

## John Chapter Seventeen

Read **John 17:1-5** – Jesus Prays For – God’s Glory

**v.1** “THESE WORDS SPAKE JESUS AND LIFTED UP HIS EYES TO HEAVEN AND SAID, FATHER, THE HOUR IS COME; GLORIFY THY SON, THAT THY SON ALSO MAY GLORIFY THEE:”

At the end of chapter 14, Jesus had told his disciples to “ARISE, LET US GO HENCE”, so the teaching that was done in chapters 15 and 16 and the prayer John records here in chapter 17 occurred somewhere between the location of the last supper and the Garden of Gethsemane. It would not be unreasonable for them to be talking and Jesus teaching as they walked along.

The model prayer found in Matthew 6 and Luke 2 is recognized by the world as the “Lord’s Prayer”. It isn’t, really, it was a model prayer, a pattern or template for prayer that was given to his disciples to help them learn to pray. Jesus prayed often, any of those prayers could be characterized as the “Lord’s Prayer” and this one has been recorded for our edification. And we see again what Jesus taught earlier:

**John 13:32** “IF GOD BE GLORIFIED IN HIM, GOD SHALL ALSO GLORIFY HIM IN HIMSELF AND STRAIGHTWAY GLORIFY HIMSELF.”

When God is glorified, the Son of God is glorified and when the Son of God is glorified the Father is glorified as well. He now prays that he might continue to glorify his Father.

**v.2** “AS THOU HAST GIVEN HIM POWER OVER ALL FLESH, THAT HE SHOULD GIVE ETERNAL LIFE TO AS MANY AS THOU HAST GIVEN HIM.”

Here Jesus is speaking to God about himself in the third person. In the prophecy concerning the coming of the kingdom of God, Daniel writes:

**Daniel 7:14** “AND THERE WAS GIVEN HIM DOMINION, AND GLORY, AND A KINGDOM, THAT ALL PEOPLE, NATIONS, AND LANGUAGES, SHOULD SERVE HIM: HIS DOMINION *is* AN EVERLASTING DOMINION, WHICH SHALL NOT PASS AWAY, AND HIS KINGDOM *that* WHICH SHALL NOT BE DESTROYED.”

Jesus confirmed this himself when he gave us what man calls the “great commission”:

**Matthew 28:18** “AND JESUS CAME AND SPAKE UNTO THEM SAYING, ALL POWER IS GIVEN UNTO ME IN HEAVEN AND IN EARTH.”

And the Apostle Paul writes concerning the promise of eternal life in the Roman letter:

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**Romans 6:22-23** "BUT NOW BEING MADE FREE FROM SIN, AND BECOME SERVANTS TO GOD, YE HAVE YOUR FRUIT UNTO HOLINESS, AND THE END EVERLASTING LIFE. FOR THE WAGES OF SIN *is* DEATH; BUT THE GIFT OF GOD *is* ETERNAL LIFE THROUGH JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD."

**v.3** "AND THIS IS LIFE ETERNAL, THAT THEY MIGHT KNOW THEE THE ONLY TRUE GOD, AND JESUS CHRIST, WHOM THOU HAST SENT."

Jesus says in his prayer that "THIS IS LIFE ETERNAL", knowing the "ONLY TRUE GOD" and his Son. What kind of knowledge is Jesus talking about? Obviously the kind that causes us to obey the commandments we've been given. Jesus also said that:

"IF YE LOVE ME, KEEP MY COMMANDMENTS" **John 14:15**

There are many who claim to know God and refuse to obey him and refuse to teach his Word without addition or subtraction. They are like Israel of old:

**Jeremiah 9:23-24** "THUS SAITH THE **LORD**, LET NOT THE WISE *man* GLORY IN HIS WISDOM, NEITHER LET THE MIGHTY *man* GLORY IN HIS MIGHT, LET NOT THE RICH *man* GLORY IN HIS RICHES: BUT LET HIM THAT GLORIETH GLORY IN THIS, THAT HE UNDERSTANDETH AND KNOWETH ME, THAT I *am* THE **LORD** WHICH EXERCISE LOVINGKINDNESS, JUDGMENT, AND RIGHTEOUSNESS, IN THE EARTH: FOR IN THESE THINGS I DELIGHT, SAITH THE LORD."

