

Jesus Prays for His Followers

Pastor Guy Gray

John 17

John 17 is a deeper revelation of the heart of Jesus than you will find anywhere else in the Bible. This is more than a teaching. This is a prayer – the whole chapter! It is, by far, the longest prayer of Jesus ever recorded. The fact that it comes where it does, just after the upper room discourse and just before His arrest and crucifixion, makes it all the more amazing and powerful. It is important to understand that Jesus actually intended His disciples to overhear this prayer! He does this so that they may truly know his heart and mind at this critical moment. In this sense, the prayer becomes not only a prayer, but a magnificent revelation for each of us. There is so much for us to hear, learn, cherish and believe as a result of this prayer. So let's take our time with this prayer. We need to pray about understanding the prayer! As we study these words of Christ we will focus on several powerful themes.

A Few of the Great Themes of John 17

The glory of God revealed in the glory of Jesus Christ

The true meaning of “eternal life”

The glory of Christ revealed through the lives of His followers

The prayer for protection

The power of the Word of Truth to transform and protect us

The meaning and power of Christian love and unity

The ongoing revelation of God's glory to those who follow Christ

Over the next couple of weeks, let's each take time to think and pray deeply about these great themes. Read through the chapter several times, prayerfully. As you read, use this prayer as a catalyst for your own prayers of gratitude and your requests for God's work in your life and in our church. This is truly “the deep end of the pool”, so to speak, in terms of the depth of the ideas presented and the great revelation of God's character, heart, mission in our world. But Jesus intended that we would overhear these words. He wants us to go deeper than ever with Him in our faith. He wants us to grow in faith, and love, and in living out the full meaning of the Gospel in our lives!