

# STUDIES IN THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

## LESSON 18 - JOHN CHAPTER 17

### ASSIGNMENT

READ John chapter 17.

MEMORIZE John 17:3,

*“And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.”*

### KEY WORDS

The key words in John chapter 17 are: **oneness, world, Mine, Yours, “mine hour.”**

### OUTLINE OF JOHN CHAPTER 17

- A. Jesus prays for Himself, John 17:1-6.
- B. Jesus prays for the disciples, John 17:6-19.
- C. Jesus prays for the believers, John 17:20-26.

### LOOKING AT JOHN CHAPTER 17

- A. Jesus prays for Himself, John 17:1-6.

**John chapters  
1 to 12  
LIFE OF JESUS**

**John chapters  
13 to 16  
LAST WORDS OF JESUS**

**John chapter  
17  
PRAYER OF JESUS**

John chapters 1 to 12 tell us of the life of Jesus Christ. Jesus talked to the people of His country. He talked to the people in Galilee, Samaria and Judea. These chapters tell of the miracles of Jesus, visits of Jesus and His talks with the religious leaders.

John chapters 13 to 16 give the last words of Jesus to His disciples before His death. These were words of warning, love and comfort.

In chapter 17 Jesus talked to His Father in heaven. This is one of the prayers of Jesus. Only a few of the prayers of Jesus were heard by others. This prayer was heard by the disciples. One Bible teacher said,

*“This prayer takes us right to where God is.”* (A. Martin, John - Life Through Believing, p. 116.)

In this chapter Jesus talked to His heavenly Father. He talked about Himself, His disciples and the believers who would come later. This means that He was talking to God about us too! This is wonderful!

This prayer was prayed just before Jesus died. It is a very important prayer. We must stop and listen to this prayer!

In verse 1, Jesus called God,

In verse 11, Jesus called God,

In verse 25, Jesus called God,

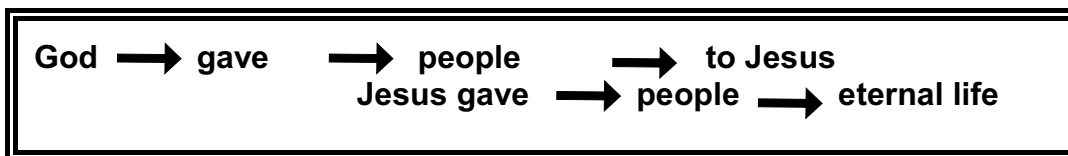
Jesus talked to God His Father as a son talks to his father.

Jesus showed that God the Father is holy and righteous. There is no sin in God. God does what is right.

### 1. **What God gave to Jesus.**

- 1) God gave Jesus over all flesh that He should give eternal life to as many as God had given Him. (John 17:2).

This means God gave Jesus authority or the right to give eternal life.

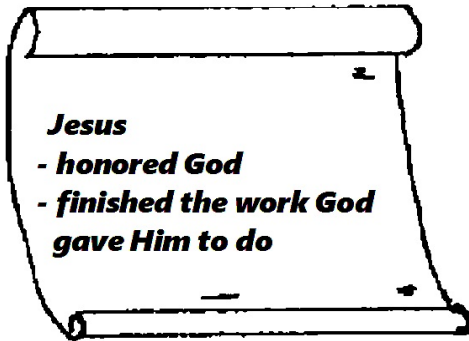


Jesus can give eternal life to people because He paid for their sins on the cross.



- 2) God gave the disciples to Jesus, John 17:6. The disciples were God's gift to Jesus.

## 2. What Jesus did.



- 1) Jesus (glorified) God on earth, John 17:4.

He came to show the world what God is like, John 1:18. Jesus obeyed His Father. Because He obeyed His Father, He honored His Father.

- 2) Jesus the work God gave Him to do.

What was the work Jesus was to do?

### a. Jesus came to show people their sin, John 15:22, John 7:7.

Did Jesus show the woman of Samaria her sin? John 4:15-18 .