**v.4** "I HAVE GLORIFIED THEE ON THE EARTH: I HAVE FINISHED THE WORK WHICH THOU GAVEST ME TO DO."

What would be the greatest accomplishment that we could achieve in our lives? I submit to you that our greatest achievement would be to be able as, Jesus has here, face God in prayer or in judgment and say with confidence "I HAVE FINISHED THE WORK WHICH THOU GAVEST ME TO DO." Perhaps this is why, that at the end we read:

**John 19:30** "WHEN JESUS THEREFORE HAD RECEIVED THE VINEGAR, HE SAID, IT IS FINISHED: AND HE BOWED HIS HEAD, AND GAVE UP THE GHOST.

Paul did just this and was able to write to Timothy:

**II Timothy 4:7** "I HAVE FOUGHT THE GOOD FIGHT, I HAVE FINISHED *my* COURSE, I HAVE KEPT THE FAITH."

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**v.5** “AND NOW, O FATHER, GLORIFY THOU ME WITH THINE OWN SELF WITH THE GLORY WHICH I HAD WITH THEE BEFORE THE WORLD WAS.”

Now he asks the Father to restore him to his proper place; the place that John describes at the very beginning of this record:

**John 1:1-2** “IN THE BEGINNING WAS THE WORD, AND THE WORD WAS WITH GOD, AND THE WORD WAS GOD. THE SAME WAS IN THE BEGINNING WITH GOD.”

And the Hebrew writer assures us that God did do just as Christ asked; so that:

“WHO BEING THE BRIGHTNESS OF *his* GLORY, AND THE EXPRESS IMAGE OF HIS PERSON, AND UPHOLDING ALL THINGS BY THE WORD OF HIS POWER, WHEN HE HAD BY HIMSELF PURGED OUR SINS, SAT DOWN ON THE RIGHT HAND OF THE MAJESTY ON HIGH.” **Hebrews 1:3**

Read **John 17:6-19** – Jesus Prays For – His Disciples

**v.6** “I HAVE MANIFESTED THY NAME UNTO THE MEN WHICH THOU GAVEST ME OUT OF THE WORLD: THINE THEY WERE, AND THOU GAVEST THEM ME; AND THEY HAVE KEPT THY WORD.”

Jesus has served as God’s witness here on earth, he has “MANIFESTED”, not only the name of God as some might think of it but the very essence of God himself in his life and his teaching. He told Philip:

**John 14:7** “IF YE HAD KNOWN ME, YE SHOULD HAVE KNOWN MY FATHER ALSO: AND FROM HENCEFORTH YE KNOW HIM, AND HAVE SEE HIM.”

His disciples were God’s by creation and He gave them to Christ by his providence for the purpose of carrying out the redemption of mankind. They have accepted his word, they believe that he is the Messiah promised; that he is the Son of God. While they may be wavering a little bit they’re as ready for their work as they are ever going to be. They only have to endure. Comparing Christ to Moses the Hebrew writer records:

**Hebrews 3:6** “BUT CHRIST AS A SON OVER HIS OWN HOUSE; WHOSE HOUSE ARE WE, IF WE HOLD FAST THE CONFIDENCE AND THE REJOICING OF THE HOPE FIRM UNTO THE END.”

**v.7** “NOW THEY HAVE KNOWN THAT ALL THINGS WHATSOEVER THOU HAST GIVEN ME ARE OF THEE.”

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Jesus disciples, both in that day and today, know that everything that Jesus gave them was from God. Jesus taught them and amazed them:

**John 7:15-16** “AND THE JEWS MARVELED, SAYING, HOW KNOWETH THIS MAN LETTERS, HAVING NEVER LEARNED? JESUS ANSWERED THEM, AND SAID, MY DOCTRINE IS NOT MINE, BUT HIS THAT SENT ME.”

