

Connecting Minds

"These are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name" (John 20:31)

The Gospel of John

Chapter 17:1

"Jesus spoke these words, lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said 'Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You.'"

Now we come to look at the words Jesus spoke in this mighty High Priestly prayer. The first 5 verses make up a prayer for Himself. He begins by saying "Father, the hour has come..." Certainly there has never been as pivotal an hour as this one. When the Allies were to launch their invasion of Normandy in 1944 they called the day D-day and the hour of beginning was called H-hour. It was an important hour. But this hour Jesus speaks of here is the hour of hours. It is the hour upon which the happiness of millions depends and the hour that history hinges upon. This is the hour that Jesus had been born for, it is the hour of His death.

Jesus describes this hour when He is arrested in the garden of Gethsemane as the hour of the power of darkness. (Luke 22:52,53). It is the hour of evil's greatest work. And yet, even though this hour is in some ways the hour of darkness, it is still not an hour that is in the devil's timing. The hour is God's hour.

Peter tells us in his Pentecost sermon these words – "Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death" (Acts 2:23). God is the grand orchestrator of these events. Jesus was delivered by the plan of God. All history is His story. There is a plan of redemption that has come to a very important stage at this hour.

How seldom do we hear about this grand plan? We talk about the salvation of God for individuals, but what about this plan of God from eternity. This overarching truth comes out in other phrases Jesus uses in these first five verses. He alluded to this plan when He says He has been given authority, when He speaks of a "work" that has been finished and that the Son has been sent.

There is also a certainty about Jesus' words - "The hour *has* come..." Unlike our plans, God's plan cannot be thwarted, cannot be delayed or pushed ahead of schedule, cannot happen out of order and cannot fail. Jesus doesn't say "This may be the hour" or "This is the hour, and let's hope everything works." He says "The hour has come..."

"Glorify You Son, that Your Son may also glorify You..." Here is Jesus' first request. The hour has come for Jesus to make atonement for the sins of His people. The first result of that work is to be glory to the Father. The more we look at the Scriptures, the more we must come to agree that the writers of the Westminster Shorter Catechism were right when they wrote "What is the chief end of man?" and answered their question with the words "The chief end of man is to glorify God and to enjoy Him forever."

The cross demonstrates and glorifies God's wisdom in planning such a redemption. And it demonstrates His judgment in that sin will be punished.

But preeminently, and in a way that would have seemed shocking to the people of Jesus' day, the cross of Christ brings glory to God the Father's love. Paul writes in Romans 8:32 "He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things..." The cross demonstrates God's love to the degree that He did not spare, or withhold sending His own beloved Son to be our salvation. He delivered Him up to bring us forgiveness of sins in the great eternal plan of redemption. The hour has come and the Father's love is glorified.

TableTalk

"Glorify You Son, that Your Son also may glorify You..." How does the cross bring glory to God the Father in glorifying these attributes?

- His power - 1 Corinthians 1:18
- His righteousness - Romans 3:25,26