### b. Jesus chose and trained His disciples.

- 1) Who chose the disciples? John 15:16
- 2) For what did Jesus set the disciples apart? (ordain them)?  
 That they should be Him and that He might  
 forth to , to have power to  
 sicknesses and to cast out devils, Mark 3:14,15.

- 3) Did Jesus train His disciples? .

These disciples were to carry on the work of Jesus on earth.

### c. Jesus came to save people from their sins.

- 1) What does the name of Jesus mean? Matthew 1:21  
*"He shall his people from their ."*
- 2) Who did Jesus come to save? Luke 19:10

*“That which . . .”*

3) Why did Jesus come? John 10:10

*“That they might have . . .”*

In this prayer Jesus spoke as if His work on earth was finished. Jesus knew that He would finish it.

### 3. What Jesus prayed for Himself.

1) *“Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee.”* John 17:1.

First, let us look at “the hour.” Here Jesus said the hour “has come.” It was a special hour that had come.

Jesus spoke about “this hour” before. What do the following verses say?

John 2:4 *“mine hour is . . .”*

John 7:30 *“his hour was . . .”*

John 8:20 *“his hour was . . .”*

In chapter 12 Jesus again spoke about “the hour.” These words were spoken a few days before His death. What do the following verses say?

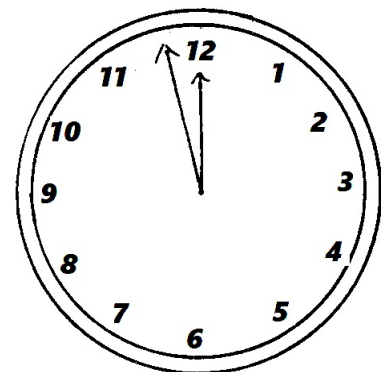
John 12:23: *“. . . The hour is . . . that the Son of man should be glorified.”*

John 12:27,28: *“. . . for this cause came I unto this . . . Father, thy name.”*

John 13:1: *“When Jesus knew that his . . . was . . . that he should out of this world unto the Father.”*

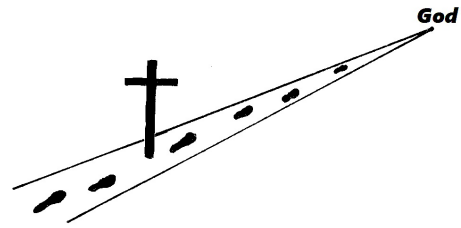
In this prayer in chapter 17, Jesus said,

*“. . . the hour . . . thy Son.”*



From these verses we learn that “the hour” means the time Jesus would leave this world and go back to His Father. This time would bring honor to God and to Jesus. Jesus honored God by finishing the work God gave Him to do.

The great work of Jesus Christ was to pay for the sins people have done. It was to make a way to God.



What did Jesus say on the cross? John 19:30

Right after these words Jesus died.

Jesus asked God to honor (glorify) Him. He did not ask for a selfish honor. He asked God to help Him finish the work He came to do. By finishing the work on the cross God would be honored.

2) John 17:5,

*“Oh, Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the  
which I have glorified with thee”*

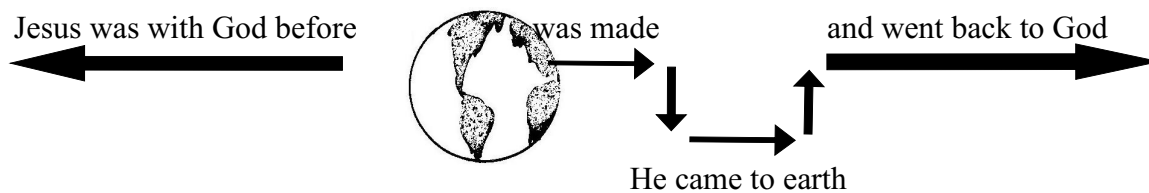
God honored the Son by taking Him back to be with Him. The Son did the work given to Him. Then God was satisfied. The Son was honored because He finished this work.

How long had Jesus had this glory?

John 17:5 From before the

Jesus lived before the world was made. He lived with God in heaven. He shared the glory of God.

When Jesus was born as a man He put the glory of God aside. After His death on the cross He was ready to receive this glory again. Philippians 2:5-11.



