

# 176. The Gospel of John—17:10

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## *“With Jesus Behind the Veil” Part 10*

A message by Pastor Phil Ballmaier

(3/27/22)

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

In our study in John’s Gospel, we have come to Chapter 17 and what many call—the “**real Lord’s prayer**”!

This prayer is divided up into 3 main parts:

**Jesus Prays for Himself—verses 1-5**

**Jesus Prays for His Disciples—verses 6-19**

**Jesus Prays for All Believers—verses 20-26**

We are currently in 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

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

A. Identification—verse 6

B. Revelation—verses 7-8

**C. Supplication—verses 9-13**

D. Separation—verses 14-16

E. Sanctification—verses 17-19

This morning, we find ourselves looking at the third part of this section of Jesus’ prayer:

#### C. **Supplication (prayer)**—verses 9-13

John 17:9-10 (NKJV)

<sup>9</sup> I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for those whom You have given Me, for they are Yours.

<sup>10</sup> And all Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine, and I am glorified in them.

How is Jesus glorified in us who are His disciples (all Christians are disciples of Christ)?

1. Jesus is glorified in us—by saving us.
2. Jesus is glorified in us—by our trusting Him in this life.
3. Jesus is glorified in us—when we live a holy life.

4. Jesus is glorified in us—by our witness of Him to this world.

One of Jesus’ main purposes for coming to the earth was to glorify His Father in heaven. The other was to die for our sins.

John 17:4 (NKJV)

<sup>4</sup> I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do.

As we have already said, God’s *glory* involves or encompasses—His intrinsic, eternal attributes—the qualities that are only found in His divine nature.

- These would involve things like—the love of God, the mercy of God, and the grace of God.

So, through Jesus’ life and death and resurrection—these and other attributes of God’s were put on display for the world to see—this allowed God to be glorified in that the world was able to see clearly what God was really like!

- You see, the Jewish people had gotten a warped understanding and impression of God over the years—primarily because they had tried to relate to God through the Law—which they kept breaking and therefore kept reaping the judgment of God upon themselves and the nation.
- This caused them to believe that God was nothing but a ‘vengeful, wrathful, fire-breathing God’—a God they were always terrified of—a God they had a hard time getting close to.

➤ Jesus came, in part, to set the record straight!

John 1:18 (NLT2)

<sup>18</sup> No one has ever seen God [i.e., ‘in all of His fulness and glory’]. But the one and only Son is himself God and is near to the Father’s heart. He has revealed God to us.

**REFLECTION:** What does it mean to you “ Jesus came to set the record straight?”

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Again, when it comes to Jesus being glorified in us—it starts with us getting saved and living a transformed life. **A good part of living a transformed life is to live in such a way that you constantly trust the Lord to lead your life** in the right paths—

Proverbs 3:5-6 (NLT2)

<sup>5</sup> Trust in the LORD with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. <sup>6</sup> Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take.

The Bible says that *'the just shall live by faith'*—which speaks of everyday, moment by moment trust in God's *Person*, in His *promises* and in His *power*. As we just said, it is important to believe on Jesus as Savior and trust Him each and every day of our lives here on earth.

**It is equally important to live a holy life, but in addition to this, each of us must be a faithful witness of His divine character and faithfully testify to this world the Gospel which He has commanded us to go into all the world and share with everyone.**

**2 Thessalonians 1:11-12 (NKJV)**

<sup>11</sup> Therefore we also pray always for you that our God would count you worthy of *this* calling, and fulfill all the good pleasure of *His* goodness and the work of faith with power, <sup>12</sup> that the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and you in Him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

As we have already pointed out in previous studies—we glorify the Lord by properly representing Him in this world - **by living lives that are consistent with His character** - as Jesus did:

**John 17:4 (NKJV)**

<sup>4</sup> I have glorified You on the earth...

**John 14:9 (NKJV)**

<sup>9</sup> 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'?"

The Christians in Thessalonica were commended by Paul for living lives that truly represented the Lord:

**1 Thessalonians 1:2-9 (NKJV)**

<sup>2</sup> We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers, <sup>3</sup> remembering without ceasing your work of faith, labor of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the sight of our God and Father, <sup>4</sup> knowing, beloved brethren, your election by God. <sup>5</sup> For our Gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Spirit and in much assurance, as you know what kind of men we were among you for your sake. <sup>6</sup> And you became followers of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Spirit, <sup>7</sup> so that you became examples to all in Macedonia and Achaia [*modern Greece*] who believe. <sup>8</sup> For from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place. Your faith toward God has gone out, so that we do not need to say anything. <sup>9</sup> For they themselves declare concerning us what manner of entry we had to you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God...

**REFLECTION:** How can you live a life that is consistent with the "character" of Jesus?

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**5. Jesus is glorified in us—when we serve Him and work to build His Kingdom on earth**

**Colossians 1:10 (NKJV)**

<sup>10</sup> that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing *Him*, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God.

