

# The Gospel According To John

## Jesus' High-Priestly Prayer – part one

*John 17:1-5*

### Jesus Prays for Himself

#### **To be Glorified for the Father's Glory (v. 1)**

- If anything was ever a predestined event (and all things are), certainly the glorification of Christ through His death, resurrection and exaltation was predestined. Jesus still asks God to do these things! God's sovereignty is an incentive to pray.
- This is an amazing verse if you really think about it. Carson writes: *The petition asks the Father to reverse the self-emptying entailed in his incarnation and to restore him to the splendor that he shared with the Father before the world began (Carson, 554).*
- For Jesus, the glorification of the Son is not an end to itself, but for the purpose of glorifying His Father.

#### **To Glorify the Father in the Salvation of the Elect (v. 2-3)**

- *V. 2b refers to the Father's gift, in eternity past, of authority over all humanity, on the basis of his prospective obedient humiliation, death, resurrection, and exaltation. It is nothing less than the redemptive plan of God, for the second part of the verse makes the purpose of this grant clear: it is that the Son might give eternal life to those the Father has given him (Carson, 555). Romans 1:1-5*
- God's glory is displayed in the salvation of sinners. Ponder the glories of God seen in salvation!
- Eternal life hinges on knowing the true God. Eternal life is not just about living without end, but a personal knowledge and intimate love relationship with the Eternal One. *Jer. 31:34; Heb. 8:11*
- Because God has supremely revealed Himself in the person of His Son (1:18), knowledge of God cannot be divorced from knowledge of Jesus Christ. *John 14:7; 20:31; Matt. 11:27*

#### **To Glorify the Father in Finishing the Work (v. 4)**

- The certainty of finishing the work is so certain that Jesus speaks of it in terms of prophetic past. *Isa. 53; Ps. 22:16*
- Christ has finished the redemptive work. *John 19:30; Dan. 9:24; Rom. 4:5*

#### **To Return to the Previous Glory (v. 5)**

- This restoration to His rightful place of full glory could only come about following Jesus' completing the redemptive work for those the Father had given Him.
- Jesus existed before the incarnation. He is co-eternal with the Father. God is one essence, manifest in three distinct Persons. There is personal relationship among the members of the Trinity. *John 1:1*
- Who but God could pray this prayer?
- The Scripture proves this prayer has been answered. *Eph. 1:18- ; Phil. 2:4- ; 1 Tim. 3: ; Heb. 1:1-4*
- Our conversion proves this prayer has been answered. *Acts 2:22ff* "...that He might give eternal life to all those You have given Him."