

John 2021 #35 (2.6.22) #22011

John 17:1-5  
Glory to God

**I. The *closing prayer* of the *closing discourse* of the *closing gospel*.**

- A. It is the longest recorded prayer of Jesus.
  - 1. It is God the Son Incarnate, praying to God the Father.
    - a) Thoroughly Trinitarian because of the sharing of the glory from all eternity.
  - 2. Not a teaching on prayer, but an actual prayer.
- B. It is at the end of the last teaching time, the Farewell Discourse.
  - 1. In the upper room, after the institution of the Eucharist and announcement of the New Covenant in his blood.
- C. It is the culmination of the message of redemption for the whole world.
  - 1. From Genesis 3:15 the Bible is about how God takes back his fallen world, judges all sin and evil, and resurrects the creation in new life.
  - 2. It is all about Jesus Messiah, the Son of God. The OT points to him and the NT reveals his person and work.
  - 3. This prayer reaches back to pre-temporal glory, through creation, fall, incarnation, and into death, resurrection/ascension of God the Son Incarnate.
- D. It is all about God's Glory.
  - 1. "glory/glorify" (doxa) used 5 times here. Reciprocal, Father to Son and Son to Father.
  - 2. Glory means to "clothe with splendor," to show the astounding goodness and majesty of God in words and deeds. Creating the impression of awe, praise, worship, obedience.

**II. Christ's Prayer for the Glory of the Trinitarian God. 1-5**

- A. The hour has come for God to be glorified. 1
  - 1. Father glorifies Son so that Son glorifies Father.
  - 2. Hour: A technical reference to the Cross/Resurrection/Ascension.
  - 3. *Everything in the Bible has pointed to this "hour." (12:27)*
- B. The Son has the authority of the Father over all flesh. 2
  - 1. The destiny of all humanity is in the Son's divine/human hands now.
  - 2. *All humans throughout history and around the globe are under the authority of Jesus. He will be either their judge or their savior.*
- C. To give eternal life to the ones the Father gives to Him. 2-3 (Jn.6:44, 65)
  - 1. Eternal life is the personal relationship with God, through Jesus Christ.
    - a) It is *Knowing God*.
  - 2. *Gospel faith is a kind of personal/relational/factual knowledge not available in or from the world. (1 Cor.2)*
- D. By virtue of His accomplishing the Work the Father gave Him to do. 4
  - 1. Jesus's life and ministry (through death, resurrection, ascension) glorifies God the Father.
  - 2. Note that someone did work for our salvation—the Eternal Son Incarnate did. So that our salvation is not based on our works but on His.
- E. Resulting in the Son Incarnate resuming his eternal Glory—as a risen Human! 5
  - 1. Pre-existent, eternal splendor, Majesty.

### III. Are there things in this passage that show us how to glorify God? Yes...

#### **A. By receiving and resting in the gift of eternal life in Christ—this brings Glory to God.**

1. *When we believe in God in Christ and express this faith in water baptism—this brings glory to God.*
2. **We cannot earn eternal life—It is a gift only. Rom.6:23**
  - a) From both the Father and the Son.
  - b) The Father gives us to the Son (2,6-7)
  - c) The Son gives us eternal life
  - d) The Father, the Son, and the Spirit receive the glory.
3. **We cannot glorify God outside of Christ.**
  - a) Human religion and philosophy do not glorify God. They glorify man and/or the creation itself (Rom.1:18-32)
4. *Do you want to bring Glory to God? Come to Christ and rest there!*

#### **B. By being utterly, increasingly impressed with Jesus Christ—this brings Glory to God.**

1. Jesus is the image of God (eikon) Col.1:15; the radiance and exact imprint of God's nature in human form (Heb.1:3).
  - a) The Eternal Son Incarnate. **Phil.2:5-11; Col.1:15-20; Heb.1:1-3**
2. *The Eternal Son is the archetypal image of God (Imago Dei). Col.1:15*
  - a) He was not created in our image—we were created in His.
  - b) We are created in the image of God, the Second Person, the Son.
3. When we become Christians we are “re-created” in Christ (Jn.3:3; 2 Cor.5:17), from the inside out, eventually leaving these mortal and sin-soaked old bodies and receiving new, resurrected, redeemed bodies that accurately reflect our new natures. (2 Cor.4:18-5:10; Phil.3:20-21)
4. Out of Adam and into Christ, the New, Redeemed, Resurrected humanity. Rom.5:12-21

#### **C. By doing the work that the Father has given us to do—This brings Glory to God. Matt.5:14-16.** The various ways of glorifying God fall under one of these headings)

1. Learning to think, feel, and live like Jesus. Spirit transformation. Rom.12:1-2.
  - a) *When our character reflects Christ, it brings glory to God.*
2. Living a normal, transformed life under the grace of God. Col.3:17; 1 Thess.4:11
  - a) Salt and Light in this world.
  - b) Good works done to the glory of God. (Eph.2:8-10)
3. Lifting our voices in prayer and praise. Col.3:16.
  - a) Vocal: Christians pray and praise together and individually.
4. Leaning into the mission of the Lord. **Matt.28:18-20**
  - a) Be baptized and bring others into the knowledge of God in Christ, missions, witness, etc.

D. Remember, it is the grace that produces the work, not the other way around. *The gift of eternal life produces the fruit of eternal life.*