

A Study of John's Gospel: "Our King's Priestly Prayer" (Part 2)

John 17:6-12

"I am praying for them. I am not praying for the world but for those whom You have given Me, for they are Yours." – John 17:9

I. Authority Made Real (vv.6-10)

- a. *I have manifested Your name.* When something is *manifested* it is made real to us.
- b. The O.T. Jew knew God as Jehovah, the great I AM. Jesus took this holy name and made it meaningful and practical to His disciples.
 1. *I am the Bread of Life* (6:35); *I am the Light of the word* (8:12); *I am the Good Shepherd* (10:11)
 2. Jesus manifested (revealed) God's gracious name by showing His disciples that He was everything they needed. The Great I AM is all that you need **if** you trust Him.
- c. In the Bible, *name* refers to *nature*, because names were given to reveal something special about the nature of the person bearing the name.
- d. When Jesus says, *I have manifested Your name.* He is saying I have revealed Your *nature*.
 1. For example the name *Isaac* means *laughter*, because he brought joy to Abraham and Sarah.
- e. Jesus did not instantly reveal the Father all at once, because the disciples could not have endured it. He revealed the nature of God as they were able to bear it. (John 16:12)
- f. Jesus made it clear that the Father sent Him, that He was equal to the Father, and that His words and works came from the Father.

II. God Keeps His Own (vv.11-19)

- a. The emphasis in this section is on the safety/protection of the believer. God keeps His own. Our safety depends on the nature of God, not our own character and conduct. Aren't you glad?
- b. During His ministry, Jesus kept the disciples and they could depend on Him.
- c. If the limited Savior, in a human body, could keep His own while on earth, should He not be able to keep us now that He is glorified in heaven?
- d. God, the Father, Jesus, the Son together with the Holy Spirit are surely able to keep and guard His people. Like Jesus, we are to live under pressure.
- e. We do not withdraw from the world. Jesus asked that we be sanctified by God's truth, that we will be set apart to a holy way of life, and then "sent into the world."
- f. We are not to adopt the values, lifestyle or conform to the world system. If we cut ourselves off from the world's people, God is left without a witness to His truth and life and grace.
- g. Only by living in the world, by being involved daily with the people around us and in the issues of our own times and society, can we show the contrast between human ways and God's ways.
- h. Just as Jesus brought *truth* to the world, we are to bring *truth* to our families and communities.
- i. As we learn to love each other, we will have the strength to become involved in the world and to find joy in our suffering. The spiritual struggle is real! Do you see it!
- j. The *Word* is greater than the world.

III. Practical Application*

- a. How should we *manifest*(reveal) Christ's name in the world?
- b. How do we reveal to others that Christ is the Bread, the Light and the Good Shepherd?
- c. How has Jesus revealed those names personally to you?