



DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING

Studying the
Word
On
Wednesday at Zion
Online Edition



PRAYER

BASIC TRAINING

An Expository Study of **John 17**

H2
H A R V E S T



Preface

The time has come for the church to get its priorities in order, and one of the best ways to do this is to find out what was important to Jesus Christ.

John 17-our Lord's "High Priestly Prayer"-tells us what His priorities were and are.

This book is not a *detailed* exposition of John 17. It is a practical study of the major themes of this profound prayer. Much of this material was given in a radio series over "Back to the Bible Broadcast" during February and March, 1982. However, I have recast the entire series since it is possible to write things in a book that may not be spoken over the air.

My prayer is that God will use these studies to get the church back on course. There is a price to pay, but there will be a greater price if we continue to drift.

Each of us must do his part, no matter the cost.

Warren W. Wiersbe



The Year of Sowing and Reaping
the Harvest



Six | *Saved and Safe*

“I ask on their behalf; I do not ask on behalf of the world, but of those whom Thou hast given Me; for they are Thine; and all things that are Mine are Thine, and Thine are Mine; and I have been glorified in them. And I am no more in the world; and yet they themselves are in the world, and I come to Thee. Holy Father, keep them in Thy name, the name which Thou hast given Me, that they may be one, even as We are. While I was with them, I was keeping them in Thy name which Thou hast given Me; and I guarded them, and not one of them perished but the son of perdition, that the Scripture might be fulfilled.”

-John 17:9–12

We are living in enemy territory, so, beware!

The world system hates Christ while pretending to honor God. Satan prowls about as a roaring lion. The very atmosphere that we breathe is poisoned with “the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life” (1 John 2:16). The world system around us appeals to the flesh within us so that we fight a steady battle against temptation. How, then, can the dedicated believer remain safe and secure in such a dangerous world?

Our security is in Jesus Christ. When you have trusted Him as your Savior, you have a spiritual security that nothing can destroy. I know, it seems too good to be true; but even salvation itself is too good to be true! Our personal relationship to the Father through Jesus Christ is unchanged and unchangeable, even though our *fellowship* with Him may change from day to day. Our *union* with Christ is secure, no matter what may alter our *communion*. Let's consider several truths presented in verses 9–12, as well as in the previous verses, that indicate and affirm that the believer is secure in Christ.

1. Christ _____ for _____.

“I ask on their behalf ... Holy Father, keep them in Thy name ...” (verses 9 and 12). To be sure, He was praying for His disciples; but our spiritual oneness in Christ makes up a part of that fellowship. Furthermore, we today stand in a similar relationship to the Savior as the disciples did in that day. It is unthinkable that our Lord would pray for that small body of believers and ignore the needs of the whole church.

2. Christ is now _____ for _____ in _____.

“And I am no more in the world” (verse 11). In this prayer, our Lord looked upon the work of redemption as something already finished. He was to leave the world and return to the Father in heaven, and there He would enter into His “unfinished work” of interceding for His church.

3. We are the _____ gift to the _____.

Christ is not praying for the lost world. He is praying for “those whom Thou [the Father] hast given Me” (verse 9). The church prays for the lost (1 Timothy 2:1; Matthew 5:44), but the Savior prays for the church. Believers are the Father’s special “love gift” to the Son, and it is unthinkable that the Father would permit this gift of love to fail by one believer being lost. (We will consider the special case of Judas in the next chapter.) Salvation is wholly of God’s grace (Ephesians 2:8, 9). If we could not be saved by our good works, why should we be condemned *after we are saved* because of some sin or act of disobedience? If God, who knows all things, knew that

we would fail, why would he have given us His Son in the first place? Either we are saved by grace and grace alone, or we are not saved at all. "But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works, otherwise grace is no longer grace" (Romans 11:6).

4. God is _____ in _____.

"I have been glorified in them," said Jesus (verse 10). Not one word about the failings of the disciples! There is no mention of Peter's impetuous speeches, or James and John wanting to burn up a Samaritan village, or the disciples' boasting that they would remain true to the Master. What a reassuring statement to all of us! When Jesus Christ presents His church to the Father in glory, He will say, "I have been glorified in them." But if any believer should "lose his salvation," God would lose His glory. The very glory of God is at stake in our safety and security.

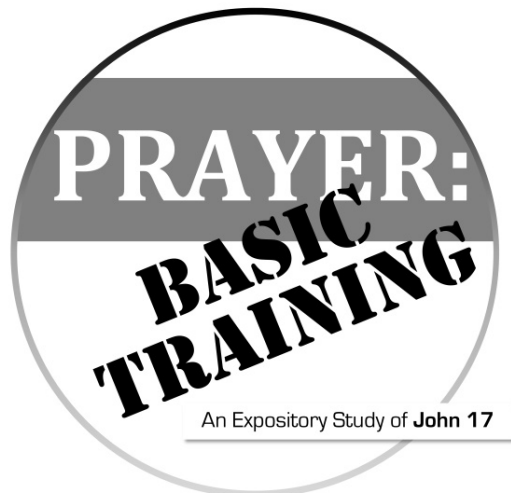
5. The _____ of the _____.

"Holy Father, keep them in Thy name ... that they may be one, even as we are" (verse 11). The emphasis today is on *individual* salvation. "Each one reach one" is a popular motto in our churches. Of course, sinners are saved individually. Our Lord, when He was ministering on earth, took time to talk to people personally and individually—Nicodemus, the Samaritan woman, Zacchaeus, and many others come to mind. But even though faith in Christ is personal and individual, *union with Christ involves all believers*. That

individual believer becomes a part of the Body of Christ, the church; and his life from then on must reflect this great fact.

6. The _____ work of _____.

The reason our Lord could return to heaven was that His work on earth was finished. "I glorified Thee on the earth, having accomplished the work which Thou hast given Me to do" (verse 4). In a previous study we learned of the greatness of this work. How does our Lord's finished work relate to the subject of the security of the believer?



Next: **Seven** | The Man Who Should Never Been Born