

Jesus Continues to Pray for His Followers

John 17:11-19 ¹¹ And I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one. ¹² While I was with them, I kept them in your name, which you have given me. I have guarded them, and not one of them has been lost except the son of destruction, that the Scripture might be fulfilled. ¹³ But now I am coming to you, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have my joy fulfilled in themselves. ¹⁴ I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. ¹⁵ I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one. ¹⁶ They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. ¹⁷ Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. ¹⁸ As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. ¹⁹ And for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth.

❖ Recap

➤ We have so far split up the first 10 verses...

- We have looked at verses 1-5 and verses 6-1-

➤ In 1-5 we saw Jesus praying for Himself

- The Hour Has Come
- Jesus Prays for Glory so He Can Glorify
- Jesus is Given Authority to Give Eternal Life
- What is Eternal Life
- Doing God's Work Glorifies God
- The Glory of Jesus in the Presence of the Father

➤ In 6-10... last week... We see Jesus praying along two themes..

- One... He is stating things He has done for His followers...
- Two... He is stating their response to Him...
- So we learned what the follower's response to Jesus should be when He does what He does for us
- We saw:
 - They had kept His Word
 - They knew He had come from the Father
 - They received Him, knew the Truth and believed in Him
 - They Glorified Him.... They made His name great among the nations

➤ So... Wake up... and Give God your Attention this morning...

- If you think yourself to be God's child... You will hunger for His Word...
- Remember last week... They had kept His Word... Held on to it... protected it... grasped it..
- We did not come to church this morning to just hang out with our friends...
- We came to hear the words of God... And His children cling to His Words...

❖ Read Our Verses: As if Jesus were praying them right now in front of us today...

❖ Intro

➤ Our Outline Today

- 1) Jesus Pleads with the Father that they be kept in His name
- 2) Jesus Prays for Their Oneness in the World
- 3) Jesus Prays for Their Joy in the World

- 4) Jesus Prays for Their Protection in the World
- 5) Jesus Prays for Their Sanctification by the Word
- **Jesus Prays for a bunch of awesome things for us.....**
 - The question is this.... Why? Why does it matter?
 - If it matters... then what is my response?
- **Think about it.... This is Jesus praying for us... Jesus the Son of God praying things for us...**
 - Jesus is praying for His followers just hours before He is to be crucified...
 - Hours before He is about to leave them on their own for a little while
 - Jesus is praying for some very important things....
- **These things should characterize the Believer living today...**
 - If they do not characterize the believer today...
 - Then the believer is not walking in step with God...
 - The believer is in a darkness, a cloud that he has no need of being in...
- **These things need to be true of the believer...**
 - Why you may ask...
 - #1 Because there is every reason for them to be true
 - #2 Because Jesus prayed for these things...

❖ **Previous verse:**

- **And I am glorified in them...**
 - Let us take a long look at ourselves... Is He glorified in us...?

❖ **Jesus Pleads with The Father to Keep Them in His Name**

- ¹¹ **And I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me... (...)¹² While I was with them, I kept them in your name, which you have given me. I have guarded them, and not one of them has been lost except the son of destruction, that the Scripture might be fulfilled.**
- **Oh what a lesson we can learn here on prayer...**
 - Oh that We would pray like this...
- **He addresses the Father as...**
 - **Holy Father...**
 - And this will be the basis for his prayer... The Character of whom He is praying to
 - Holy Father... : God's Holiness is unique to Him and Him alone...
 - If every anything is considered Holy it is considered Holy because God has made it so...
 - The Holy nature of God is what sets Him apart from all things...
 - It is his being something so great and pure and set apart that we do not even know how to describe it...
 - **But we can take part in His Holy nature because He can make us this way...**
 - And Jesus is going to pray that God Sanctify us... or make us Holy or Set us apart for His use...
 - And He is going to pray that on the basis of the one He is praying to...
 - He can pray this for you and me because He is asking the Holy One to do it...
 - And the Holy God of all creation can do these things..