**We have been saved to serve—not to ‘sit’ and ‘spectate’.**

**Ephesians 2:8-10 (NKJV)**

<sup>8</sup> For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God, <sup>9</sup> not of works, lest anyone should boast. <sup>10</sup> For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

➤ **We are not saved by good works; but we are saved for good works.**

The New Testament has a lot to say about Christians being servants to bring God glory as they work to build His Kingdom.

**Titus 2:14**

...who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself *His* own special people, zealous for good works.

**Galatians 6:9**

And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.

**Romans 12:11**

...not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord.

Now, let me say that the amount of love you have for God inwardly will be directly proportionate to how fervently and faithfully you serve Him outwardly through the actions of your life.

One pastor put it bluntly—

*“Many Christians are lazy. They sit around and do nothing, content, as the hymn says, to be “carried to the skies on flow’ry beds of ease,” while all around there are suffering people, lonely people, people who need compassion, help, and, above all, the Gospel. We need to wake up the church of Jesus Christ. We need to wake up ourselves. We need to sense the calling of the Holy Spirit in the area of our service instead of enjoying our luxury, comfort, and time selfishly, as we so often do.”*

When David was a lowly shepherd living out in the fields surrounding Bethlehem, keeping watch over his father’s sheep, and writing songs of praise to the Lord (psalms) - he was close to God. During the ten years when he was a fugitive running for his life from King Saul who was trying to kill him, living in caves in the Judean wilderness - he was close to God (crisis and adversity have a way of keeping us close to God).

But after being King of Israel for twenty years, winning battle after battle and amassing great wealth—I believe David grew complacent and his heart wasn’t as close to the Lord as it had once been—why do I say that?

I say it because he decides to retire to let others fight the battles of the Lord while he stayed home in Jerusalem to enjoy the new palace, he had built for himself (2 Samuel 11:1).

➤ This always marks a decline in spiritual passion for God when we no longer want to be involved in service to our God.

When Caleb was 85 years old, he told Joshua—*“I’m not ready to retire, I still have a lot of fight in me—now give me the mountainous region where those giants live for my inheritance...”* However, we don’t see that kind of zeal and heart for God in David who was only in his mid-fifties when he decided to retire from active duty to let others fight the battles of the Lord.

>>> I personally think David was in a backslidden state when he committed his sin with Bathsheba and was going through what we would call today - *“a midlife crisis”*.

Bathsheba was probably twenty to thirty years younger than David—and many men, who are going through a midlife crisis, try to recapture their youth by having an affair with a younger woman. Even though David wound up marrying her—the damage to his walk with God and his service for God was done—he was never the same as a leader, father, or husband.

**Why did he do it?!** Why did he sacrifice so much for so little (an evening of sexual pleasure)?

The psychology behind David’s sin is irrelevant—he did it and that settles it.

The problem today in our culture, when it comes to this kind of thing, is to spend months if not years in counseling or therapy trying to pinpoint why a person who has taken years to build a successful business or ministry, has a loving wife and beautiful children—why they would throw all of that away to have a fling with a younger woman.

I don’t think it’s that hard to figure out—God said it way back in Genesis 4:7—*“Sin is crouching at the door, eager to control you. But you must subdue it and be its master.”*

**Or to put it another way:**

**we all have a sinful fallen nature that wants to control us to satisfy its sinful desires, but as long as a Christian is staying close to God, walking in the Spirit, and serving the Lord, sin won’t be able to control them (Galatians 5:16).**

➤ It’s when a Christian becomes **complacent in their walk with God**, restless to the point where the things of God no longer satisfy them anymore—that’s when they will begin to turn back to the things of the world to find fulfillment once again.

Unfortunately, this is the very thing that happened to David’s son Solomon. Solomon was the son of King David and Bathsheba. Solomon’s childhood wasn’t perfect; his family had its share of problems—but one thing Solomon did receive from his father was a rich spiritual heritage.

David wasn’t a perfect man, he committed some pretty serious sins in the course of his life, but the one thing that David had going for him was a heart that loved God—a heart that he tried to pass along to his son Solomon—

**1 Chronicles 28:9 (NKJV)**

<sup>9</sup>“As for you, my son Solomon, know the God of your father, and serve Him with a loyal heart and with a willing mind; for the Lord searches all hearts and understands all the intent of the thoughts. If you seek Him, He will be found by you; but if you forsake Him, He will cast you off forever.

Solomon started out pretty well in his relationship with God as a young king (1 Kings 3:3-13), but after a while it seemed that something was missing in his life—his heart seemed unsatisfied and empty and so slowly he began to drift away from the Lord to pursue other things (like many Christians today).

**REFLECTION:** What are the dangers of becoming complacent in your walk with Jesus?

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David had admonished him to serve the Lord with a *loyal* heart, but the Holy Spirit tells us later on in 1 Kings 11:4—that Solomon’s heart was not loyal to the Lord his God.

The word *loyal* carries with it the idea of “*completeness*” or “*whole-heartedness*.” Solomon’s heart was not completely given over to God—Solomon had a *divided* heart.

**The Hebrew word literally means “at peace with”—Solomon’s heart was not at peace with God.** I believe that Solomon knew the Lord, but his heart was still restless—his relationship with God didn’t really satisfy him like it did his father David. (Psalm 27:4)

Because of it he slowly began to turn away from the Lord looking to fill the void with other things (he stopped working for God’s Kingdom and started working for his own ‘kingdom’). He spent most of his life in a backslidden state chasing happiness in a number of different ways.

