

Jesus' Final Prayer

- All the work of His life is over.
- The hour has come!
- *1 After Jesus spoke these words, lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said: "Father, **the hour has come.** ... 4 I have glorified You on the earth. **I have finished the work which You have given Me to do.** 5 And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was. John 17:1, 4-5*
- He first prayed for His apostles Jn. 17:9-19
- Then He prayed for all future disciples Jn.17:20-23

Jesus' Final Prayer

- *I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word. Jn. 17:20*
- Jesus is praying for the most important thing that all future generations of those who truly believe in Him through the words of the apostles.
- God has heard this prayer and has done all within His power to fulfill it.
- The only hindrance now is our own freewill.
- What was He most concerned with?

Jesus' Final Prayer

- *I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; 21 that **they all may be one**, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; **that they also may be one in Us**, that the world may believe that You sent Me. 22 And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, **that they may be one just as We are one**: 23 I in them, and You in Me; that **they may be made perfect in one**, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me. Jn. 17:20-23*
- In four different ways Jesus prayed for one thing
- Jesus wanted all His disciples all over the world and over all time to be united.

Jesus' Final Prayer

- **Our Greatest Need** and **His greatest Need**
- *"I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; 21 that **they all may be one**, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; **that they also may be one in Us**, that the world may believe that You sent Me. 22 And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, **that they may be one just as We are one**: 23 I in them, and You in Me; that **they may be made perfect in one**, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me. John 17:20-23*

Jesus Final Prayer

● **Our Greatest Need**

- All the threats facing those who believe in Him through their word can be summed up and understood in these words. All of His disciples must be one. United on what the apostles and prophets have revealed in the NT
- If all His disciples are not united and one then this prayer is being violated.
- Not because God didn't hear the prayer, but because some who proclaim themselves disciples refuse to seek it as strongly as Jesus prayed for it.

Jesus Final Prayer

- **His greatest Need**
- Our ability to be united on the doctrines revealed by His apostles is powerful evidence.
- Jesus knew division would call into question the ability of His apostles to clearly reveal His word.
- Scripture is absolute truth!
- No genuine disciple would disagree / argue this.
- *Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. 32 And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." Jn. 8:31-32*

Jesus Had Already Warned!

- This prayer would be ignored!
- He revealed that His “*disciples*” would stray so far from unity that it would obscure the gate to heaven!
- *Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. 14 Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it. Mt 7:13-14*
- These disciples would bring about the exact opposite of what Jesus prayed for. Disqualifying themselves.
- *"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. ... “I never knew you, depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!” Mt 7:21-23*

The Holy Spirit's Plea through Paul

- *“Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.”* 1Cor. 1:10-13
- If all disciples did this Jesus prayer would be fulfilled.
- All would agree! One truth revealed in Scripture
- Human wisdom and tradition would be banished
- No denominations
- The way leading to life would be easy to find.

The Holy Spirit's Charge through Paul

- *I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom: 2 Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. 3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; 4 and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables. 5 But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. 2 Tim 4:1-5*
- This is one of the reasons why Jesus' prayer is ignored

Observations

- All Scripture given by inspiration 2Tim 3:16
- By reading we have same understanding Eph. 3:3-4
- Only a lack of love for the truth can explain the magnitude of divisions we see today (2Th. 2:9-12)
- The attitude of “disciples” today reveals a complete lack of interest in Jesus’ prayer for unity.
- The reason is not Scripture.
- It is how those who read the Scripture respond.
- There are “*some things hard to understand, which untaught and unstable people twist to their own destruction, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures.*” (2Pet. 3:16).

We Have Exactly what was Condemned!

- *“For it has been declared to me concerning you, my brethren, by those of Chloe's household, that there are contentions among you. 12 Now I say this, that each of you says, “I am of Paul,” or “I am of Apollos,” or “I am of Cephas,” or “I am of Christ.” 13 Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? 1 Cor 1:11-13*
- True disciples would be gravely concerned about this violation, seeking to comply with Scripture.

There is Only ONE Truth

- *“There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism; 6 one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.”* (Eph. 4:3-6).
- With only one right way and every other way being wrong, we need to love the truth more than we love being right.
- Before accepting as truth we must be *“searching the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so.”* (Acts 17:11).

The Prayer Proves it is Possible

- *We are of God. He who knows God hears us; he who is not of God does not hear us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error. 1Jn 4:6*
- *Trust in the Lord with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; 6 In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths. 7 Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the Lord and depart from evil. Pr. 3:5-7*