- **So... see the confidence we have in this prayer of Jesus... because He is praying to the Holy Father...**
- **Now, some of you may say... well... I do not understand this... and this makes no sense to me...**
 - And I will say... you are not alone...
 - But do know this... It is important for you...
 - Because the scriptures say...in **Heb 12:4 that without holiness we will not see God...**
- **So... if you want to see God when you die... You must be Holy... and the only avenue to Holiness**
 - Is through that which is Holy... Namely God and through His Son Jesus Christ...
- **He is praying for His followers because He is about to leave them...**
 - I am no longer in the world... but they are... I am coming to you...
 - Jesus is praying to the Father and saying He is about to leave them...
 - And they can hear Him... And He is praying for them to be kept... in the Father's name...
 - He says this a couple times... and it is peculiar I think... And I think it needs some explanation...
 - Why does Jesus keep saying this... and why is it so important...
- **Keep them in your name, which you have given me ...**
- **I Kept them in your name, which you have given me...**
 - **What is the importance of the name of God... the name of the Father...**
 - And Jesus keeps saying..."which you have given me..."
 - Ill be honest... I really struggled with getting my mind around this...
 - But I believe after some study and prayer I can see it a little more clearly
 - **The First question we must ask is... What is the goal... What is the purpose of our being kept...**
 - I believe it is to remain in God... to remain faithful to Him... to continue to know Him
 - To continue to serve Him and commune with Him... to continue in the task he has given us
 - **The Next question we have to ask is... what is the importance of the name...**
 - The name of someone in this time... was a clear indicator of who that person was
 - Of the character and attributes of that person...
 - We looked at this a little last week...
 - **In vs 6 Jesus says... I have manifested your name to the people whom you gave me out of the world.**
 - So... we see that Jesus has shown them who God is... He has revealed God to them.
 - Which is important... because without God being revealed to us...
 - We would not know Him... We would not know of Him...
 - We would not be able to speak of who He is...
 - Except in guessing what He is like....
 - **His name = Who he is = His Character and Attributes**
 - And they are many... but let me just name a few important ones
 - ◆ Love – Wrath – Truth – Mercy – Just –
 - ◆ He is all of these things..... and you can sort through them by reading your Bible
 - **And Jesus says... I have kept them in your name... which you have given me...**
 - And when He says this He is telling us... He is God... He is the very essence of who God is...
 - If you want to know God... then Look to Jesus.... Look to Jesus...

- Look at how He lived and served and taught and died and rose again and promises to return
- The scriptures tell us in regards to this Jesus...
 - ◆ Col 1:19 “in Him the fullness of God was pleased to dwell”
 - ◆ Heb 1 “ He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of His nature”

▪ **So to be kept in His name means that:**

- Jesus is praying that His followers essentially **continue to truly walk with the Lord...**
- **In the same way that Adam it says was what?**
 - ◆ Made in the image of God... right... Not that He was God...
 - ◆ But He was made in the image of God... being able to exhibit many of the attributes of God
 - ◆ And the Bible seems to indicate in Gen 3 that Adam walked with the Lord in the Garden...
 - ◆ And it was sin and rebellion that caused this walk to be interrupted...
- **But Jesus comes to restore the walk of men with their God....**
 - ◆ And now... Man can be restored back to God... Through the name of Jesus Christ...
 - ◆ He goes on to say...

➤ **I have guarded them and not one has been lost...except for the son of perdition**

- So... quickly two things we see here...
- **#1 I want you to see that it was according to God’s word that Judas betray Jesus...**
 - We see this prophesied in at least two places in the old testament...
 - The way Jesus puts it here is that He was lost... but He had never been given to me
 - He was never one of yours, so He was never one of mine...
- **#2 We see that those that are His will be guarded by Him**
 - They will be protected and kept by Him
 - One thing we can know for certain as believers, is that Jesus will keep us and never lose us...
 - Once we are a child of God , we will always be a child of God... Know this...
 - And we will see He prays for our growth in Him...
 - Always know that we must check and make sure we are truly His...
 - He tells us... only those who abide in my Word are truly my disciples...

➤ **So.. Jesus is praying that his followers be kept in the name of the Father**

- That His followers continue to walk with God
- How are you doing today?