**v.8** “FOR I HAVE GIVEN UNTO THEM THE WORDS WHICH THOU GAVEST ME; AND THEY HAVE RECEIVED *them*, AND HAVE KNOWN SURELY THAT I CAME OUT FROM THEE, AND THEY HAVE BELIEVED THAT THOU DIDST SEND ME.”

When Jesus talks about “THE WORDS” here he is talking about what many of our liberal brethren refuse to accept. He’s talking about his “DOCTRINE” that body of teaching that he gave his disciples, first in person and then through the direction of the Holy Spirit as John recorded earlier:

**John 14:25-26** “THESE THINGS HAVE I SPOKEN UNTO YOU, BEING *yet* PRESENT WITH YOU. BUT THE COMFORTER, *which is* THE HOLY GHOST, WHOM THE FATHER WILL SEND IN MY NAME, HE SHALL TEACH YOU ALL THINGS, AND BRING ALL THINGS TO YOUR REMEMBRANCE, WHATSOEVER I HAVE SAID UNTO YOU.”

**v.9** “I PRAY FOR THEM: I PRAY NOT FOR THE WORLD, BUT FOR THEM WHICH THOU HAST GIVEN ME; FOR THEY ARE THINE.”

Jesus knows the trials and dangers that his disciples will face in carrying out their commission, so he seeks God blessing and protection for them. As John writes later:

**I John 5:19** “*And* WE KNOW THAT WE ARE OF GOD AND THE WHOLE WORLD LIETH IN WICKEDNESS.”

This petition was for those that belong to God by reason of their obedience to his commandments, not for the wicked, perverse, rebellious men that make up most of the population of earth.

**v.10** “AND ALL MINE ARE THINE, AND THINE ARE MINE; AND I AM GLORIFIED IN THEM.”

Jesus gives the reason that he is turning to God in supplication for these men, it is because they belong to God. They are his but in being his they are also God’s; just as he taught:

**John 10:30** “I AND *my* FATHER ARE ONE.”

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**v.11** “AND NOW I AM NO MORE IN THE WORLD, BUT THESE ARE IN THE WORLD, AND I COME TO THEE. HOLY FATHER, KEEP THROUGH THINE OWN NAME THOSE WHOM THOU HAST GIVEN ME; THAT THEY MAY BE ONE, AS WE ARE.”

Jesus is in the world for the moment but he will very soon be leaving this world. When he is no longer here to guide and lead his disciples they are going to be beset by trials, persecution, and dangers from both within and without the body of Christ, they will need God's protection. He seeks the kind of protection that Peter describes in his first epistle when he writes that the true disciples of Christ are those:

“WHO ARE KEPT BY THE POWER OF GOD THROUGH FAITH UNTO SALVATION READY TO BE REVEALED IN THE LAST TIME.” **I Peter 1:5**

He wants them to be one, to share the same harmony that He shares with the Father; oneness in mind, plans and purpose, complete unity. We'll talk more about that when we get to verses 20 and 21.

**v.12** “WHILE I WAS WITH THEM IN THE WORLD, I KEPT THEM IN THY NAME: THOSE THAT THOU GAVEST ME I HAVE KEPT, AND NONE OF THEM IS LOST, BUT THE SON OF PERDITION; THAT THE SCRIPTURE MIGHT BE FULFILLED.”

While Jesus was with his disciple he was able through his strength, his teaching, his encouragement and his example to preserve them for the purpose for which he had chosen them. They recognized and followed Him as the Son of God. When Jesus asked who they thought he was Peter answered:

**Matthew 16:15-16** “HE SAITH UNTO THEM, BUT WHOM SAY YE THAT I AM? AND SIMON PETER ANSWERED AND SAID, THOU ART THE CHRIST, THE SON OF THE LIVING GOD.”