#### 4. Eternal life.

What is eternal life? John 17:3

- 1) to know \_\_\_\_\_, and
- 2) to know \_\_\_\_\_.

Is it enough to know only God? \_\_\_\_\_.

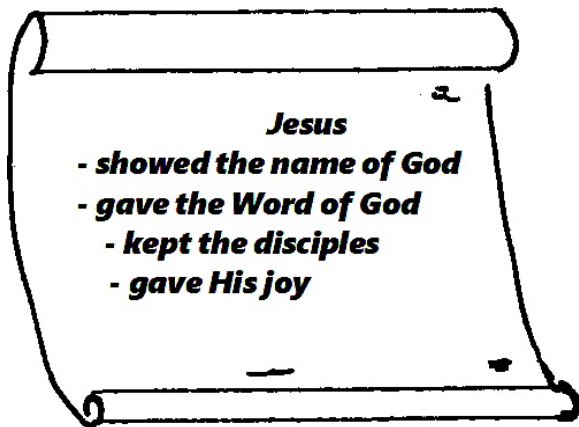
To have eternal life is also to know **Jesus Christ**.

We may know about a person. When we only know **about** a person there is no fellowship. But **WHEN WE KNOW JESUS** we have fellowship with Him. How can we have fellowship with Jesus? 1 John 1:6-10

*"The \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ us from all sin."* (1 John 1:7).

#### B. Jesus prays for His disciples, John 17:6-19.

##### 1. What Jesus did for His disciples.



- 1) Jesus showed the disciples the \_\_\_\_\_ of God, John 17:6,26.

Jesus showed the disciples Who God is. They did not understand at first. What did Philip say in John 14:8?

*"Show us the \_\_\_\_\_."*

Jesus answered Philip that if they knew Him, they also knew the Father.

- 2) Jesus gave the disciples the \_\_\_\_\_ of God, John 17:8,14.

What did Jesus say in John 8:38?

*"I speak that which \_\_\_\_\_."*

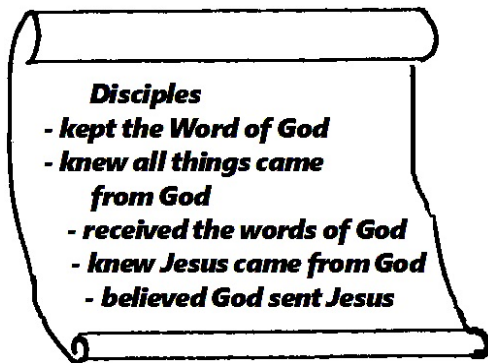
Jesus gave the words to the disciples which God gave to Him.



3) Jesus kept the disciples while He was in the world, John 17:12. Jesus took care of the disciples. He protected them. Jesus showed them what to do and what not to do. He lost none of His disciples except Judas. Judas was called the son of death (perdition). He did not really belong to Jesus, John 6:70.

4) Jesus gave the disciples His joy, John 17:13.

**2. What the disciples did.**



1) The disciples  $\xrightarrow{\text{kept}}$  the word of God, John 17:6.

The word "to keep" means to take "care of." It also means "to obey." The disciples took care of the word of God. They remembered the word of God. They respected the word of God. The disciples obeyed the word of God.

2) The disciples knew - knew that all things came from God, John 17:7. The disciples

knew that whatever



3) The disciples received the words of God, John 17:8.

A preacher said to the people in the church, "I have a dollar bill in my hand. If you come and get it, it will be yours." At first no one came for it. Then a little girl went to the preacher. He gave her the dollar bill. He said, "It is yours." Many others said, "Oh!" or "I wish I had gone for it."

The little girl believed the preacher. She received the money. It was hers to keep.

