

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 17:22-24

"And the glory which You gave Me, I have given them, that they may be one just as We are One: I in them, and You in Me, that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me. Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me; for You have loved Me before the foundation of the world."

We've been looking at this glory that Jesus Christ has given to His people. We've seen three purposes – this glory brings us into closeness with God, it unites us as believers and it forces the world to acknowledge that Jesus has been sent by the Father. The fourth purpose is given in verse 23 – "That the world may know that You... have loved them as You have loved Me..." This is the witness of the Father's love to His people.

Here is the greatest mark of the glory that the Father gave to the Son and that the Son has given to us – that the world knows that we know we are loved by God. Does the world see that you *know* that the Father loves you? We have the glory of this intimate relationship with the Father and it enables us to face any situation in the confidence of His love.

When we come to verse 24 Jesus prays that His people would be with Him and behold His glory. "Father, I desire..." The word for "desire" means to will something and to press on to action. It means to purposely see one's desire to its execution. And we know that Jesus has the authority to pray with such boldness. The Father has given Him authority to grant eternal life (John 17:2). But also, Jesus Himself pressed on to action to make His own request a surety (Hebrews 7:23-27).

Look at how Jesus prays about the death of His people. What a great message this is for dying saints and to their loved ones left behind. All

saints who die *in* Christ die to be *with* Christ. Jesus says "I desire that they be with Me where I am..."

"That they may behold My glory..." This is an amazing truth. The disciples had only seen Him in His humiliation on the earth. Yes, they had seen some amazing miracles but they also saw Him tired, hungry, mocked and soon to be crucified. Jesus now says He wants them to see Him in His rightful glory. The Greek word for "behold" means to gaze with interest for a purpose, looking at every detail. Eternity will never exhaust our enjoyment of beholding the glory of our Lord, the glory which the Father has given Him.

Lamentations 3:22-24 speaks of mercies that are "new every morning..." In this life where our minds and spirits are dulled by sin we recognize still the mercy of God is always new to us each day. How much greater will it be in heaven. Revelation 4:8-11 gives us the revelation of four living creatures who repeat the same refrain over and over. We might be pressed to say this is boring. The same chorus over and over. But no, it is because these creatures always see something new that excites praise... "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God almighty... You are worthy, O Lord..."

Look at these phrases of our Lord that we often overlook - "Whom You gave Me... Which You have given Me... Before the foundation of the world." They speak of that great eternal decision that was made where the Father gave a people to the Son. We who are Christians were chosen by God before the foundation of the world and given to the Son. Christ's whole work on earth was to redeem these people. Jesus is reminding the Father of this promise and it provides a further guarantee that we will be with Him in His glory.

TableTalk

In what ways can the world see from you that the Father loves you? It is in the way that you react to circumstances of your life. Look at some examples from Scripture:

- a) 2 Corinthians 12:7-10 - "I take pleasure in infirmities..." Why?
- b) Romans 8:35-39 - This is the best statement of this truth. Nothing can separate us from the love of God... And the world knows that the Christian knows this in all situations.