And he tells God that he didn't lose any, except for the “SON OF PERDITION”. Who is he talking about? Judas Iscariot and Jesus knew that one would betray him much earlier in his ministry.

**John 6:70-71** “JESUS ANSWERED THEM, HAVE NOT I CHOSEN YOU TWELVE, AND ONE OF YOU IS A DEVIL? HE SPAKE OF JUDAS ISCARIOT *the son* OF SIMON: FOR HE IT WAS THAT SHOULD BETRAY HIM, BEING ONE OF THE TWELVE.”

Jesus says this is a fulfillment of prophecy and Luke records Peter later as he quotes **Psalms 109:8**.

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**Acts 1:20** "FOR IT IS WRITTEN IN THE BOOK OF PSALMS, LET HIS HABITATION BE DESOLATE, AND LET NO MAN DWELL THEREIN: AND, HIS BISHOPRIC LET ANOTHER TAKE."

**v.13** "AND NOW COME I TO THEE; AND THESE THINGS I SPEAK IN THE WORLD, THAT THEY MIGHT HAVE MY JOY FULFILLED IN THEMSELVES."

Jesus brings these things to the foot of the throne of God while he is still in the world so that his disciples might experience the same joy that Jesus feels. Jesus is about to face on of the cruelest executions that man ever devised, how is it that he could be joyful or expect his disciples to be joyful? Because of the result of his sacrifice; he is referring to the joy that would be brought by the redemption of man from sin; the ultimate result of his death, burial, resurrection and ascension back into heaven.

**v.14** "I HAVE GIVEN THEM THY WORD; AND THE WORLD HATH HATED THEM, BECAUSE THEY ARE NOT OF THE WORLD, EVEN AS I AM NOT OF THE WORLD."

In Jesus prayer he refers to the teaching that he had just done with his disciples; warning them that:

"IF THE WORLD HATE YOU, YE KNOW THAT IT HATED ME BEFORE IT *hated* YOU. IF YE WERE OF THE WORLD, THE WORLD WOULD LOVE HIS OWN: BUT BECAUSE YE ARE NOT OF THE WORLD, BUT I HAVE CHOSEN YOU OUT OF THE WORLD, THEREFORE THE WORLD HATETH YOU." **John 15:18-19**

Because they were not of the world, they would be hated just as Christ was hated by worldly men. They would need to strength and protection of God to keep them when they encountered this hatred.

**v.15** "I PRAY NOT THAT THOU SHOULDEST TAKE THEM OUT OF THE WORLD, BUT THAT THOU SHOULDEST KEEP THEM FROM THE EVIL."

Jesus did not pray the God would remove his disciples from the world for, obviously, their work could only be done in the world. But He prayed that God should protect them from evil. He had taught them to pray:

"AND LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION, BUT DELIVER US FROM EVIL; FOR THINE IS THE KINGDOM AND THE POWER, AND THE GLORY, FOR EVER, AMEN." **Matthew 6:13**

And now he followed his own example. Paul asked the church at Thessalonica to:

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“...PRAY FOR US, THAT THE WORD OF THE LORD MAY HAVE **free** COURSE, AND THE GLORIFIED, EVEN AS **it is** WITH YOU: AND THAT WE MAY BE DELIVERED FOR UNREASONABLE AND WICKED MEN: FOR ALL **men** HAVE NOT FAITH. BUT THE LORD IS FAITHFUL, WHO SHALL STABLISH YOU AND KEEP **you** FROM EVIL.” **II**  
**Thessalonians 3:1-3**

We continue to pray in the same manner today.

**v.16-17** “THEY ARE NOT OF THE WORLD, EVEN AS I AM NOT OF THE WORLD. SANCTIFY THEM THROUGH THY TRUTH, THY WORD IS TRUTH.”

