

John 17 – The Greatest Prayer. (10) Christ Jesus glorified in his Apostles. (refs for Bible study 15/3/18).

Do you ever wish you could go straight to heaven? After all there's so much rottenness, sin & suffering here below. The answer is in Jesus' prayer: he wants us to have **true joy** and to have it right here whilst **remaining in the world**. Jesus is praying for the Apostles, but much of what he prays for them he would pray for us also.

**True joy:** v13 is still part of his first petition, 'keep them' v11b-15. Part of it is 'that they may have my joy fulfilled in themselves'. For 'my joy' see 15v9-12, esp. v11 – the joy of abiding in the Father's love, of obeying him, walking in his ways. Jesus knew this joy in unparalleled measure. The Apostles' joy was a massive testimony, a magnet. Joy over the resurrection, 20v20. Joy wherever the Good News came, Ac 8v8, 13v52, 15v3.

- Our joy is also a massive testimony. Part of fruit of the Spirit. True joy, as opposed to worldly joy. Some Christians give the impression that the opposite of worldly joy is misery! It isn't. It's true joy, 'my joy', 10v10.
- Christ Jesus is glorified when we have true joy. Grumpy Christians do not glorify God.
- We have a role in maintaining that joy: keeping close to him, and keeping from known evil. Take your eyes off yourself & your failures, and put them on Christ instead!

v14 by God's grace they have been changed, and are 'not of the world'. Born again = 'born from above' 3v3, 3v7. Hostility of the world, the outworking of Gen.3. It's a very dangerous world.

- Don't be surprised by hatred and opposition! But don't go looking for it either!
- We can know true joy even in persecution, Ac.5v41,16v25.

**Remaining in the world:** v15 He is not praying to take them out of the world, but that they experience true joy while remaining in the world. Rubbing shoulders with sinners, yet distinct from them. Why? Because they had work to do, a God-given role. In this Christ Jesus was glorified, 15v8. The fruit of their evangelism. The fruit of their sanctification, Gal.5v22-23. No evidence that the Apostles 'wanted out', but notable people did: Moses, Nm.11v14-15. Elijah, 1Kg.19v4. Jonah, Jon.4v3,8. None of their prayers were granted.

He keeps us here so that we may glorify him here! There is work to be done!

- Don't even think of asking to be taken out of the world! Ask, rather, how may I glorify him here?
- Don't be tempted to admire the monastic life. It's a total denial of Jesus' prayer. Unwise, unhelpful, sinful.
- There is work to be done: progress in Christlikeness, people to hear the gospel, some of it work that only you can do.

Christ Jesus was glorified in the lives of ordinary men whom he chose and transformed, and though we are not called to be Apostles he is glorified in us too.