

Mount Olive Wednesday Night Bible Study and Prayer Meeting

December 1, 2021

John 17:4 - 9

4 I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do. **5** And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was. **6** I have manifested thy name unto the men which thou gavest me out of the world: thine they were, and thou gavest them me; and they have kept thy word. **7** Now they have known that all things whatsoever thou hast given me are of thee. **8** For I have given unto them the words which thou gavest me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came out from thee, and they have believed that thou didst send me. **9** I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me; for they are thine.

Pastor Tom began this section going verse by verse.

Verse 4

I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do.

*Jesus glorified God in all that He did. Even when He prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane, 'It is finished', He was indicating that He had carried out God's will. The plan of salvation was completed. Jesus had glorified God while He was on earth.

Pastor Tom posed the question: How do we glorify God while we are on earth? Responses included these-

- Pray for forgiveness
- Be a better Christian (sanctification)
- Strive for peace by holding your tongue and being forgiving
- Praise Him and thank Him daily
- Tell others about Him, make Him famous
- Just living in Him so others see Jesus in us

Pastor Tom also expounded on how the devil has infiltrated many institutions (Boy Scouts is one example) trying to disgrace good

organizations by causing division. The devil is scheming his way through the doors of churches as well so there is division within them. Pastor Tom is broken-hearted over the division but the church is supposed to be the place where people can find peace, they long for it. People are drawn toward peace and sanctuary.

Verse 5

And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was.

*Jesus is asking God to glorify Him in the same manner as He was glorified in the beginning when He was with God the Father.

*Imagine the humbleness of Jesus to step down into Mary's womb, walk the earth like a human and then go to the cross to be crucified.

Pastor Tom then asked: What will it be like to see the Glory of Jesus when we get to heaven?

-It will be BIG

-It will be a humbling moment

-It will be even more glorious than what we thought

Verse 6

I have manifested thy name unto the men which thou gavest me out of the world: thine they were, and thou gavest them me; and they have kept thy word.

*Jesus told people about God. Are we still doing that? The people Jesus told were the ones God gave Him (directed Him to). They were sinners/regular people.

Pastor Jon pointed out that this phrase 'the ones He gave me' was repeated in verses 2,6,9,11 and 12 in this chapter for emphasis.

*The church is growing in places where people are being told about God, where the Word is being shared/taken out into the world. Too often

churches seem like 'members only country clubs', full of rules and laws (legalism).

*The last phrase in this verse, 'and they have kept the Word', means we must live it, study it, hide it in our hearts like wearing the phylacteries in OT times. But we cannot do this by ourselves: We must have Jesus in our hearts to keep the Word. The unsaved often want to do the right thing, they just do not have Jesus (the Word) to help them.

Pastor Tom likened it to having the right tools in your toolbox. In order to keep the Word, we need Jesus in our toolbox, first of all.

Verse 7 and 8

Now they have known that all things whatsoever thou hast given me are of thee. 8 For I have given unto them the words which thou gavest me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came out from thee, and they have believed that thou didst send me.

*Everything that Jesus taught His disciples pointed to the prophecies from the OT. If we think about it today, how many of the prophecies have been fulfilled...all 300+ of them about the Messiah. And so if we are getting into the Word faithfully now, we can begin to see some of the other signs and prophecies about the last days coming into fulfillment. For example, wars and rumors of wars, earthquakes, divisions. Because of these divisions, people are searching for a unifier...who in Scripture is known as the anti-christ. Therefore, when the Holy Spirit comes into you, the Word becomes alive in you. More so, we see a decline in the attendance of little ones in Sunday School, where they should be learning the Word. Like learning a foreign language, it is much easier when we are younger because we can retain better when younger. Kids pick things up easier so we need to be reaching them with the Word. Outreach programs like B2S help kids learn and retain the Word of God.

Verse 9

I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me; for they are thine.

*Here in this verse Jesus is praying for us! For His believers, not for the world. (That may sound hard). Those which God gave Him (sinners), they are His. If you have Jesus in your heart, there is a specialness to you. At B2S, the kiddos are reminded to be respectful, courteous and responsible when they get back to school so that teachers and classmates know they are special and not like everyone else.

In conclusion, Pastor Tom admonished us to get Jesus into our toolbox, and be reminded of that from morning until night, through all the craziness in the world. Be striving for unity and not for division.

May the Lord watch between me and thee

While we are absent one from the other.
