

Mount Olive Wednesday Night Bible Study and Prayer Meeting

November 17, 2021

John 17:1-3

These words spake Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee: **2** As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him. **3** And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.

Pastor Tom noted as we began Chapter 17 that this is the longest prayer in the entire Bible. It is Jesus' prayer for unity for His disciples and ultimately for us.

Verse 1

These words spake Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee:

Pastor Tom had us stand to sing the Gloria Patre so we would understand that the idea of verse 1 is to give glory/honor to God the Father. This is what Jesus is doing in this verse that begins His prayer. He is praying to the Father as we should while He (Jesus) is acting as our intercessor.

*The phrase 'the hour has come': Jesus is not teaching the disciples anymore as in chapter 16. He is praying here for his own. (We also have the hope of being one of His own). Jesus is talking about going to the cross: all the prophecies from before the beginning of the world point to this hour.

*Are we seeing prophecy being fulfilled today? With the evil presence in the world today, do we believe it's time for the church of Jesus Christ to stand against the opposition to Christianity? Especially when Christians are the most persecuted group in the world today. (South Africa, China, North Korea, Uganda) This is why it is our hour.

*Jesus glorifies His Father so the Father can glorify Him/the Son.

*The disciples had asked Jesus to teach them to pray and Jesus modeled "The Lord's Prayer". But Jesus cannot pray that prayer because He had no sins/trespasses to be forgiven by the Father, which is in heaven.

Verse 2

As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him.

*Jesus states that He has power of all flesh. Conventionally, that means power over all humanity - everyone under the power of Jesus Christ whether they have accepted Him or not.

Pastor Tom discussed how in end of life situations, he has watched for the soul to leave the body. At Arbutus they have a lovely ceremony or ritual for those who pass away.

*Jesus said things will happen in the twinkling of an eye - the instantaneous moment when the soul leaves the body. No matter what, God has the last say as to when that occurs. As much as we think we're in control - as messy as the world gets - God is still in control!

*We ask ourselves - what is the will of God for people? Looking at 2 Peter 3:9, we understand that..."The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." Therefore, it is the Will of God that none should perish. So John 17:2 must be taken within the context of the Bible. It is not to be understood to mean that only those who God picks go to heaven. But it is our free will choice to choose Jesus or to reject Him. God, Himself, does not want anyone to perish without Jesus. Again in John 3:16 (For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.) We read that those who believe in Jesus have everlasting life immediately, right now. It does not read that they will have everlasting life at another time.

*Jesus says that the Father gave Him power over all flesh... to give eternal life to all who choose Him. This is the Good News! The devil will try to dispute this. It has been said that the blood of Jesus is the back breaker of

the devil. On Good Friday, Jesus died. On Easter, we celebrate His resurrection. But where was Jesus on Saturday? Jesus was in hell preaching judgement to those in hell and therefore, He took away the devil's dominion.

Verse 3

And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.

Pastor Tom noted that Muslims do not worship the same God we do. It is a falsehood when people say there are different ways to God. Our God is the only true God and He sent Jesus as prophesied 700 years before in Isaiah 53:11 - "He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities."

*Travail means pain, suffering, trouble. Jesus saw travail in the Garden of Gethsemane as He agonized in prayer, sweating drops of blood. (this condition is called hematidrosis) Even on the cross, blood and water flowed from His pierced side when He died, a sign that He died of a broken heart.

*Hurting but Jesus was satisfied because He knew His hour had come. He had come in order to provide justification for us (putting us in right standing with God). Jesus' sacrifices made us right by God. Not by what we have done, but by what Jesus has done for us, which was to bear our iniquities as stated in Isaiah 53:11.

Pastor Tom opened the lines to say goodbye to everyone.

May the Lord watch between me and thee

While we are absent one from the other.