What is one of the greatest obstacles to teaching men and women, especially the younger generation the word of God today? They don't believe that truth can be absolute, undeniable and without compromise. In the December, 2010 edition of *Seek The Old Paths*, a brotherhood publication that I received this week; there was an article by John Cotham of Saucier, MS entitled “No Wonder Hearts Are So Hard!” In a survey done by the Barna Research Group, reported in a book entitled *What Americans Believe* they report the following:

Two-thirds of those surveyed 67% deny that absolute truth exists. 72% of Americans between the ages of 18 and 25, almost  $\frac{3}{4}$ , agree that one could not know absolute truth.

So when we try to teach them the scripture as absolute truth we have something that they will deny from the beginning.  $\frac{2}{3}$  will refuse to believe it exists and  $\frac{3}{4}$  will deny that we can know it if it does exist.

But the Psalmist writes:

**Psalms 119:142** “THY RIGHTEOUSNESS **is** AN EVERLASTING RIGHTEOUSNESS, AND THY LAW **is** THE TRUTH.”

And the Apostle Peter writes:

**I Peter 1:22** “SEEING YE HAVE PURIFIED YOUR SOULS ON OBEYING THE TRUTH THROUGH THE SPIRIT UNTO UNFEIGNED LOVE OF THE BRETHREN, **see that ye** LOVE ONE ANOTHER WITH A PURE HEART FURVENTLY.”

Absolute truth not only exists, we not only can know it; it is through our obedience to that absolute truth that purifies our souls and makes them fit to be in the presence of God.

**v.18** “AS THOU HAS SENT ME INTO THE WORLD, EVEN SO HAVE I SENT THEM INTO THE WORLD.”

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Very shortly Jesus will give his apostles their marching orders and indeed send them into all the world:

**Mark 16:15** “AND HE SAID UNTO THEM, GO YE UNTO ALL THE WORLD, AND PREACH THE GOSPEL TO EVERY CREATURE.”

They are going to need all of the strength and support that God can give them.

**v.19** “AND FOR THEIR SAKES I SANCTIFY MYSELF, THAT THEY ALSO MIGHT SANCTIFIED THROUGH THE TRUTH.”

Jesus here is not using the word “SANCIFY” to mean the removal of sin as he had no sin. But rather, he is using the word to signify a “setting aside”, the preparation and dedication of one’s self to a given purpose. The purpose of Jesus’ sanctification therefore was to redeem mankind. The purpose of the sanctification of the apostles was two fold, first that they would be protected from the world and second that they were set aside for the preaching and teaching of the Word of God “UNTO ALL THE WORLD”. We are the same today. Through the truth of God’s word, if we believe and obey it as we should, we are set aside to the service of God, we are sanctified in that sense and we are also sanctified in that we are prepared and made clean to stand in the presence of God without being condemned.

Read **John 17:20-26** – Jesus Prays For – All Believers

**v.20** “NEITHER PRAY IF FOR THESE ALONE, BUT FOR THEM ALSO WHICH SHALL BELIEVE ON ME THROUGH THEIR WORD:”

Now Jesus extends his prayer beyond those who are his apostles unto all those that would believe their word, i.e. to all of us. Jesus knew, without doubt, that all who believed and obeyed him throughout the balance of time would face troubles and trials. We value and request the prayers of our brethren when we face times of trouble. How much more should we value the prayer of the Son of God that he made in our behalf. This is something that we can remember when we do face trials, the Son of God not only stands ready to represent us to the Father but prayed for us as well.

**v.21** “THAT THEY ALL MAY BE ONE; AS THOU, FATHER, *art* IN ME, AND I IN THEE, THAT THEY ALSO MAY BE ONE IS US: THAT THE WORLD MAY BELIEVE THAT THOU HAST SENT ME.”

Unity! If we are “IN CHRIST” by virtue of being baptized into Christ (**Galatians 3:26-27**) then we have unity. As Paul tells the church at Rome:

**Romans 12:5** “SO WE, *being* MANY, ARE ONE BODY IN CHRIST, AND EVERY ONE MEMBERS ONE OF ANOTHER.”



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But there is another way that unity is extremely important.

