

# WINTER QUARTER SUNDAY SCHOOL 2014-2015

**THEME: COME LET US ADORE CHRIST THE KING IN WORSHIP, PRAYER, AND STEWARDSHIP**

## Unit II – Worshipping Christ Through the Model of Prayer

### “CHRIST’S EARTHLY PRAYER OF INTERCESSION”

Sunday School Lesson No. VI – January 11, 2015

Presented by Rev. Frank A. Davis, III, Pastor-Teacher



Lesson Text: John 17:6-21

Motto Text: John 17:21, *“That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.”*

Required Reading: John 17:1-26

Reliable Resources: Word Search 10 Electronic Library; Life Application Bible (NIV); Union Gospel Press Expositor and Illuminator; Logos Bible Software; One Heart for God’s People, Sermon Outlines by the GNOPC, Nov 2008, Unity Sermon Series, New Orleans, LA; Precepts for Living, UMI; Outline Bible (H. L. Willmington)

#### LESSON INTRODUCTION

A familiar gospel song by Dorothy Norwood and the Georgia Mass Choir is called, “Somebody Prayed for Me.” It reminds the believer that in spite of any challenges in life, somebody, i.e., a pastor, fellow believer, family member and even Jesus Christ, has prayed for them in times past and they can have confidence that things will work out God’s way.

Our lesson this week and next will concentrate on the intercessory prayers of Jesus Christ as our Saviour and High Priest. This week’s focus is in the 17<sup>th</sup> chapter of St. John as Jesus Christ prepares to go to Calvary. He encourages His disciples by praying for them and His future Church, which included even us today. Next week the lesson will move to the letter to the Hebrews, which focuses on Jesus’ High Priestly position where He is seated to make intercession for His Church. As we focus on “**Christ’s Earthly Prayer of Intercession**” found in John 17, we will examine the following **Anticipated Power Points**:

- **Christ Intercedes for Himself. John 17:1-5**
- **Christ Intercedes for His Immediate Disciples. John 17:6-19**
- **Christ Intercedes for His Church. John 17:20-26**

#### BACKGROUND

As Jesus Christ closed His final Passover and then instituted the Lord’s Supper, it appeared that He prayed this most sacred and intimate prayer with and for His disciples before He entered the Garden of Gethsemane (Jn. 18:1-2). His prayer were not just for Himself, Peter, James, John and His immediate disciples, but we were most assuredly included as we enter the sacred event of His High Priestly prayer. According to John MacArthur, “We come to face to face communion with the Father and the Son.” How frivolous the prayers of the saints are sometimes when we listen to the prayers of our Lord Jesus Christ.

### LESSON OUTLINE

#### **I. Christ Intercedes for Himself. John 17:1-5**

According to MacArthur: “The very event that would glorify the Son was His death. By it, He has received the adoration, worship, and love of millions whose sins He bore. He accepted this path to glory, knowing that by it He would be exalted to the Father. The goal is that the Father may be glorified for His redemptive plan in the Son. So He sought by His own glory the glory of His Father.”

Beloved, in order for any of us to accomplish the will of God in our lives, we must, like Jesus, be willing to pray an unselfish prayer for strength, “Thy will O’ Lord, nothing more, nothing less, and nothing else.” Beloved, Jesus had only one true desire in His earthly mission, that all from the devil’s doorway to the lowest pauper in society, could see not Him, but the shining face of His satisfied Father, who could simply say, **“This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”** So Jesus intercedes for Himself, to bring 100% glory unto God the Father in the face of the greatest challenge of all time!

## II. Christ Intercedes for His Immediate Disciples. John 17:6-19

Because...

### A. They were His stewardship. vss. 6-10

1. Secured. vss. 6-7 – The Father entrusted the disciples into the secured hand of the Saviour. They were a part of His stewardship. Through Him they fully learned who the true God really is. (The Bread of Life (6:35); Light of the World (8:12); Good Shepherd (10:11) and so much more!)
2. Schooled. vs. 8 – Jesus was their teacher and textbook used to teach the disciples the very person and loving nature of the Father!
3. Significance. vss. 9-10 – The disciples were very significant to the Father, being the most important humans who would be entrusted with the authority to go and carry the gospel into all the world (Matt. 28:18-20). Jesus Christ intercedes for these brethren.

### B. They were His special spokesmen. vss. 11-14

1. Unified as one. vss. 11-12  
vs. 11 – Christ’s desire is that these apostles will fully mirror Him and the Father. When people hear them, it would be as hearing He and the Father.  
vs. 12 – Jesus kept all and everything in the perfection of the scriptures. Psalm 41:9 prophesied that one would be a turncoat.
2. Unlike the opposition. vss. 13-14  
vs. 13 – They are “Saturated with God’s Joy.” (Joy is gladness on steroids!)  
vs. 14 – They are “Strengthened by God’s Word” and hated by the world.

### C. They are sanctified. vss. 15-19

1. Set to oppose ungodly opposition. vss. 15-16  
“Shielded by God’s protection.” Why? vs. 16 – They are not children of this fallen generation but the well-prepared spokesmen set to preach the gospel!
2. Sanctified as God’s overcomers. vss. 17-19  
They were set apart to deliver the true Word without compromise. Oh God, give us more like them!

## III. Christ Intercedes for His Church. John 17:20-26

Why? Because the Church is the bride of great price that He purchased with His own blood! Acts 20:28 tells us, **“Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.”** Beloved, in Ephesians 5:25, Paul admonished, **“Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it.”** And one of these days He’s coming back for a Church (Bride) without spot or wrinkle!

## CLOSING

If the Church of Jesus Christ was not important, it would not be worth praying for, but I’m glad that Jesus prayed and prays for His Church past, present and future. Let us be glad and rejoice that King Jesus prayed for us and will one day return for us! **Praise the Lord...HALLELUJAH!** I Thessalonians 4:16-18, **“For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words.”**

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**TV Broadcast: WHNO TV-Channel 20, Sunday, 6:30 a.m.**



**Looking Ahead:**

**January 18, 2015**

**Hebrews 4:14 – 5:10**

**You are invited to attend Noon Bible Study every Wednesday as Pastor Davis teaches the lesson at Bibleway.**