Many people heard the words of Jesus. Only a few believed the words of Jesus. The disciples believed the words of Jesus. Peter said in John 6:69,

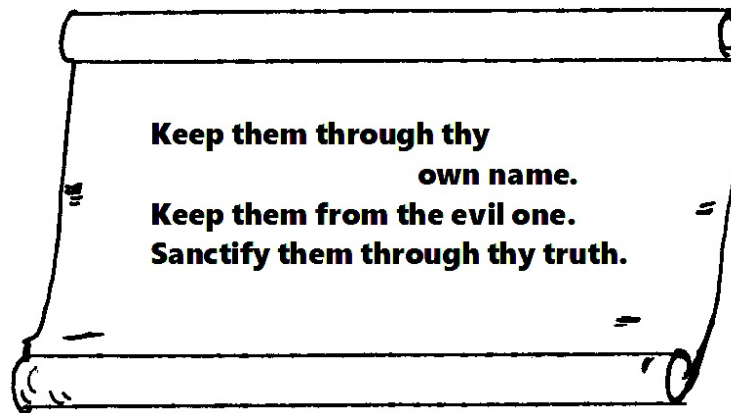
“And we \_\_\_\_\_ and are sure that thou art that \_\_\_\_\_, the  
\_\_\_\_\_ of the living \_\_\_\_\_.”

The disciples received the words of Jesus. The promises of Jesus belonged to them.

4) The disciples knew for sure that Jesus came from \_\_\_\_\_, John 17:8.

5) The disciples believed that \_\_\_\_\_ sent Jesus, John 17:8.

### 3. Jesus prayed for the disciples.



Jesus prayed for these disciples. He did not pray for the world at this time. Jesus did not mean that He never prayed for the world. Jesus meant that He only was praying for His disciples at this time. The disciples of Jesus were a very special group of people. They belonged to Him and to His Father. Jesus spoke of His Father, Himself and His disciples as one big family.

Jesus was going to leave the world. The disciples would stay in the world. Jesus asked three things for the disciples.

1) John 17:11,

“... *through thy own name those whom thou hast given us.*”

Jesus did not ask His Father to take the disciples out of the world. If the disciples were taken out of the world, who would tell others of Jesus?

Were the disciples of the world? That is, did they belong to the world?



John 17:14

Were the disciples in the world?

The world (loved) (hated) the disciples. It was important that God would keep the disciples safe.

2) John 17:15,

*“Keep them from . . .”*

Jesus asked God to keep or protect His disciples from the evil one.

Did Satan want to get the disciples? Luke 22:31

Which disciple did Satan want to have? Luke 22:31

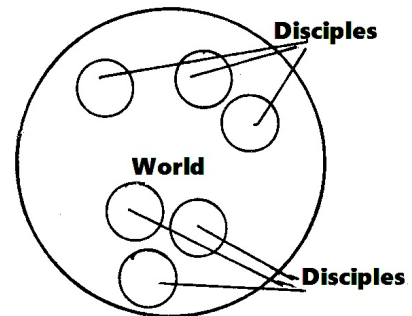
Jesus said He . . . for Peter that his faith would not fail, Luke 22:32.

3) John 17:17,

*“ . . . sanctify them through thy truth.”*

What does the word “sanctify” mean? The New Life Testament says, *“Make them holy for yourself by the truth.”*

The word “sanctify” also means to “set apart.” In verse 16 Jesus said, *“. . . they are not of the world.”* The disciples lived in the world but did not do the things of the world.



Jesus asked the Father that the disciples be set apart from the world. They had a special work to do.

What was their work? John 17:18,

*“As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world.”*

Jesus was sent into the world to do a special work. He was set apart for the work of saving people from their sins, Matthew 1:21. The disciples were set apart to preach this good news to the people of the world, Mark 16:15.

**C. Jesus prayed for the believers, John 17:20-26.**

Jesus also prayed for all who would believe. Jesus prayed for you and for me. Just think - Jesus prayed for you! Jesus prayed for me!

**1. Jesus prayed for unity.**

Unity is to be one. Unity is oneness. Unity is oneness in mind or feeling among a number of people. Unity is agreement.

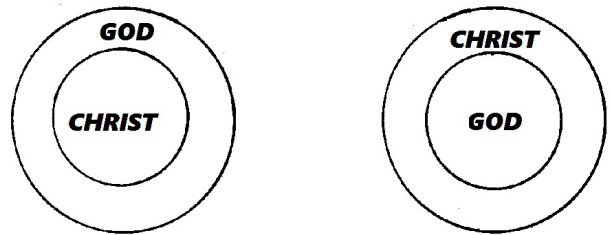
Jesus prayed that those who would believe in Him would be one. He prayed that they would be one like the Father and the Son are one.