❖ **Jesus Prays for Their Oneness in the World**

- , that they may be one, even as we are one.

➤ **Based off the Oneness between the Father and Son.... He prays for His followers unity...**

- Even as we are one... The name of the Father... is the name of the Son...
- John 14:9 “Whoever has seen me has seen the Father....”

➤ **Their exists such unity in the Godhead (the Father, Son and Spirit)**

- That there have never been and never will be one single ounce of disagreement or disunity...
- And He prays this for us...
- That in the same way that they are in agreement over all things... that we will be as well...

➤ **We often struggle with unity right?**

- In relationships...

- A man wants to do it this way, and a woman wants to do it that way
- At Work
 - One person likes doing it like this, and another like this...
- At church
 - We often struggle with our unity...

➤ **The type of unity He is referring to is of:**

- Spiritual Unity... Their purpose is to be the same...
- Their beliefs and knowledge of God are to be in agreement...
- He is not talking about preferences... because He made people different on purpose...
- But in the church... We can be from any walk of life....
- **But we will be unified on the purpose of the church to what:**
 - REACH THE WORLD WITH THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST...
 - We will be in agreement over how a person can be saved...
 - We will be in agreement that Jesus is God the Son of God
 - And that we are called out of this world to live for Him...
- **Without this... there is disunity...**

➤ **The Early Church Experienced such great Unity didn't they...**

- Acts 2:42,46,47 ⁴² And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.... ⁴⁶ And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.
- This is the picture of unity that we are seeking even today...

➤ **What can get in the way of this unity... it is the world...**

- And when we say world... we mean...
 - that way of thinking and believing and living that are in opposition to God...
- Jesus prays for this unity because He opens by saying... I am leaving this world... but
- ...they are in the world...

➤ **Jesus is praying this for His Followers...**

- #1 that you be kept in His name... Walking with Him
- # 2 that you experience unity with other believers...
 - These things are of great importance...
 - If not... why would He be praying them moments before His death in the hearing of His disciples

❖ **Jesus Prays for Their Joy in the World**

- ¹³ But now I am coming to you, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have my joy fulfilled in themselves.

➤ **He Prays for their Joy.... He says... I am speaking these things... This prayer... Out loud to them...**

- So they will have my joy fulfilled in them.... Do you hear that today?
- This prayer should produce JOY in you today...
- If it does not... You are not listening... You are not awake to the Spirit's moving in your hearts...

➤ **Oh the Joy of the Joy of God living in the Follower of Jesus....**

- What is His joy... The word joy means: joy!.... Or gladness...
- This is in stark contrast to sadness or depression...
 - But let's be careful here... since many of the greatest saints in history struggled in despair and depression very often in their lives...

➤ **The joy of Christ I believe is very clearly painted for us in this way... very clearly**

- We see Him in the garden praying intently... very seriously...
- So much so that... Luke describes it this way...
 - Luke 22:44 ⁴⁴ And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly; and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground.
 - So... as He prepared for the cross... He was in agonizing prayer... yet... the Bible says of Him
 - ◆ Hebrews 12:2 ² looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.
- **This is the Joy He is speaking of:**
 - A deep down gladness of heart that God is God and He will be there for us...
 - We will not always be happy... Sorrow will come, and we will mourn...
 - But we know it will be turned to gladness.... And it is not wishful thinking...
 - Jesus says... Matthew 5:11-12 ¹¹ "Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.
- **The Apostles lived this out...**
 - Acts 5:40-41 ⁴⁰ and when they had called in the apostles, they beat them and charged them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. ⁴¹ Then they left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name.

➤ **Jesus is praying this for His Followers...**

- #1 that you be kept in His name... Walking with Him
- # 2 that you experience unity with other believers...
- # 3 that we have His joy fulfilled in us

❖ **Jesus Prays for Their Protection in the World**

- ¹⁴ I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. ¹⁵ I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one. ¹⁶ They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.

➤ **The basis of Protection in the World and the Reason for the animosity**

- Is because the Follower of Jesus has been given His Word...

