

John 17 – The Greatest Prayer. (9) Christ Jesus glorified in his Apostles. (refs for Bible study 22/2/18).

It can be irritating when someone tells you things you already know! But when we speak to God it's entirely different. Jesus tells his Father things he already knows, v6-11a. People in the Bible did the same. Our Father loves it. And it's good for our souls. As Jesus prays for his Apostles he says: *'I am glorified in them'*. To us the evidence may seem slim, but that's what Jesus says! Not just *'I will be glorified in them'*, but now! Christ Jesus was glorified in the lives of ordinary men whom he chose & transformed, and though we are not called to be Apostles he is glorified in us too. How is Jesus glorified in them? Here are three more points to add to the ones we considered last time:

Belonging to him: *'And all Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine'* v10a. A truism, but especially relevant here to the eleven. Jesus is glorified because they belong to him. New birth. A radical division between world and Christ's people. New ownership. Threefold: given to Christ by the Father, purchased by the Son, indwelt by the Spirit.

➤ He is glorified in all who belong to him. By our salvation. We were nothing, we are something. v11 The reason he's praying this now is because he's leaving them, also v15. The address *'Holy Father'* combines awesome holiness with familiarity. It prepares the way his two petitions that are coming: *'keep them'*, *'sanctify them'*.

Kept by his power: first petition – *'keep them'* v11b-15. 'Keep' = watch over, guard, preserve. 'I've kept them thus far, now it's over to you, Father' v12-13a. (He's not praying for Judas of course. The choice of Judas is a great mystery. A sober warning to us of Mt.7v22-23. Ps.41v9 quoted by Jesus, 13v18.) His prayer for the eleven **was** answered! It didn't mean 'keep them from prison, persecution, illness, martyrdom, etc'. Rather 'keep them faithful & true despite prison, persecution, etc'.

'keep through Your name' Could mean either: *'by/through Your name'* – God's name speaks of his power & faithfulness. Ps.54v1, Ps.20v1, Prov.18v10. Or: *'in Your name'* – i.e. loyal to You and to the truth.

Reassurance for us also: we are kept by his power. Our perseverance depends on his preservation!

United in the truth: *'that they may be one as We are'*. The subject of unity recurs at v22. Here the emphasis is on the eleven. Their unity was a massive testimony to the truth. Despite different personalities & abilities, and everything that was thrown at them, these men remained 100% united in testimony to the resurrection, the gospel, the truth.

'as We are' not mere organisational unity, but the same kind of unity as the Father & Son! Unity in the truth.

- We should jealously do our part to see this prayer is answered!
- *'I am glorified in them'* is ultimately a work of the Spirit. Is the fruit of the Spirit, Gal.5v22-23, seen in increasing measure in you and me?