Jesus said,

*"I and my Father are one."* John 10:30.

God and Jesus Christ are one. Jesus Christ is in God. God is in Jesus Christ. Jesus and the Father are one in mind and in feeling. Jesus and the Father are one in plans and in work.

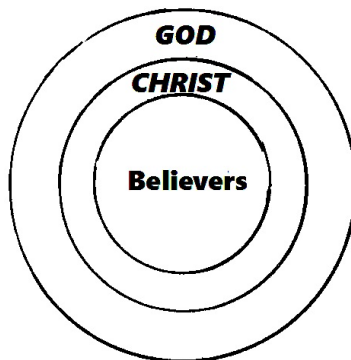


We could draw some pictures like this:

Jesus prayed that the believers would be one too. We could draw some pictures like these.

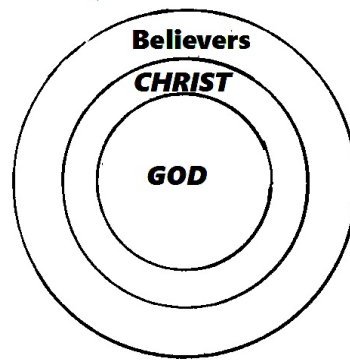
**John 17:21**

***"they (believers) in us."***



**John 17:23**

***"You in Me." "I in them (believers)."***



When believers are in Christ and Christ is in the believers, the believers have fellowship. They have the same mind and the same feeling. The believers plan together. They work together. The believers love one another. They do not fight with one another.

Why should there be oneness among the believers? John 17:21

*“ . . . that the                      may                      that                      hast                      me.”*

We want people to believe God sent Jesus into the world. If the people of the world are to believe, what must the believers do? John 17:21

The believers must be

How do we live? Will the people of the world say, “How the believers love one another?” It is very important that we have unity. It is very important that we love one another.

Jesus prayed that the believers would be one and be made perfect. Let us look at husband and wife. The longer they live together the more they understand each other. They begin to think alike. When husband and wife have lived together for a long time they are much alike. They do things in the same way. Sometimes they seem to look alike.

We cannot be perfect in ourselves. As we live in fellowship with Jesus Christ He works in our lives to make us perfect.

We may say it this way as a song-writer did:

*“The longer I serve Him the sweeter He grows,  
The more that I love Him, more love He bestows;  
Each day is like heaven, my heart overflows,  
The longer I serve Him the sweeter He grows.”* (W.J. Gaither, Copyright, 1965.)

What has Jesus given to the believers? John 17:22

The                      which the Father gave

## **2. Jesus prayed, John 17:24.**

*“I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am.”*

The disciples and the believers are God's workers on earth. God works through the believers. The believers have



a part in the work of God. Jesus wants the believers to have a part in His glory too.

Who gave this glory to Jesus? John 17:24

The .

When did Jesus have this glory? John 17:5 the was.

God loved Jesus. How long has God loved Jesus? John 17:24

From the foundation of the .

This means that God loved Jesus before the world was made. Jesus wants this love of God to be in the believers.

In verse 25 Jesus prayed, "righteous Father." The Father does what is right. He is holy and cannot sin. God will be right as to whom He lets into the glory of heaven.

- 1) The people of the world do not know God. They do not love God. They hate God. These people will not be with Jesus in glory.
- 2) Jesus knew the Father. He will be in the glory of heaven.
- 3) The believers know God has sent Jesus. They know God through Jesus. They love Jesus. They will be in the glory of heaven.

