

AFTER DARKNESS, LIGHT:
A STUDY OF THE HIGH-PRIESTLY PRAYER OF OUR LORD

Topics: ♦ The Chief End of Jesus Christ (17:1-5) ♦ The Only Heaven There Is (17:3) ♦ What Makes a Good Disciple (17:6-8) ♦ Us and the World (17:9-10) ♦ **A Prayer for Our Preservation (17:11-15)** ♦ A Prayer for Our Sanctification (17:16-19) ♦ A Prayer for Our Unity (17:20-23) ♦ A Prayer for Our Eternal Satisfaction (17:24-26)

A PRAYER FOR OUR PRESERVATION (JOHN 17:11-15)

- I. Two Things about the Prayer Which Strike Us**
- A. Jesus' devotion to God the Father
 - 1. Jesus prayed for his own glory *in order that* God might be glorified (17:1).
 - 2. Jesus completed the work that God had given him to do (17:4, 6).
 - B. Jesus' devotion to his disciples
 - 1. Jesus gave them the word of God (17:8)
 - 2. Jesus prays for them (17:11-26).
- II. Jesus Prays for Our Preservation (Jn 17:11-15)**
- A. "Holy Father, *keep* them in your name" (v 11)
 - 1. "To keep" = "to guard," "to protect," "to preserve."
 - 2. The location in which the disciples are kept—the sacred name of God and Christ.
 - 3. The purpose of the preservation: "that they may be one"
 - B. What Jesus did for his disciples when he was with them (v 12)
 - 1. He guarded all of them.
 - 2. Only one was lost, that Scripture might be fulfilled.
 - C. Jesus is coming to the Father and his words are intended to make his disciples joyful (v 13)
 - D. Jesus has given his people God's word and the world hates them (v 14).
 - E. "*Keep* Them from the Evil One" (v 15)
- III. Resting in our Lord's Prayer for our Preservation**
- A. Jesus intends for us to find assurance and comfort in his prayer.
 - B. How do we rest in this prayer?
 - 1. Not by being lethargic or lazy (15:4; 14:15)
 - 2. But by trusting Jesus to produce the obedience of which this preservation consists in the here and now.
 - C. What happens when we fail?
 - 1. The ongoing presence of sin does not mean that we are not God's people (consider Peter's sin in Jn 18:15-18, 25-27).
 - 2. The prayer of preservation also contemplates ongoing repentance from sin.

Questions for further discussion:

1. What does it mean for us to be kept in the name of God and Christ?
2. Why does Jesus pray that we would not be taken out of the world?
3. What comfort and assurance does Jesus' prayer give to us? What will Jesus' prayer produce for us?
4. How do we rest in Jesus' prayer? What is involved in resting in this prayer for our preservation?
5. Does our sin mean that we are no longer preserved by Jesus?
6. Do you belong to Jesus or to the world? How do you know?