

Gospel Reflections:
JOHN 17

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JOHN 17:1-17 – JESUS PRAYS FOR US AS HIS CROSS APPROACHES

¹ These Words spake JESUS, and lifted up His eyes to Heaven, and said, Father, the hour is come; glorify Thy Son, that Thy Son also may glorify Thee:

² As Thou hast given Him power over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as Thou hast given Him.

³ And this is life eternal, that they might know Thee The only true GOD, and JESUS CHRIST, Whom Thou hast sent.

⁴ I have glorified Thee on the earth: I have finished the work which Thou gavest me to do.

⁵ And now, O Father, glorify Thou Me with Thine Own Self with the glory which I had with Thee before the world was.

⁶ I have manifested Thy Name unto the men which Thou gavest Me out of the world: Thine they were, and Thou gavest them Me; and they have kept Thy Word.

⁷ Now they have known that all things whatsoever Thou hast given Me are of Thee.

⁸ For I have given unto them The Words which Thou gavest Me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came out from Thee, and they have believed that Thou didst send Me.

⁹ I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which Thou hast given Me; for they are Thine.

¹⁰ And all Mine are Thine, and Thine are Mine; and I am glorified in them.

¹¹ And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to Thee. Holy Father, keep through Thine Own Name those whom Thou hast given Me, that they may be one, as We are.

¹² While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Thy Name: those that Thou gavest me I have kept, and none of them is lost, but the son of perdition; that The Scripture might be fulfilled.

¹³ And now come I to Thee; and these things I speak in the world, that they might have My joy fulfilled in themselves.

¹⁴ I have given them Thy Word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.

¹⁵ I pray not that Thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that Thou shouldest keep them from the evil.

¹⁶ They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.

¹⁷ Sanctify them through Thy Truth: Thy Word is Truth.

Let us work backwards here. First, GOD's Word is all Truth. It can not be broken. It stands forever because what GOD decrees stands forever, as He Himself is forever. Second, JESUS CHRIST is The Word of GOD Incarnate. He is The Divine Logos come into the world to redeem His people from sin and death. He is The Divine Truth. Therefore, if we are in JESUS, we are in His Word and what He decrees. This is so because, if we belong to GOD The Son, then we also belong to GOD The Father. For They are One. Why then should we fear? For The Messiah JESUS Himself is praying for us. If The Father gives us to be His, what can separate us from His Love?

Only in this way – by GOD’s Grace and Mercy - are we sanctified and made holy, becoming living Temples for The Spirit of GOD. Therefore our Victory in this life, secure only at The Cross, delivers us and brings us into His Presence within The Church – The Church on earth and then The Church in Heaven! Therefore David prays in PSALM 51:10-13, “Create in me a clean heart, O GOD; and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy Presence; and take not Thy HOLY SPIRIT from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation; and uphold me *with Thy* free Spirit. *Then* will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto Thee!”

JOHN 17:18-26 – THE FATHER GIVES US HIS SAINTS TO CHRIST

¹⁸ As thou hast sent Me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world.

¹⁹ And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also might be sanctified through The Truth.

²⁰ Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on Me through their word;

²¹ That they all may be one; as Thou, Father, art in Me, and I in Thee, that they also may be one in Us: that the world may believe that Thou hast sent Me.

²² And The Glory which Thou gavest Me I have given them; that they may be one, even as We are one:

²³ I in them, and thou in Me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that Thou hast sent Me, and hast loved them, as Thou hast loved Me.

²⁴ Father, I will that they also, whom Thou hast given Me, be with Me where I AM; that they may behold My Glory, which Thou hast given Me: for Thou lovedst Me before the foundation of the world.

²⁵ O righteous Father, the world hath not known Thee: but I have known Thee, and these have known that Thou hast sent Me.

²⁶ And I have declared unto them Thy Name, and will declare it: that The Love wherewith Thou hast loved Me may be in them, and I in them.

Pilate, when he interrogated The Lord, asked him as in JOHN 18:38, “...What is Truth?” This he says as he stands before The King, not merely of Israel and of the coming Church, but of all the universe, when CHRIST declares in JOHN 18:37, “...thou sayest that I am a King. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto The Truth. Every one that is of The Truth heareth My voice!” Pilate, at that time, could not hear The voice of Divine Truth, for his heart was not converted, nor did he know GOD’s Grace.

Perhaps, we may hope, if any man in that age outside of Israel might receive GOD’s Grace at The Cross, it would be him. We do not know his eternal end. But those that The Father gives to The Son to be saved are indeed saved in Him. And though here we return to The Mystery of Salvation in CHRIST, that somehow GOD also respects our free will to choose life or death under His hand, there is no more certain assurance of peace, forgiveness of sins, blessing and eternal life in Heaven Above that in JESUS CHRIST our Lord.

Indeed, there is no other. As Saint Peter declared to Israel in ACTS 4:11-12, The Messiah JESUS is "...The Stone Which was set at nought of you builders, which is become The Head of The Corner [i.e., The Church]. Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other Name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved" but The Name of JESUS CHRIST! In The Name of GOD The Father, Son and Holy Ghost. AMEN!