**I Corinthians 1:10** “NOW I BESEECH YOU, BRETHREN, BY THE NAME OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, THAT YE ALL SPEAK THE SAME THING, AND *that* THERE BE NO DIVISIONS AMONG YOU; BUT *that* YE BE PERFECTLY JOINED TOGETHER IN THE SAME MIND AND IN THE SAME JUDGMENT.”

We are to be “PERFECTLY JOINED TOGETHER IN THE SAME MIND AND IN THE SAME JUDGMENT”. Knowing the tendency of my brethren to fuss and argue how can we accomplish this? First of all; what is he talking about? He’s not talking about the color of the carpet in the auditorium or even whether we have any, he’s not talking about what time of day we worship on the first day of the week. He’s talking about those things that matter to our spiritual wellbeing. We can accomplish what Christ is praying for here by allowing God to rule in matters of doctrine and commandment, being gracious and understanding in matters of opinion and having enough knowledge of God’s wisdom to tell the difference. Otherwise Paul and Barnabas sinned greatly when they disagreed concerning John Mark. As Paul writes to Philippi:

**Philippians 1:27** “ONLY LET YOUR CONVERSATION BE AS IT BECOMETH THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST: THAT WHETHER I COME AND SEE YOU, OR ELSE BE ABSENT, I MAY HEAR OF YOUR AFFAIRS, THAT YE STAND FAST IN ONE SPIRIT, WITH ONE MIND STRIVING TOGETHER FOR THE FAITH OF THE GOSPEL:”

**v.22** “AND THE GLORY WHICH THOU GAVEST ME I HAVE GIVEN THEM; THAT THEY MAY BE ONE, EVEN AS WE ARE ONE:”

The “GLORY” or the word honor is used by Albert Barnes in his commentary, is that Christ and God are one. They are one in mind, one in purpose, and one in spirit; now Christ has given this same “GLORY” or honor to those that followed him. The disciples of Christ, Christians, are to be one in mind, one in purpose and one in spirit. How do we do this? John tells us this:

“AND HE THAT KEEPETH HIS COMMANDMENTS DWELLETH IN HIM, AND HE IN HIM. AND HEREBY WE KNOW THAT HE ABIDETH IN US, BY THE SPIRIT WHICH HE HATH GIVEN US.” **I JOHN 3:24**

John knew that He and Christ were one by the Spirit and in your Bible the word Spirit is probably capitalized, signifying that he’s talking about the Holy Spirit. We do not have the Holy Spirit to guide us today in the same way as did the apostles. However, we have the work of the Holy Spirit, these scriptures, that which he caused to be recorded, to guide us instead.

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**v.23** "I IN THEM, AND THOU IN ME, THAT THEY MAY BE MADE PERFECT IN ONE; AND THAT THE WORLD MAY KNOW THAT THOU HAST SENT ME, AND HAST LOVED THEM, AS THOU HAST LOVED ME."

Christ is in us, we are in Christ, God is in Christ, so through this union we are perfect or complete. He is praying that there be no discord, no contentions, no divisions, that we might all be perfect or perfectly joined together as one. We understand from the prior verse that we must be of the same mind in doctrine, or teaching, but what else might be required?

**Colossians 3:12-14** "PUT ON THEREFORE, AS THE ELECT OF GOD, HOLY AND BELOVED, BOWELS OF MERCIES, KINDNESS, HUMBLENESS OF MIND, MEEKNESS, LONGSUFFERING; FORBEARING ONE ANOTHER, AND FORGIVING ONE ANOTHER, IF ANY MAN HAVE A QUARREL AGAINST ANY: EVEN AS CHRIST FORGAVE YOU, SO ALSO *do* YE. AND ABOVE ALL THESE THINGS *put on* CHARITY, WHICH IS THE BOND OF PERFECTNESS."

