

# Our Eternal Life In The World

John 17:1-8

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**Introduction:** The Scripture tells us repeatedly that Jesus went away from everyone to pray, but it seldom tells us anything that He prayed. Jesus, when asked, taught the disciples how to pray, but did not tell them exactly what to pray. Some have taken The Lord's Prayer as an exact blueprint for what we should pray, but Jesus offered it as a pattern and example of prayer. It is extremely useful for your prayer life to know the pattern and follow it.

Jesus has an appointment with the Cross and He has had it since eternity past, when He and the Father imagined creation, determined to make you personally and devised the plan to redeem you and make you the possession of Christ. God's Children....Christ's Bride and all on a very precise time schedule. He called it "His Hour."

**Galatians 4:4-6** <sup>4</sup> But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, <sup>5</sup> so that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. <sup>6</sup> Because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!"

The Scripture explains many puzzling things with the explanation that Jesus' "hour had not yet come." The purpose of telling us this is simple: God and Christ are driving these events and not the world or Satan. They planned it down to the day and hour and nothing in Creation would derail that plan.

**John 2:4** <sup>4</sup> And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what does that have to do with us? My hour has not yet come."

**John 7:6** <sup>6</sup> So Jesus said to them, "My time is not yet here, but your time is always opportune.

**John 7:30** <sup>30</sup> So they were seeking to seize Him; and no man laid his hand on Him, because His hour had not yet come.

**John 8:20** <sup>20</sup> These words He spoke in the treasury, as He taught in the temple; and no one seized Him, because His hour had not yet come.

**BUT NOW IT HAS COME!** Just as the Father, Son and Spirit planned it. When God gave Moses the passover instructions He knew that His own Son would fulfill every detail of it ...AT THIS HOUR. It is the evening of Christ's final Passover and in reality it is the last genuine Passover ever. The ritual week that prefigured the Messiah was finally fulfilled. The Lamb that was slain stood poised to fulfill every detail within a few hours. After the dinner, He gives His disciples many final instructions and wonderful promises and then He goes to pray....only this time The Holy Spirit will record every, purpose, plan and intention of His and the Father's heart.

**John 17:1-8** Jesus spoke these things; and lifting up His eyes to heaven, He said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify Your Son, that the Son may glorify You, <sup>2</sup> even as You gave Him authority over all flesh, that to all whom You have given Him, He may give eternal life. <sup>3</sup> "This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. <sup>4</sup> "I glorified You on the earth, having accomplished the work which You have given Me to do. <sup>5</sup> "Now, Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was. <sup>6</sup> "I have manifested Your name to the men whom You gave Me out of the world; they were Yours and You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word. <sup>7</sup> "Now they have come to know that everything You have given Me is from You; <sup>8</sup> for the words which You gave Me I have given to them; and they received *them* and truly understood that I came forth from You, and they believed that You sent Me.

It is important for you to know who runs the universe and that its events are not random. God rules in the affairs of men. He is Sovereign in the details of your life.

The length of your life is already determined by God...not just "known" to Him.

**Psalms 139:16** Your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.

The steps of your life are determined by the Lord.

**Proverbs 16:9** In his heart a man plans his course, but the LORD determines his steps.

The good works of your life are pre-determined by the Lord for you to do.

**Ephesians 2:10** For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

This splendid prayer of Christ needs to be considered in three parts. In this prayer Christ prays for us to hear, about the eternal plans of God for....

**Our Eternal Life  
Our Eternal Joy  
Our Eternal Mission**

Let's talk about **YOUR ETERNAL LIFE** in this world. It is....

- Initiated and Given to you by God [1-2]
- Based on your relationship and not your religion [3]
- Accomplished by Jesus Christ Alone [4-6]
- Validated by our trust in Jesus Christ Alone [7-8]

## **It is Initiated and Given to you by God [1-2]**

**"Father, the hour has come; glorify Your Son, that the Son may glorify You [1]:**

The Cross was about more than redemption. It was ultimately about revealing who God is. What kind of God created the world? Is He the mean, harsh God that withholds pleasure and knowledge and acceptance from His creation? This was Satan's pitch to Eve. Her decision to believe that God was not good and did not act in her interests or out of love, led the entire race into death. Eternal separation from the God who is, in fact all of the things men most desire. We desire them because we are still His image bearers.

**Genesis 1:27** <sup>27</sup> God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

To "Glorify" means to put on display or make publicly known. This is what God did with Christ through the Cross and the resurrection.

