

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 17:7-9

"Now they have known that all things which You have given Me are from You. For I have given to them the words which You have given Me, and they have received them, and have known surely that I came forth from You; and they have believed that You sent Me. I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for those whom You have given Me, for they are Yours."

"Now they have known..." Let's look at the word "known" for a moment. Jesus uses this word twice in these verses. In verse 7 Jesus says "They have *known* that all things which You have given Me are from You..." Matthew Henry writes "All Christ's offices and powers, all the gifts of the Spirit, all his graces and comforts were all from God. It is a great satisfaction to us, in our reliance upon Christ, that He, and all He is and has, all He said and did, all He is doing and will do, are of God."¹

In verse 8 He says "And have *known* surely that I came forth from You..." What Jesus is saying is that His people know that He has been sent from God, meaning that He is the Messiah, the Son of God. Peter confessed this in Caesarea Philippi – "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God..." (Matthew 16:16). Here is also the certainty of their belief - "Have known *surely*..." The Greek word for "surely" means "truly, certainly." A Christian knows that Jesus is the unique Son of God with absolute certainty, with confidence, with certainty.

The last thing to look at in these verses is this: There is a definition of a Christian that Jesus gives that must be understood if we are to know who Jesus is praying for. First, Jesus says "They have kept Your word..." This word that Jesus has given them is the manifested name of the Father. It is the truth that He has done what the Father gave Him to do (verse 7), this

¹ Matthew Henry's Commentary, vol. 5, Matthew Henry, pg. 933

great plan of redemption (verse 4). It is the belief that Jesus came from the Father as the son of God.

And the second thing is that the Christian's relation to the word is that he or she keeps it. That is, they obey it. Now, we must be absolutely clear that Jesus is talking about doctrine here. He's not, at this point, talking about the moral teachings. Sometimes people say that someone is a good Christian because they act so "kindly and justly". They never take into consideration that the person completely denies the entire gospel. Martyn Lloyd-Jones says "My first concern is not what sort of life he is living. If he regards Jesus of Nazareth as only a man, he is not a Christian."²

In verse 8 Jesus says three things that is true of a person who has "kept" the word. They receive the word *and* have known the word *and* have believed the word. These are different words but they are all connected by the word "and". The Christian receives the word of Christ. The world, on the other hand, rejects the word, dismisses it and does not consider it. The Christian knows the word of Christ. They know it surely with certainty. The world, knows nothing about the word of Christ. And the Christian believes the word of Christ. The world, even if it does know the word in an academic setting does not believe it.

The people who receive, know and believe the word of Christ are the people for whom Jesus prays for in His intercessory position as Mediator.

TableTalk

Take a passage of the Bible this week. Perhaps it is a passage in your daily reading. Receive it as the word of God. Then mediate on it to know it. Lastly, really believe it by applying it in your life.

John Frame has said we really only know something truly when we can apply it.

² The Assurance of Our Salvation, Martyn Lloyd-Jones, pg. 259