

## **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 17:11,12

**"Now I am no longer in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep through Your name those whom You have given Me, that they may be one as We are one. While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Your name. Those whom You gave Me I have kept; and none of them is lost except the son of perdition, that the Scripture might be fulfilled."**

"Holy Father, keep through Your name... I kept them in Your name..." We've already looked at what the name of God means, that it means His attributes and character. What Jesus is saying here by asking us to be kept "through" or "in" the name of the Father is that we are protected from all danger by all the attributes of God. To get a good idea of what Jesus means here, Proverbs 18:10 says "The name of the Lord is a strong tower; the righteous run to it and are safe..." We are safe *inside* the name of God.

Jesus highlights two attributes even in this verse - God's holiness and tender Fatherly care. Psalm 89:35 - "Once I have sworn by My holiness; I will not lie to David..." God's holiness is His foremost attribute and that attribute which assures to us the promises of God. His fatherly care shows us His personal intimate concern and interest in us.

When Jesus taught His disciples to pray He began "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name..." (Matthew 6:9). In this prayer in John 17 He speaks in similar words by addressing God as "Holy Father". We can learn to avoid two extremes. One extreme is to pray to God as though He were distant or a God somewhere out there whose interest in me I must plead to gain. The other extreme is to pray to God as though He were just like us, a God who is not holy. We must always remember that God is both our Father and our Lord.

"Keep through Your name... *that they may be one as We are one...*" The purpose of God keeping us safe is so we may be one as the Father and Son

are one. God's purposes in keeping us as one will not be thwarted. If we could be separated from each other and from God's love, then so too could the Father and Son be separated. Jesus says "And none of them is lost..."

The last point to look at in these 2 verses is the case of Judas. "None is lost except the son of perdition." This verse seems to give the impression that Judas was once saved and now was lost... None were lost *except*... Is this what Jesus is saying? Is Jesus saying that Judas lost his salvation? No. Judas is a "son of perdition." The Greek word for "perdition" means to destroy, to ruin or to lose. Judas was lost from the start. He was not one given to Jesus. Jesus has kept all who are His, but Judas is not one of His. Earlier Jesus calls him a devil (John 6:70) and now He calls him a son of perdition, a lost one.

It is impossible to overstate the importance of the warning given to us in the person of Judas. First, it is possible to be a respectable church member in the eyes of the world and still be unsaved. Look at what we know about Judas' outward character. Here was a man who was in the visible company of Jesus, even in the inner 12. He was entrusted with the money bag (John 13:29). He was above suspicion (13:22). Nobody had any idea Judas would betray Jesus or anyone for that matter.

Second, many have an interest in religion for what they can gain. Perhaps it is a reputation (though not as important today as it once was). Perhaps it is for money or a position of influence. Maybe it is for political reasons. Whatever it may be there are other reasons to want to be considered a "Christian" than a genuine love for Christ.

Third, hearing the word of God and seeing the works of God are not enough to make us children of God. We remain as children of perdition unless we are born again. Only true repentance and prayers to God for a new heart will give you eternal life.

## TableTalk

Read Acts 8:18-22. How does money play a role in the story of Simon the Magician?