**You gave Him authority over all flesh [2a]:** This means all creation. Christ is President Obama's authority. Christ has authority over the Supreme Court and every legislator and Dictator in the world. Jesus wants you to hear Him say it. Do not doubt Christ's Word when the world starts acting out. They do what God wants them to do. It is part of God's grander plan to bring glory to Himself by revealing the true nature of those who rebel against Him. You are intended to rest in that. To lay down and sleep at night. This prayer is for your peace and joy. Please take it to heart!

**Proverbs 16:4-5** <sup>4</sup> The LORD has made everything for its own purpose, Even the wicked for the day of evil. <sup>5</sup> Everyone who is proud in heart is an abomination to the LORD; Assuredly, he will not be unpunished.

**To all whom You have given Him, He may give eternal life [2b]:** You were given to Christ before He gave you eternal life. There is really no way around this statement. In Eternity past The Father, Son and Spirit set their affection on you and predetermined....at that time.....before you were born or believed, to make you their child. This is the love of God for you. It reaches into eternity past and was active before any man or woman was created and it was focused like a laser beam...right on you since eternity past.

**Ephesians 1:3-5** Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly *places* in Christ, <sup>4</sup> just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love <sup>5</sup> He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will,

**John 6:39** "This is the will of Him who sent Me, that of all that He has given Me I lose nothing, but raise it up on the last day.

**John 6:37** "All that the Father gives Me will come to ME, and the one who comes to Me I will certainly not cast out.

**Acts 13:48** When the Gentiles heard this, they *began* rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord; and as many as had been appointed to eternal life believed.

The lost sheep in Jesus' parable were you and me, who already belonged to Christ. Jesus redeemed us by paying for Adam and our sin and then the Holy Spirit brought us to life and even to faith.

**Ephesians 2:4-9** <sup>4</sup> But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, <sup>5</sup> even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),..... <sup>8</sup> For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, *it is* the gift of God; <sup>9</sup> not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.

### **Eternal Life is Initiated and Given to you by God!**

### **It is based on your relationship and not your religion [3]**

**This is eternal life:** A phrase that means...here is the definition of Eternal Life.

**That they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent [3]:** Eternal life has nothing to do with what you know or do. It has to do solely with who you know and trust with your life. This is exactly why you cannot lose your salvation. Can someone stop being the biological child of his or her parents? That is a practical impossibility. To be born again....a second time....from heaven....is to be in relationship as child to Father and the Father is The God of Creation. This is the doing of God. Jesus revealed the Father to men so that they could know Him and have eternal life.

**John 1:18** <sup>18</sup> No one has seen God at any time; the only begotten God who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained *Him*.

Physical life comes from your physical father. Eternal life comes from your Eternal Father and not from any other source.

**John 1:12-13** <sup>12</sup> But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, *even* to those who believe in His name, <sup>13</sup> who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

This prayer of Jesus does not mean that this is something else for you to do. It means that there is nothing you can do. No child willed himself to be born. It is a work of God. And it reveals like no other thing in creation, how deeply God loves you and wants you to be His son or daughter.

It also means that there is hope for all men not the opposite. God does not exclude people from Salvation. Humanity does that itself, by nature and on purpose.

**Romans 5:12** <sup>12</sup> Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned—

Death didn't just come to men because of Adam. It also came because all men sin. And there is more.....Men do not desire the knowledge of God or the Word's of God.

**1 Corinthians 2:14** <sup>14</sup> But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised.

And...what they do know about God is enough to make them not want to know Him.

**Romans 1:20-22** <sup>20</sup> For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse. <sup>21</sup> For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

**Eternal Life is based on your relationship and not your religion**

### **Accomplished by Jesus Christ Alone [4-6]**

**I glorified You on the earth [4a]:** God the Son came into the world to reveal to men who God really is. That knowledge died with Adam, but now is restored by another man born without sin, and who would **never** sin. Paul describes it to the Romans.....

**Romans 5:18-19** <sup>18</sup> So then as through one transgression there resulted condemnation to all men, even so through one act of righteousness there resulted justification of life to all men. <sup>19</sup> For as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, even so through the obedience of the One the many will be made righteous.

The Cross puts God's love and grace on display. It glorified God! Here is God dying for the people He created. Even more intensely...Here is God giving His precious and beloved Son for the ones who have spurned Him and even hated Him.

**Having accomplished the work which You have given Me to do [4b]:** What was the work Jesus came to do? He is about to say. There are two things mentioned here: He publicly revealed to the world who God truly was. And, He manifested or revealed the Father to all the ones He and the Father had chosen.

**Now, Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was [5]:** On the basis of this accomplishment He asks the Father to now restore Him to Glory in Heaven with Him.