Therefore, because of this union, we are exhorted to love one another, to bear one another's burdens and to do the things that make for peace and live in ways that we might edify one another. As Paul also wrote to the Ephesian brethren:

**Ephesians 4:1-3** "I THEREFORE, THE PRISONER OF THE LORD, BESEECH YOU THAT YE WALK WORTHY OF THE VOCATION WHEREWITH YE ARE CALLED, WITH ALL LOWLINESS AND MEEKNESS, WITH LONGSUFFERING, FORBEARING ONE ANOTHER IN LOVE; ENDEAVOURING TO KEEP THE UNITY OF THE SPIRIT IN THE BOND OF PEACE."

**v.24** "FATHER, I WILL THAT THEY ALSO, WHOM THOU HAST GIVEN ME, BE WITH ME WHERE I AM; THAT THEY MAY BEHOLD MY GLORY, WHICH THOU HAST GIVEN ME: FOR THOU LOVEDST ME BEFORE THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD."

Jesus asks God to bring those that He has given Him, those that are His faithful followers, to where he is, that they might "BEHOLD MY GLORY", as he taught earlier:

**John 12:26** "IF ANY MAN SERVE ME, LET HIM FOLLOW ME; AND WHERE I AM, THERE SHALL ALSO MY SERVANT BE: IF ANY MAN SERVE ME, HIM WILL *my* FATHER HONOR."

We are to be with Him, just as the Apostle Paul writes concerning the ultimate end of the righteous:

**I Thessalonians 4:17** "THEN WE WHICH ARE ALIVE *and* REMAIN SHALL BE CAUGHT TO TOGETHER WITH THEM IN THE CLOUDS, TO MEET THE LORD IN THE AIR AND SO SHALL WE EVER BE WITH THE LORD."

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**v.25** “O, RIGHTEOUS FATHER, THE WORLD HATH NOT KNOWN THEE: BUT I HAVE KNOWN THEE AND THESE HAVE KNOWN THAT THOU HAST SENT ME.”

The world did not know God, they rejected him for false doctrines, or worldly pleasure, refused to believe his word and consequently were lost in sin. His disciples would suffer persecution, trials, and danger as Jesus has just taught them:

**John 15:21** “BUT ALL THESE THINGS WILL THEY DO UNTO YOU FOR MY NAME’S SAKE, BECAUSE THEY KNOW NOT HIM THAT SENT ME.”

But he has known God, and those whom God has given him, now know God as well through the word that Jesus has taught them.

**v.26** “AND I HAVE DECLARED UNTO THEM THY NAME, AND WILL DECLARE IT: THAT THE LOVE WHEREWITH THOU HAST LOVED ME MAY BE IN THEM, AND I IN THEM.”

Jesus declared far more to his disciples than just the name of God; he declared unto them the nature of God, made them “acquainted” with God much like God himself did before Moses on the mountain:

**Exodus 34:5-7** “AND THE **LORD** DESCENDED IN THE CLOUD, AND STOOD WITH HIM THERE, AND PROCLAIMED THE NAME OF THE **LORD**. AND THE **LORD** PASSED BY BEFORE HIM, AND PROCLAIMED, THE **LORD**, THE **LORD** GOD, MERCIFUL AND GRACIOUS, LONGSUFFERING, AND ABUNDANT IN GOODNESS AND TRUTH, KEEPING MERCY FOR THOUSANDS, FORGIVING INIQUITY AND TRANSGRESSION AND SIN, AND THAT WILL BY NO MEANS CLEAR *the guilty*, VISITING THE INIQUITY OF THE FATHERS UPON THE CHILDREN, AND UPON THE CHILDREN'S CHILDREN, UNTO THE THIRD AND TO THE FOURTH *generation*.”

Jesus had declared all of these attributes of God to his disciples and would continue to do so until his ascension and return to the Father. He encouraged them to love with the same abiding love that the Father held for Him and that He held for the Father.