

Series: Four Requests

Title: Christ's First Request (Four Requests)

Text: John 17: 1-5

Date: January 4, 2015

Place: SGBC, New Jersey

Our text is in John 17. Our subject is: Four Requests. (Note: we only cover Christ's First Request.) In Christ's first request he prays for the Father to glorify him.

**John 17: 1: These words spake Jesus and lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour is come glorify Thy Son,...**

### **THE REASON IS TO GLORIFY GOD**

First, as God, the Son of God needed no glory to be given to him, as God. But he is praying as our Mediator, as the Man who represented his people. He is praying that God the Father would uphold him as he went to the cross.

Here is the purpose for his request, "that Thy Son also may glorify Thee." (Jn 17: 1) The very reason he was going to the cross was that he might glorify every attribute of God—every attribute of his own. There is no way that God would or could deny his request. It was promised to Christ in the covenant made between the Father and the Son in eternity.

### **THE REASON IS TO GIVE ETERNAL LIFE**

Here is the second reason he made the request, "As Thou hast given Him power over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as Thou hast given Him." (Jn 17: 2) God the Father has given the Son, as our Mediator and Savior, all authority, dominion, and power over all flesh. (Jn 3:35; Mt 28:18)

Since he has power over all flesh then why does he not give eternal life to everybody? It is because our Lord Jesus Christ may "give eternal life to as many as Thou hast given Him" (John 6:37-39). Notice, throughout this prayer our Lord refers to His people by this same phrase six times in this prayer (vv. 2, 6, 9, 12, 24).

Do you want eternal life? What do you think eternal life is? "And this is life eternal, that they might know Thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom Thou hast sent." (Jn 17: 3)

Many think eternal life is an experience in religion. Some are waiting for it to happen. Some are looking back to when they think it happened. Others think eternal life is moral or religious reformation—they changed their conduct. Some think eternal life is something you get when you die where you go live in mansions and drive luxury cars and get to fulfill all the lusts you didn't get to fulfill here.

But eternal life is knowing God in Christ, "this is life eternal, that they might know Thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom Thou hast sent." Eternal life is spiritual life. It is given to dead sinners making them eternally alive. Eternal life is given by God the Holy Spirit in sovereign regeneration.

Eternal life is not learning a certain level of doctrine, not a church creed, not knowing church history, not knowing man-made principles, commandments and traditions. Eternal life is it not even knowing that there is a God.

Eternal life is knowing God, “this is life eternal, that they might know Thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom Thou hast sent.” It is a personal acquaintance with God so that you know who God is. When you know the Lord Jesus Christ then you know God the Father.

John 14:6: Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me. 7: If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also: and from henceforth ye know him, and have seen him. 8: Philip saith unto him, Lord, show us the Father, and it sufficeth us. 9: Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Show us the Father?

1 John 5:20: And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life.

## **THE FOUNDATION IS THE FINISHED WORK**

Here is what Christ came to do and what he did. This is the foundation on which he prayed, “I have glorified Thee on the earth: I have finished the work which Thou gavest Me to do.” (Jn 17: 4)

When did God give Christ this work to do? In eternity, before the world was made. Why did God give Christ this work to do? Because no one else could do it because we all died in sins and were guilty, because it was necessary that God do the work in his Son that he might get all the glory. Did he do the work? He said, “I finished the work!” Christ Jesus, the Son of God, is the only man who ever loved, obeyed, and honored the eternal, holy God all the days of His life. In His life and his death, our Savior glorified God’s law, God’s will, God’s justice, and God’s grace. He did it for that God might be both just and the Justifier of those he gave to his Son. (Rom 3:24-26)

What work did Christ finish? He brought in righteousness for His people (Jer 23:6). He accomplished eternal redemption from the curse of the law for his people. He shall give eternal life to all that the Father gave to Him and shall not lose one.

Therefore, it would take God ceasing to be holy and just for God to condemn those he gave to Christ when he already condemned them in their Substitute. So it is upon the foundation of his finished work that our Savior prays, “And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was” (v. 5).

**Amen!**