

## Jesus Final Instructions - 12/11/22

### Bring Glory To God

**TEXT – John 17:1-5**

**INTRO – The disciples could not understand the crucifixion and ascension. Our Lord explains that He will not leave them comfortless. The Holy Spirit will be present continually in their lives. The Holy Spirit makes victory possible.**

This chapter is “The Holy of Holies of John’s Gospel.”

#### I. Christ Praying For God’s Glory 1-5

**He has finished the work of salvation. John 2:4** *Jesus saith unto her, Woman, what have I to do with thee? **mine hour is not yet come.***

“I have finished the work” — the work of salvation — and because of this, “I have glorified Thee on the earth” **John 17:4** *I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do.*

Christ always looked upon the cross as a means of glorifying God

**John 12:23** *And Jesus answered them, saying, The hour is come, that the Son of man should be glorified.*

Paul also saw glory in the cross **Galatians 6:14** *But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world.*

Christ prays that the Father will give Him again the glory He laid aside when He came to earth to die **Php 2:1-12**.

The only time that His glory was revealed on earth was on the Mount of Transfiguration **John 1:14** *And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.*

**John 17:2** : (1) The Father has given the Son authority over all mankind;

(2) the Son gives eternal life to

(3) those the Father has given the Son.

“I have manifested Thy name”— this statement should be related to the “I AM” statements of Christ in John’s Gospel. God’s name is I AM **Exo 3:13-14**, To the hungry Christ says, “I am the Bread of Life.”

To the lost He says, “I am the Way.”

To the blind He says, “I am the Light of the World.”

#### II. Christ Prays for His Disciples John 17:6-19

The key thought here is sanctification, that is, the disciples’ relationship to the world. Jesus said, “I have given them thy word” (John 17:14) and in He states that we are sanctified — set apart for God — through the Word.

**John 17:17** *Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.*

Sanctification does not mean sinless perfection,

Christ asked the Father to keep the disciples (**John 17:11**). This request does not suggest the possibility that the disciples could lose their salvation. Note the full request: “...keep [them] through Your own name...that they may be one” (NKJV). **John 17:15** asks that they be kept from the evil one. Christ was physically with the disciples and was able to keep them together, united in heart and purpose, separated from the world. Now that He was going back to heaven, He asked the Father to keep them.

Christians are not of the world, but they are in the world to witness for Christ. We keep our lives clean through His Word. Christ has actually sent us into the world to take His place **John 17:18** *As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world.*

#### III. He Prays for His Church (John 17:20-26)

**The main theme here is glorification; John 17:22** *And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one:* This is another proof of the eternal security of the believer: we are already glorified as far as God is concerned. Christ prays that we might be with Him and see His glory. **Colossians 3:4** *When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.*

**Rom 8:18** promises we will show forth His glory!

Christ also prays for the unity of His church **John 17:21** *That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.*

**There is a vast difference between unity (oneness of heart and spirit) and uniformity (everybody exactly alike).**

**Christ never prayed that all Christians would belong to one world church.** Organizational mergers may bring about organizational uniformity, but they cannot guarantee unity.

**Unity comes from life within, not from pressure without.**

It is possible for Christians to differ on minor matters and still love one another in Christ.

**John 17:24-26** *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. 25 O righteous Father, the world hath not known thee: but I have known thee, and these have known that thou hast sent me. 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.*

**We may summarize the major parts of this prayer as follows:**

In **John 17:1-5**, Jesus emphasized salvation and the gift of eternal life

In **John 17:6-19**, He dwelt on sanctification: “

**John 17:20-26** focus on glorification — “I have given them the glory”

Note also the wonderful assurances of the eternal security of the believer in this prayer:

- (1) Believers are the Father’s gift to the Son (**John 17:2**),
- (2) Christ finished His work. Because Christ did His work completely, believers cannot lose their salvation.
- (3) Christ was able to keep His own while on earth, and He is able to keep them today, for He is the same Savior.
- (4) Christ knows we will finally be in heaven because He has already given us His glory.
- (5) Christ prayed that we might be in heaven, and the Father always answers His Son’s prayers (**John 11:41-42**).

**CONCL –**