NOTE: Christ is the only man who has any grounds to petition God this way. His Works are meritorious. They have value and accomplish eternal purposes and even salvation. They are pure and undefiled with human sin and motives. He alone kept the law of God...even the greatest commandment and its lesser twin [love your neighbor]. He loved God and His neighbor perfectly and His perfect righteousness is now credited to you as if you had actually done it yourself. This was the work that Christ came to do. It is another compelling reason for you to love Him and trust Him with your eternal soul and earthly life.

God answers this prayer by proving that Jesus to be the Eternal Son of God.

**Romans 1:3-4** <sup>3</sup> concerning His Son, who was born of a descendant of David according to the flesh, <sup>4</sup> who was declared the Son of God with power by the resurrection from the dead, according to the Spirit of holiness, Jesus Christ our Lord,

The resurrection proves that everything Jesus said about Himself was true. He was the Eternal Son who came directly from the Father. Christ Glory, brings Glory to God. God is now known for who He is. Sovereign, just, but also full of mercy, compassion, grace and love. Not the “Straw Man” god that Satan and men have always misrepresented Him to be.

**I have manifested Your name to the men whom You gave Me out of the world [6a];** This is the second thing Jesus accomplished and an expansion of what He said in verse two. “Manifested” means “caused them to see.” In this case “see GOD!”

But Jesus says He has revealed God to the men God gave Him out of the world. Jesus was in the world for all men to see. Everyone present saw Him heal every, single person who came to Him for three and a half years, virtually eliminating all sickness in Israel during His ministry. Everyone present saw Him restore the withered hand and give sight to the man born blind. But they did not see what was right before their eyes. All men are like this. First by nature and pride and secondly because it is Satan’s purpose to blind men to Christ.

**2 Corinthians 4:3-4** <sup>3</sup> And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, <sup>4</sup> in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

Christ is the only force in the universe that can break the blindness of Adam and Satan. The Holy Spirit continues that work today and that is the only reason men are saved.

**2 Corinthians 4:5-6** <sup>5</sup> For we do not preach ourselves but Christ Jesus as Lord, and ourselves as your bond-servants for Jesus' sake. <sup>6</sup> For God, who said, "Light shall shine out of darkness," is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.

**They were Yours and You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word 6b):** Anyone can say they believe, but the ones who have seen Christ...the ones who were chosen by God before the foundation of the earth and then given to Christ. They are characterized by love for and obedience to The Word of God. They love the Bible. They desire to keep it and are distressed when they sin and do not obey. This is Christ’s way of distinguishing the professors from the possessors.

**Eternal Life is Accomplished by Jesus Christ Alone**

## **Validated by our trust in Jesus Christ Alone [7-8]**

### **Now they have come to know that everything You have given Me is from You [7]:**

The ones who have been given eternal life as children of the eternal God also know that everything Christ said is from God. Jesus said this is the hallmark of a true believer. This eliminates all cults and most modern denominations as possessors of Eternal Life. They profess to know God, but do not see Christ as fully God. He is less. He is a created being to some. To others he is the son of God like all men are sons of God.

### **The words which You gave Me I have given to them; and they received them [8a]:**

Today's Christians go through His Word and strip it of its meaning with allegory that verges on unbelief. Liberal denominationalist and evangelical feminists redact 90% of everything He said. Mormons, Jehovah's Witness, and many other cults have their own Scriptures which either explain away or contradict what Jesus said. They don't receive His Words....They have a different opinion...they are not HIS!

How humble are you before the Word of God? You don't have to understand it all and we already know we cannot keep it perfectly....but do you receive it for what it is. The Inerrant and all sufficient Word of the Living God?

### **And they truly understood that I came forth from You, and they believed that You sent Me [8b]:**

This is a pivotal issue with Jesus. He will not be denied this one thing. He is not just another man. He is not a religionist or a miracle worker or a moralist. He always said He left the very presence of God where He had been since Eternity past and came to earth by means of Mary's womb. God became a man and dwelt among us. He was not part man and part God. He was fully man and fully God. He never equivocates on this point and neither do the ones God gave to Him. C.S. Lewis said of this...

A man who was merely a man and said the sort of **things Jesus** said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic — on the level with the man who says he is a poached egg — or else he would be the Devil of Hell.

Who is He to you? Is He Lord and Master? Is He the Eternal God who stooped to save you from your hopeless state and sinful rebellion? Embrace the true Christ and receive His words which heal and transform our lives. God says....

**Philippians 2:5-13** <sup>5</sup> Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, <sup>7</sup> but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, *and* being made in the likeness of men. <sup>8</sup> Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. <sup>9</sup> For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, <sup>10</sup> so that at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE WILL BOW, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup> and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. <sup>12</sup> So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling; <sup>13</sup> for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for *His* good pleasure.