

Title: A PRAYER FOR ALL TIME, JOHN 17:6-19
(Chatham, NJ; 05/17/15, AM) [Pc – Exegesis]

Theme: Christ's prayer in John 17 reflects the same basic beliefs and encouragements found in the early part of Hebrews.

Purpose: To provide the listeners with some continuity between Jesus and Hebrews, and to establish Jesus as the sole authority to speak for God

Introduction:

1. Jesus' prayer transcends the first century.
2. It provided a message for the disciples and also for us today.
3. Christ assures the disciples that He speaks for God and that he is with them even after he is gone.

I. The Word Given, 6-10

A. For the disciples

1. I declared your name to them: "name" refers to the essence, character, and message associated with God
2. They know these words are from you
3. They believed that you sent me
4. And I am praying for them
5. Essentially this is a summation of what Christ has done for his entire ministry

B. For us

1. Verse ten indicates that God is fully revealed through Christ
2. A precursor to Hebrews 1:1-2
3. The message is driven by divine authority
4. Jesus is the spokesman for all things pertaining to God
5. Philip asks Jesus to show him the Father; Jesus answered in John 14:9-10
6. When we go forth on his behalf, we glorify him

II. Keep Them in Your Name, 11-13

A. For the disciples

1. Jesus received the name from his Father: a divine identity
2. Jesus prays that the disciples will remain in his name
3. He also prays for them to remain unified
4. Jesus has kept them "in your name" – faithful to God's true purpose and identity
5. His name can be identified with love, forgiveness, judgment, and redemption

B. For us

1. In Hebrews Jesus has inherited a name above all names, Heb. 1:14
2. Phil 2:10 assures us that all people will recognize the authority of that name
3. Their joy (13) will come from recognizing that Jesus is seated at the right hand of God, Hebrews 1:13; Ephesians 1:20-23
4. His exaltation translates into victory
5. A saying attributed to Vince Lombardi is true when applied to spiritual things: "Winning isn't everything; it's the only thing."
6. Basketball coach Pat Riley said, "There are only two things in life: winning and misery."
7. Wrong concepts about winning aside, we must relish the victory that will be and already is ours: Christ has conquered and sits on the throne.

III. The World and the Christian, 14-19

A. For the disciples

1. Jesus is sending them into the world
2. Yet he wants them to have divine protection: sanctify them in the truth, 17
3. Truth is the most powerful weapon against evil (Satan is the "father of lies")
4. Its power is seen in the virulent reactions against Christianity we are seeing today
5. Truth is light in a dark place that intimidates those who do evil.
6. People want their lies because those lies justify evil.
7. I read recently, "People can forgive you for being wrong, but they will never forgive you for being right." (Peter Kreeft)

B. For us

1. Certainty gives us courage (like Micaiah against the 400 prophets of Baal)
2. We are in the world but not of the world
3. Truth leads to the narrow gate, and the road to get there is the one less traveled
4. Hebrews 11 reminds his readers and us that faithful people have always endured the bullying, intimidation, and persecutions of the world
5. But the truth is sanctification from God
6. We are set apart to embody God's truths

Conclusion:

1. Remember that God has demonstrated divine authority in Christ and his message, Hebrews 2:3-4.
2. Believe the works he has done, John 14:11.
3. God elevated Christ to the place of rule at his right hand; no other religious leader can make that claim legitimately.
4. Be sanctified by the truth of God's words; let them live within you.
5. Be of good courage.
6. The victory is ours, in spite of apparent setbacks, intimidations, and lies.
7. All will be rectified when you receive the crown of life.