

A DEVOTIONAL SERIES ON THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN ABOUT JESUS CHRIST

THIS IS ETERNAL LIFE

John 17:1-3 “Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.”

Twenty-five times the four gospels recount specific prayers of Jesus to His heavenly Father. In His human nature, Jesus never lost contact with Him. The intimate relationship between them was never broken.

John 17 records what has become known as Jesus’ High Priestly prayer. In this prayer Jesus prayed to His Father in behalf of His Disciples and all believers in Him. His prayer begins with a petition that the eternal life Almighty God sent Him to earth to give as a gift would indeed be received by many. Jesus said, the hour, the time for His saving work to be completed is at hand.

Even though God desires all human beings to be saved (1 Timothy 2:4), Jesus specifically prays in this prayer for those who will actually believe in Him for their salvation. He says in this prayer, “. . .this IS eternal life, that they know You (God the Father) and Jesus Christ who He sent” as the world’s Savior.

Here again in the words of Jesus salvation is only for those who believe in Him and in His heavenly Father. This message is so important, so necessary for today’s cultural that wants people to believe there are many paths to heaven. There aren’t!

In His prayer, Jesus prays to His Father that the Gospel’s revelation of Him as alone the Savior of the world would be taken to heart. He prayed in His prayer that His Father would “glorify Him” so that in turn He would “glorify His Father.” In these words, Jesus echoes His words recorded in John 14:9-11, “Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his

works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves.”

Prayer: Yet again, Dear Jesus, the Scriptures reveal Your great concern for the souls of those entrusted to Him by His Father in heaven. Send your Spirit into my heart to work faith to receive the gift of eternal life God sent His Son to give. Amen.

The Lord, my God, be praised, My light my life from heaven;
My maker, who to me Has soul and body given;
My Father who will shield And keep me day by day
And make each moment yield New blessings on my way.

The Lord, my god, be praised, My trust, my life from heaven,
The Father's own dear Son, Whose life for me was given,
Who for my sin atone With His most precious blood
And gives to me by faith the highest heav'nly good.

The Lord, my God, be praised, My hope, my life from heaven,
The Spirit whom the Son In love to me has given.
His grace revives my heart And gives my spirit pow'r,
Help, comfort, and support In sorrow's gloomy hour.

The Lord, my God, be praised, My God, the ever-living,
To whom the heav'nly host Their laud and praise are giving.
The Lord, my God, be praised, In whose great name I boast,
God Father, God the Son, And God the Holy Ghost.
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