➤ **The World Hates them because they are not of the world...**

- Yet Jesus does not ask that the Follower be removed...
- Rather that the Father keep them from the evil one...
- Jesus again reiterates... They are not of this world... in the same way that He is not..

➤ **So lets look at a few things here...**

- # 1... He is praying for our protection, but nowhere prays that we will be perfect...
 - Rather... earlier we see him tell Peter

- Luke 22:31-32 ³¹ “Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat, ³² but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers.”

- He is praying for our faith not to fail... that we will not fall over to the evil one...

- **# 2 He has given us the Word to protect us...**

- It is no coincidence that Jesus begins his request for us to be protected by saying this...

- It is through the word of God we become competent as His children

- ♦ 2 Timothy 3:16-17 ¹⁶ All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷ that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work.

- **Also it is through the Word of God that we can even put on the armor of God so we can fight**

- ♦ You have heard this before, but hear it again anew...

- ♦ None of these pieces of Armor are possible without the Word given to us by Jesus

- ♦ Ephesians 6:13-17 ¹³ Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. ¹⁴ Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, ¹⁵ and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. ¹⁶ In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; ¹⁷ and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God,

- **# 3 Jesus wants His followers here fighting in the world...**

- He does not want to remove His soldiers from the battle...

- He wants their light shining in the world...

- **So that others that are in the world right now... may see and be transferred out**

- ♦ Of a kingdom of darkness and into God’s marvelous light...

- **He would no sooner remove us from battle than the Israelites**

- ♦ Would have wanted to go into battle without King David

- ♦ Or the Saints want to play without Drew Brees

- ♦ Or you smart phone gamers without candy crush

- ♦ Or you ladies want to go without your favorite pair of shoes..

- **He wants us in the World...**

- ♦ As lights in the World... Be a light...

- **How well are you protected from the evil one?**

- **Jesus is praying this for His Followers...**

- #1 that you be kept in His name... Walking with Him

- # 2 that you experience unity with other believers...

- # 3 that we have His joy fulfilled in us

- #4 that we be protected through his Word in this world

- ❖ **Jesus Prays for Their Sanctification by the Word While in the World**

- ¹⁷ Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. ¹⁸ As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. ¹⁹ And for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth.
- **What does it mean to be Sanctified...**
 - The Word simply means to be Holy... to be made Holy... to be set apart from common use for something Holy...
 - For the believer it is a progressing process that happens over time as they walk with God...
 - And Jesus is here praying for His followers to be Sanctified...
- **First... We see that it is only possible for us to be set apart for God because:**
 - Jesus has gone to the cross on our behalf...
 - He says... **And for their sake I consecrate myself,**
 - He is referring to his coming death...
 - where He will die and pay the penalty for the sins of the world..
 - He has set himself apart and lived a Holy life so He can do this for us...
- **Secondly we see that it will be through the Word of God that we will be Sanctified...**
 - It is only possible because Jesus died for us...
 - And We will progress in it through the Word...
 - **This makes sense doesn't it...**
 - The truth of the word of God:
 - Teaches us...convicts us, rebukes us,corrects wrong thinking... comforts us...lead and guides
 - **Example:**
 - ◆ I was speaking to a fellow this week and He explained to me He was religious
 - ◆ And that He really had no real direction in His life...
 - ◆ But that He prayed every day...
 - ◆ So I asked Him if He reads the Bible... and He says no...
 - ◆ And this is how it becomes clear as to why he had no direction in His life...
 - ◆ Why His walk with God was not progressing...
- **Jesus says... Sanctify them in the truth...**
 - Then He defines truth... your word is truth...
- **We need to be progressing in our Sanctification... in our growing in Christ...**
 - In the same way He was sent... His followers are sent...
- **Notice this morning...**
 - This excuses no one from the work of God in reaching lost souls... no one
 - We are all set apart for this task...
- **Jesus is praying this for His Followers...**
 - #1 that you be kept in His name... Walking with Him
 - # 2 that you experience unity with other believers...
 - # 3 that we have His joy fulfilled in us
 - #4 that we be protected through his Word in this world
 - #5 that we be sanctified by the Word while in the world

❖ **Invitation: To All Who Hear....**