

The High Priestly Prayer

Proclamation Life Groups; Week of Sunday, October 18, 2015; Steve Thiel

Jesus Christ is the promised Messiah, the Son of God, and the Savior of the world. He has made that plain through both His words and His works and is therefore worthy of our worship and our faithful obedience. In John 17, Jesus prays for the Father's glory and for the disciples' faithfulness. Both prayers have been gloriously fulfilled in Christ's death, burial, and resurrection and the rest of the New Testament. But Jesus also prays for all believers to be faithful to the gospel until they are safely at home in His presence. Because this is Jesus' prayer, we can have every confidence in the gospel that He will preserve and protect us until we are with Him in glory.

I. Jesus Prays for Himself – Read John 17:1-5 and answer the following questions.

- A. What hour do you think Jesus is talking about when He says, "Father, the hour has come" (v.1)?
- B. What is Jesus' one request for Himself and how is it related to the Father's glory (v.1)?
- C. According to Jesus (v.3), what is eternal life? How is this different than knowing about Jesus?
- D. How is Jesus' prayer for Himself helpful as you think about your own prayers for yourself?

II. Jesus Prays for His Disciples – Read John 17:6-19 and answer the following questions

- A. What reasons does Jesus give for praying for the disciples (vv.6-10)?
- B. Who is Jesus praying for and who is He not praying for (v.9)? Why do you think that is?
- C. What do you think Jesus means when He prays "keep them in Your name" (v.11)?
- D. What does it look like and how would you like to grow in being sanctified in the truth (v.17)?

III. Jesus Prays for Us – Read John 17:20-26 and answer the following questions

- A. What do you think it looks like for the church "to be one" (v.21)?
- B. From the world's perspective, why is it critical that we are unified in our mission (v.21)?
- C. What is the ultimate goal of Jesus' prayer for those who will believe in Him (vv.22-26)?
- D. How is Jesus' high priestly prayer an encouragement to your faith?