

## Mount Olive Wednesday Night Bible Study and Prayer Meeting

December 15, 2021

John 17:21 - 26

**21** That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. **22** And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: **23** I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me. **24** Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world. **25** O righteous Father, the world hath not known thee: but I have known thee, and these have known that thou hast sent me. **26** And I have declared unto them thy name, and will declare it: that the love wherewith thou hast loved me may be in them, and I in them.

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Pastor Tom read the entire passage which concludes chapter 17, the longest prayer of Jesus recorded. Then he asked us to review this chapter with what stood out to us individually:

- The number of times Jesus thanks the Father for the ones He gave to Jesus.
- The difference between the world and the believers: we are a peculiar people.
- The number of times the term 'He and the Father' is used. How they are a part of one another and now the disciples are a part of them, unifying them through this prayer.
- How Jesus was not only praying for the disciples in His presence that night, but He was also praying for all believers to come in the future which includes us!

## Verse 21

That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.

Pastor Tom referred to Galatians 3 where Paul has identified the problem in the church of Galatia: In the first 3 words in this chapter, *'Oh, foolish Galatians,'* Paul is calling them out. *'Who has bewitched you?'* (or tricked, cursed, hypnotized you) - all of which have nothing to do with God. So the foolish business going on there is not of God! Sounds like the Church today.

\*In Galatians 3:3 we see the Spirit vs False doctrines of self-help or laws making us worthy of God. *'Then have you gone completely crazy? For if trying to obey the Jewish laws never gave you spiritual life in the first place, why do you think that trying to obey them now will make you stronger Christians?'* (Living Bible Translation)

Galatians 3:28 says *"There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus."*

\*This verse brings us back to John 17:21 and the idea of unity because we are all one in Jesus. It doesn't matter where you are from but it does matter where you are going (to spend eternity). There may be pockets of unity here and there but Paul could be writing to the Church as a whole today.

\*To 'test' a preacher of a church, just count the number of times you hear the word 'Jesus' mentioned in a sermon. (Pastor Tom referred to Annual Conference last summer online. He only heard the word Jesus spoken 2 times.)

Pastor Jon reminded us: The apostle Paul uses the term 'Christ Jesus' to emphasize He is our Lord (Christ) and Savior (Jesus)

Pastor Tom asked: How can you be a Christian and not talk about Jesus? Lots of God talk, not so much Jesus talk. Even the Muslims talk about God. If we are peculiar, then we cannot be generic or general within our talk. It must include specifics about Jesus.

In verse 28, Paul is asking the Galatians how it is that they started out with Jesus but have reverted back to depending on the Jewish Laws for salvation.

### **Verse 22 and 23**

*And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: 23 I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.*

\*Here the glory is given back to the disciples so that they are one like God and Jesus are one.

1 John 1:3 says ‘*That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.*’ Note the word fellowship is used twice in this verse. When we think of fellowship we think of congregation, assembly, time together. But this verse emphasizes this fellowship is with God and His Son. When we gather as one we, as a church, we automatically have this holy fellowship with God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit. We can meet with God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit anytime by ourselves but something special happens when we gather together as one in church.

Pastor Tom cited 2 examples of this fullness and oneness with the Trinity. One was Preacher Jonathan Edwards and another was Evan Sherl who brought an evangelistic movie to the FH football team.

\*It is possible to be in the wrong type of fellowship, the type that is led by Satan. Paul tells us to abstain from even the appearance of evil.

### **Verse 24**

*Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world.*

\*Where is Jesus? He is at the right hand of God in heaven. Can you imagine the glory of Jesus in heaven?

1 Thessalonians 4:13 - 18 says *'13 But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. 15 For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. 16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: 17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. 18 Wherefore comfort one another with these words.'*

\*This is a vivid description of how the Lord Himself will come back to earth and take us to heaven to be with Him.

\*Verse 18 is a conclusion with which we can console each other when Satan is fighting so hard because he knows his time is short. He is manipulating God's Word so badly that we may not even realize his damage. As a famous quote says, The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing.

## **Verses 25 and 26**

O righteous Father, the world hath not known thee: but I have known thee, and these have known that thou hast sent me. **26** And I have declared unto them thy name, and will declare it: that the love wherewith thou hast loved me may be in them, and I in them.

\*These verses conclude the prayer Jesus prayed for His disciples and for us!

Discussion continued about the difficulty witnessing to family and the difference between being religious and being a Christian. We must show tough love with grace in order to change people with hardened hearts.

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May the Lord watch between me and thee  
While we are absent one from the other.

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NOTE:

No Bible Study/Prayer Meeting on December 22 and December 29.

See you all on January 5, 2022!