

John 17 – The Greatest Prayer. (1) The Glory of God in Christ Jesus. (refs for Bible study 14/9/17).

*Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son also may glorify you. v1*  
*And now, O Father, glorify me together with yourself, with the glory which I had with you before the world was. v5*

Jesus prays for himself v1-5, for his disciples v6-19, then for all believers v20-26. The unifying theme binding the entire prayer together is the glory of Christ, v1, 4, 5, 10, 22, 24.

**The greatest prayer:** I prefer this to the traditional title: 'High-Priestly Prayer'. Surely it is the greatest prayer – ever!

- **unique:** the one praying is the blessed Son of God, Lk.3v22, whose prayers are always answered, Jn.11v42; the occasion is just prior to Gethsemane, 18v1, and the cross; the recording – what he prayed is recorded in full.
- **content:** great subject matter; great scope; great blessings. This (and not Mt.6) is truly 'the Lord's prayer'!
  - The glory of Jesus Christ is the grand aim of all God's purposes in heaven and on earth and it should be ours too.

**The glory of God:** When our Lord prays for himself his chief concern is the glory of God.

- **nothing is more important:** No-one can make God more glorious than he already is. 'to glorify' is to declare that someone or something is glorious, and to display it.
- **the glory of the Father & the glory of the Son are inseparable:** they belong together. Jesus' prayer is entirely appropriate, for his glory is also the Father's glory. The Father delights to see his Son glorified, and vice versa.
- **glorifying of man offensive to God:** Is.42v8. The root of all sin, Gen.3v5b. Attracts God's wrath, Ac.12v22-23.
  - In this age of self-promotion, may be remember this important lesson!

**The glory of God demonstrated:** the petition and its answer are much fuller than you might imagine.

- **in the incarnation of Christ:** Jn.1v4 – amazing! Lk.2v14. His taking flesh demonstrated the glory of God.
- **in the life of Christ:** his impeccable life, his complete obedience, such that he could say Jn.14v8-9, & 17v4a.
- **in the ministry of Christ:** his teaching, miracles, and their fruit, 2v11, 11v4, 11v40, 17v10.
- **in the cross of Christ:** shocking but true. *'Father, the hour has come.'* 2v4, 7v30, 8v20, 12v20-33, 13v31.

**The glory of God and our lives:** if Jesus' desire is that God be glorified, it should certainly be ours also.

- Every action, word or thought should be weighed by "Does this bring glory to him?".
- Remedy for low spiritual state: focus on the glory of God and of Christ, & keep on until your heart is warmed again!
- 'Whatever you do, do all for the glory of God.' 1Cor.10v31.

John 17 – The Greatest Prayer. (2) Christ Jesus glorified in his cross. (refs for Bible study 28/9/17).

*Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son also may glorify you. v1*  
*And now, O Father, glorify me together with yourself, with the glory which I had with you before the world was. v5*

Why is the cross is the symbol of Christianity? After all, surely it represents execution, suffering, humiliation and shame? Jesus prays that his Father would glorify him. The first part of the answer to his prayer is at the cross.

**A glory veiled:** It didn't look like glory at the cross. Yet it was. It was the Lord of glory they crucified, 1Cor.2v8. But it was a glory veiled. Crucifixion reserved for the lowest of the low. Jesus endured it alone, Jn.16v32. Yes the cross was the *route* to glory, Phil.2v8-9. But it was more than that – he was actually glorified *in* it. The amazing events recorded in Matthew's Gospel give us a hint of this, e.g. Mt.27v50,51,54.

**A great victory:** The rest of Scripture pulls back the veil, and shows us that the cross was the scene of a great battle, the climactic confrontation between God and the powers of darkness. There Jesus won a great victory.

- **Victory promised:** Back at the beginning God had promised this, Gen.3v15. The conflict between the woman's seed and the serpent's seed would continue through every book of the OT until the Conqueror came.
- **Victory won:** The age-long conflict reached a climax when Jesus came. The kingdom of darkness erupted, Rev.12v4-5. Unparalleled demonic activity in the gospels. Judas, Gethsemane, Calvary: Satan and his hosts gloat in celebration, Ps.22v12-13,16,20-21. But how wrong they are! Col.2v14-15. Satan's power smashed, as Jesus predicted, Jn.12v31. His grip consists of our guilt, and Christ has dealt with that.
- **Victory completed:** 'Now, as I go to the cross' says Jesus, not at some future point. On the cross he can cry 'Finished!' He had mastered the powers of hell. Total victory! The 'strong man' bound, Mt.12v29, Rev.12v10. Jn.17v2-3: to whom has God given authority over all flesh? Answer: Christ, Mt.28v18. Why? So he can give eternal life to the elect. Thus the cross is a great victory. It accomplishes the salvation of a vast number that he has chosen. Christ the conqueror is the epicentre of the gospel.
  - Rejoice in his victory, sin shall not be your master, Rm.6v14. Resist the devil and he will flee, Jas.4v7.
  - Do you find it hard to believe? Jude v6, Satan is not yet eliminated, but his hosts are in chains, his head is crushed, and the rest will follow soon enough, Rm.16v20.
  - Jesus' prayer was answered at the cross. Rejoice Christian, and let his enemies tremble! Satan is but a squatter in God's world, nothing will prevent the spread of the gospel in all the earth, Mt.16v18!