He multiplied gold and wives and horses to himself, the very thing that God had forbidden the kings of Israel from doing in Deuteronomy 17:16-17, “*lest these things should turn his heart away from God*”—which is exactly what wound up happening.

But at the end of his life, he comes back to God and writes the book of Ecclesiastes.

Most commentators believe that Solomon wrote Proverbs and the Song of Solomon early in his life during the years he walked with God—but near the end of his life he wrote Ecclesiastes. In that book, he is looking back over his life lamenting the mistakes he had made and all the vain things he had pursued trying to find happiness and fulfillment (I’ll let you read the book on your own).

One of Solomon’s favorite words in the book is the word, “**vanity**”—a word he uses 38 times.

The Hebrew word is “**hevel**” which means, “**emptiness, futility, vapor.**” In other words, whatever disappears quickly, leaves nothing behind, and does not satisfy is considered *hevel*—vanity! “Soap bubbles!”

Now you’re not going to properly interpret this book nor understand what God is trying to communicate to you if you don’t understand the key phrase that really sheds light on where Solomon is coming from in Ecclesiastes. That key phrase is “**under the sun**”—which occurs 29 times in the book, along with a parallel phrase, “*under heaven.*”

Together they give us the perspective from which Solomon is writing about life—a life that was lived for the most part in a *backslidden* state. He is looking at life from a human, earthly perspective—not a heavenly or an eternal perspective (remember #5 in our outline in how Jesus is glorified in us).

As you read the book and you listen to Solomon’s pessimistic view of life, keep in mind his perspective—he is examining and evaluating life “*under the sun,*” “*under heaven.*”

In other words, life lived from an entirely earthly, materialistic perspective — *Life without God.*

Listen to the conclusion he comes to after all of this chasing meaning and happiness:

**Ecclesiastes 2:17 (NLT)**

<sup>17</sup> So I came to hate life because everything done here under the sun is so troubling. Everything is meaningless—like chasing the wind.

**Ecclesiastes 2:22-23 (NLT)**

<sup>22</sup> So what do people get in this life for all their hard work and anxiety? <sup>23</sup> Their days of labor are filled with pain and grief; even at night their minds cannot rest. It is all meaningless.

**So many people are making the same mistake that Solomon made, thinking that more money is going to bring happiness; or if their career or business takes off or more pleasure or a new house (and maybe even a new spouse to go with that house!) or a new car...or an exotic vacation or going back to school to get their B.A. or master’s or PH.D.**

Most people aren’t really satisfied or happy in life, but they still believe—with a little more of this or that they will find true happiness!

**REFLECTION:** What is the significance of Solomon’s use of the word “vanity” 38 times in Ecclesiastes?

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This is where Solomon had an advantage over all of them—he had a lot more of everything! But it led him to a point of crisis that few people ever come to. In his eyes, he had it all, he had done it all, he had nothing left to experience, nothing left to look forward to—he had maxed out life and still he was empty and miserable.

The conclusion he comes to is, “*Everything in life is empty and meaningless and vain!*”

You might be thinking to yourself—“*Wow, that’s depressing!*”—(which is why most Christians stay away from this book!)

Yes, everything in life is empty and meaningless and vain—but life where? → “UNDER THE SUN” → or in other words, **‘Life apart from God!’**

Ecclesiastes is a pretty dark book, but it ends with a real gem. (Use the illustration of a diamond ring in a black velvet box)

Ecclesiastes is a 'black velvet box'—but at the end of it, God, through Solomon, places a diamond of wisdom in it.

The whole book comes down to the last two verses where he condenses into a single statement—everything that is important in life. At the end of the book, Solomon admonishes the young people especially to turn to God early in life and not make the same mistakes he made—“My dad was right, I should have listened to him.” (Explain)

This is the climax and conclusion that Solomon has wanted to bring us to—through everything he has said in the book of Ecclesiastes (this is where the diamond comes in that Solomon wants to pass on to us).

**Ecclesiastes 12:13 (NIV)**

<sup>13</sup> Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole [duty] of man.

Let me paraphrase it for you—the most important thing in life is that you love and obey God and live for eternity (verse 14).

The Christian life isn't hard to understand—I'm not saying it's easy to live—I'm just saying it isn't hard to understand.

**It's a choice between loving God and living for Him or loving yourself and living for your own pleasures; that's it in a nutshell! It's either life 'under the sun' or life 'in the Son!'**

Joshua said, “As for me and my house—we will serve the Lord!”

**How is Jesus glorified in us who are His disciples?**

1. Jesus is glorified in us—by saving us.
2. Jesus is glorified in us—by our trusting Him in this life.
3. Jesus is glorified in us—when we live a holy life.
4. Jesus is glorified in us—by our witness of Him to this world.
5. Jesus is glorified in us—when we serve Him and work to build His Kingdom on earth.

**REFLECTION:** How are you “glorifying Jesus?”

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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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