

Macedonia Primitive Baptist Church

www.macedoniapbc.org

Pastor: Elder Will Martin

The Lord's Prayer

John 17:1-2 "... Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee: As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him."

The 17th chapter of the gospel according to John records a prayer prayed by Jesus Christ. He prayed unto His father in heaven hours before He was nailed to a cross to atone for the sins of His people. Most people today would reference Matthew 6:9-13 and Luke 11:2-4 as the Lord's prayer. However, a closer look at the model prayer given in those two places will show that prayer to be a sinner's prayer and not the Lord's prayer. Our Lord would not need the forgiveness of His debts (Matthew 6:12) because He has no debts. We, God's children, have debts that need forgiving. Jesus, however, owes no man anything and has never been indebted to anyone. The Lord's prayer was spoken by Him unto the Father and is recorded in John 17. A closer look at the opening verses of this prayer teaches lessons for discipleship and sound bible doctrine.

The beginning of the prayer teaches that Jesus is aware that His time to go to the cross is near. His "hour is come." The day of crucifixion did not catch our Saviour by surprise. He knew this day was ahead of him and he spoke of it to his closest disciples (Matthew 16:21-23). It was time for Him to submit Himself (Phil 2:8) to the wicked rulers of that day and be scourged (Matthew 27:26), spat upon (Matthew 27:30) and suffer for our sins, just as the Old Testament prophecy had foretold (Psalms 22, Isaiah 53). Scripture teaches us that even though perilous moments faced our Saviour, He willingly submitted Himself to endure those pains. He was very aware of what He faced. It is encouraging to know that even in the moments leading up to Jesus Christ facing the wrath of the Almighty God, that He would pray that God be glorified in His death. Every action performed by Jesus was for His Father's glory. If Jesus, even in the midst of times like this, can desire to glorify God, we should be willing in each and every one of our actions to seek God's glory as well.

The second verse of this prayer sheds light upon Jesus' power, the gift of eternal life and the recipients of that life.

- "As thou has given him power over all flesh..." The Bible is full of recorded accounts of God's delivering power. God's power parted the Red Sea and stopped the Jordan River from flowing. God's power delivered the Israelites in each of their battles. God's power protected the Hebrews in the fiery furnace. God's power shut the Lion's mouth. God's power healed the lepers, made the lame walk and caused the blind to see. Many more examples could be given. Should we place a limitation on God's power? I think not. Jesus Christ is God manifested in perfect humanity and has the power of God (Matthew 28:18). He has power "over all flesh." Not only does he have power over all flesh in the new birth, he has power over the flesh of the wicked as well. Scripture tells us that when Jesus returns for His people, "that every knee shall bow" (Phil 2:9). I don't think the wicked will bow in respect as the Lord's children will. I think they will be forced, by God's power, to bow. We serve a powerful, able God.
- "...that he should give eternal life..." There are many people today that believe that Jesus "offered" eternal life to all of mankind. I encourage any believer of that doctrine to find one verse in the bible that says that Jesus "offered" eternal life. This verse says, as the rest of the bible teaches, that he gave eternal life. The only verse that speaks of Jesus offering Himself tells us that Jesus was offered to God,

not to man (Hebrews 9:14). As we read through the Old Testament, we see that many offerings were made to God, not to man. Eternal life is a gift, not an offer. Just as this verse tells us that Jesus was given power by God over all flesh, we are told that God's children are given eternal life. Was Jesus "offered" power? No. He was "given" power. Are God's children "offered" life? No. They are GIVEN life. Jesus had the power because God gave it to him and God's children have eternal life because Jesus gave it to them. To say that the life that Jesus gave is merely an offer, belittles the death of Christ and dishonors the offering that He made to God.

- "...to as many as thou hast given him." I believe that there will be many people in heaven. This verse tells us that Jesus gives eternal life to "as many" as the Father gave to Him. This verse does not say that He gave life "to the few" that the Father had given him. Any modern day dictionary will define many as the greater part of the whole or majority. Therefore, I believe that there will be many in heaven because many have been given eternal life (Matthew 20:28). Not only do we know that there are many, we also know that this number is a definite number, known by God, "out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;" (Rev. 5:9). God gave His Son these ones to die for and give eternal life to. I believe He did it. Praise God for a successful Saviour!

Jesus Christ, in this prayer, teaches us to pray unto our heavenly Father in times of need. It is through God's blessings that we too can receive strength to face our trials just as Jesus did. In addition to the lesson of prayer, we learn that our focus should be on glorifying the Father in our daily lives. This world is a dark place. It is my prayer that we who have been given a hope in Jesus will let our light shine (Matthew 5:16) before men and glorify our Father. Jesus is worthy of our praise as a powerful Saviour who completed the task given to Him by His Father. Do you pray unto the Father in times of need? Do you seek to glorify Him? Do you believe the words that He spake to God concerning His work for His children? God bless us to strive to answer yes to all three questions.

Elder Will Martin

Macedonia Primitive Baptist Church Announcements and Prayer Requests

1. The Lord richly blessed our baptism and communion services the 1st Sunday in September. We are very thankful for our new member that God has blessed us with. For pictures of the baptism, visit this link: http://www.macedoniapbc.org/09_04_2011/album/index.html
2. The website is being updated periodically to journal the progress of the new building project. Please continue to pray for the Lord's blessing on the project. For photos of the work, visit this link: <http://www.macedoniapbc.org/newchurch.htm>
3. Please continue to keep Brother Luther and Sister Rachel Hill in your prayers. Brother Luther continues to progress with his rehabilitation on his knee that was replaced in August. Sister Rachel is scheduled for heart surgery on October 6th.

Other Church Meetings/Announcements

1. Sorrell Springs Primitive Baptist Church will host their annual meeting on Saturday, October 22nd. The invited ministers are Elders Lonnie Mazingo and Will Martin. Services start on Saturday morning at 10:00 followed by lunch and communion service in the afternoon. If you have any questions about the meeting, please contact Elder Ronnie Loudermilk at (678) 925-5023.