### **IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER**

1. Jesus tells us why He is praying: Jesus prayed that His followers:
  - 1) ". . . may have My joy in their hearts," John 17:13.
  - 2) ". . . may be made holy by the truth," John 17:19.
  - 3) ". . . may belong to Us," John 17:21.
  - 4) may be one as We are One," John 17:22.
  - 5) may . . . be made perfect." John 17:23.
  - 6) may see My shining greatness," John 17:24. (New Life Testament quoted in numbers 1 to 6.)
  - 7) Love of God may be in them, John 17:26.
  - 8) Christ Jesus may live in them, John 17:26.
2. This is a very important prayer of Jesus. He prayed this prayer just before He .
3. Jesus prayed for
  - 1)

2) the

3) all

4. Jesus prayed for Himself:

1) "Father, thy Son that thy Son also may  
thee." John 17:1.

2) "Father thou me with thine own self with the  
which I had with thee before the was." John 17:5.

5. God gave to Jesus

1) " over all flesh that He should give eternal life to as many  
as God has given Him." John 17:2.

2) the , John 17:6.

6. Jesus

1) God on earth, John 17:4.

2) chose and trained the .

3) came to earth to save people from their , Matthew  
1:21.

7. Jesus honored God by the work God gave Him to do, John 17:4.

8. Eternal life is (John 17:3)

1) to know the true , and

2) to know .

9. Jesus

1) showed the disciples the of God, John 17:6

2) gave the disciples the of God, John 17:8.

3) the disciples while He was on earth, John 17:12.

10. The disciples

- 1) the word of God, John 17:6.
- 2) that all things came from God, John 17:7.
- 3) the word of God, John 17:8.
- 4) for sure that Jesus came from . John 17:8.

11. Jesus prayed for the disciples that God would

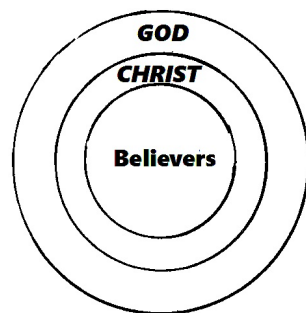
- 1) them through His own name, John 17:11.
- 2) keep them from the , John 17:15.
- 3) sanctify them through the truth, John 17:17.

12. Jesus prayed for the believers

- 1) for .
- 2) that they would be in glory with Him.

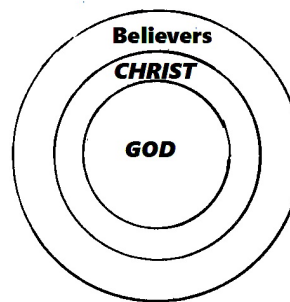
**Christ in God,**

***the believers in Christ and in God***



**God in Christ,**

**Christ in God and  
Christ in the believers**



**WORDS TO LEARN**

1. authority - the right and the power to do and say something.
2. foundation of the world - beginning of the world.
3. glory of God - the greatness, honor and praise of God.
4. perdition - hell, the place of eternal damnation, spiritual death.
5. sanctify - to make holy; to set free from sin.
6. unity - oneness.

## Lesson 18 - Review

1. In John chapter 17 - Jesus prayed for
  - 1) \_\_\_\_\_ .
  - 2) \_\_\_\_\_ .
  - 3) \_\_\_\_\_ .
2. God gave to Jesus
  - 1) the right to give \_\_\_\_\_ , \_\_\_\_\_ to those God gave Him.
  - 2) the \_\_\_\_\_ .
3. Jesus
  - 1) \_\_\_\_\_ (glorified) God on earth.
  - 2) \_\_\_\_\_ the work God gave Him to do.
4. When Jesus talked about “ \_\_\_\_\_ ” He talked about the time He would leave the world and go to His Father.
5. Eternal life is to know the
  - 1) the only and \_\_\_\_\_ .
  - 2) \_\_\_\_\_ .
6. Jesus prayed for His disciples that God would
  - 1) \_\_\_\_\_ through His own name.
  - 2) \_\_\_\_\_ from the evil one.
  - 3) \_\_\_\_\_ them through His truth.
7. Jesus said, “My Father and I are \_\_\_\_\_ .”
8. Jesus prayed for the believers that they would be \_\_\_\_\_ .
9. Sanctify means to \_\_\_\_\_ .
10. Jesus prayed that the believers would be \_\_\_\_\_ Him in \_\_\_\_\_ .
11. Write out John 17:3.

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