)—“*If you love Me, keep My commandments.*”

John 10:27 (NKJV)

²⁷ My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.

If you would like to know more about what it means to be a Jesus-follower— please, reach out to us. It would be our greatest privilege to lead you into a saving relationship with Jesus Christ.

Reach out to us [here](#).

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