

The Final Days of Jesus  
**GLORY & ETERNAL LIFE**

Tuesday, March 24  
Reading: John 17:1-13

**John 17:3** *"Now this is eternal life: that they know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom You have sent.  
4 I have brought You glory on earth by finishing the work You gave Me to do...6 I have revealed You to those whom  
You gave Me out of the world. They were Yours; You gave them to Me and they have obeyed Your word.*

This prayer, sometimes called Jesus' "High Priestly" prayer, can be divided into three sections:

- [1] Jesus prays for Himself (17:1-5)
- [2] Jesus prays for His disciples (17:6-19)
- [3] Jesus prays for future believers (17:20-25)

As Jesus prays about His hour that has now come, He does not focus on the pain and agony of the coming hours, but on the GLORY that will result (17:1-5). Jesus' sacrifice brought eternal life to all who know and accept His salvation. Jesus prayed that the work He was about to finish would glorify God. This is another way of saying, "Not My will but Yours be done", a prayer Jesus would shortly pray in Gethsemane according to the other gospels. His sacrifice would also lead to His resurrection and return to the glory He had laid aside when He came to earth.

Jesus now turns His thoughts to the eleven men who are listening to His prayer. First, He prays for their SALVATION (17:6-8). Jesus reveals that the evidence of the disciples' salvation is they had heard and obeyed God's Word (17:6), they had recognized that Jesus' words and works had come from God (17:7), and this had led them to believe in Jesus' divine origin ("I came forth from You") and in His divine mission ("You sent Me" – 17:9).

Jesus also prayed for their SECURITY (17:9-13). While on earth, He had protected them but now He was leaving the world. So He asks the Father, in their presence, to protect them by His power. In future days, this would bring great comfort and joy to these men.

LESSON ONE: "This is Eternal Life." Here is Jesus' definition of eternal life. It begins with INTIMATE knowledge – "to know the only true God." It is more than simply believing that He exists. Even the demons believe this (James 2:19). It is knowledge based on a personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ. It is also an INCREASING knowledge. The word "know" literally means 'keep on knowing.' Knowing God is a continual growing process. Eternal life is not just living forever; it is a deep desire to know God more and more today. How can you experience the joys of eternal life right now? Do you know and love God more today than you did last week?

LESSON TWO: "Protect Them By the Power of Your Name." This passage gives us three reasons that our salvation is secure: (1) Because we are God's Gift to His Son. Seven times Jesus proclaims that believers were given to Him by the Father (17:2, 6 [2x], 9, 11, 12, 24). (2) Because we are kept by God (17:11). God's name represents His character – all that He is! Our salvation does not depend on our character or conduct but on the nature of God Himself. (3) Because we have God's Word (17:6) Jesus declared one evidence of salvation is keeping His Word. In the remainder of the prayer He will say believers are protected (17:14-16) and sanctified (17:17-19) by God's Word. Have you ever doubted your salvation? Search your heart and search God's Word. Remember His promises and make sure you truly KNOW God!