A religious painting depicting Jesus Christ in a state of prayer. He is shown from the waist up, standing outdoors under a large, gnarled tree. He has long, wavy brown hair and a beard, and is looking upwards with his hands clasped in prayer. He wears a white tunic with a red sash draped over his left shoulder. The background is a soft, hazy landscape with green foliage and a blue sky. The overall mood is serene and contemplative.

*The
Hour
Is
Come*

*Written By Rev.
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Introduction

When we think of a specific day or time or even an hour, it usually relates to an event that has already happened or is about to take place. It could be going to work or church or on vacation. It could also be the final hour of our life. I once was involved in a betting pool that was designed to pick the exact hour of the day and even the minutes when a co-worker's wife would deliver her first child. The exact time was 10:10 p.m. I lost the bet but still rejoiced when the child was born.

Jesus identifies the hour in which God the Father would be glorified in Him. You can read all about it in the gospel of John chapter 17. The text is a summary of Jesus' prayer when He was praying for His disciples and those that would believe as a result of their belief down through the ages.

I can imagine John reconstructing Jesus' prayer. It could have been from his own memory or maybe he consulted with all the other disciples to see what they remembered. I can see Matthew saying, "I remember Jesus praying that we would have fellowship with the Father as He did." Maybe Peter recalled Jesus praying that we would actually be one with Him as He was with the Father. James could have said that he recalled Jesus saying that His authority came from God, the Father, not Himself.

Whether Jesus' prayer was a result of a committee or just one person's memory, the fact that it is in John's gospel says that it is a living testimony to exactly what Jesus was thinking. It was His desire for His disciples as they lived out their lives from generation to generation.

The Hour Is Come

Jesus begins His prayer to God, the Father by saying, "*The Hour Is Come*" in other words, this is the time that He, Jesus, should be glorified. His desire to be glorified was so He could, in turn, glorify His Father. The method of Glorification was the Cross of Calvary. The time was at hand and Jesus offers a farewell prayer to God for His disciples.

What does it mean to be glorified and to glorify another? The dictionary puts it this way...

1. to make glorious by bestowing honor, praise, or admiration.

2. *to give glory to (as in worship)*
3. *to light up brilliantly*

Jesus was praying that God, the Father, would bestow honor on Him so He could give the same honor (as in Worship) to His Father, God. Now this sounds a little strange if you look at it just on the surface but remember, Jesus emptied Himself of all divinity and became Man.

The Apostle Paul tells us this in his letter to the Philippians, *“And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient to death, even the death of the cross.”* Philippians 2:8...He gave up His divinity to become human so He could be the sacrificial Lamb of God; as the penalty for our sin and being in the form of man, glorify God. (To honor Him in worship as a man)

His prayer is to now return to God, but not before being glorified so He could once again have that divine fellowship that He once had before the world was.

“And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was.” John 17:5

Jesus, also known as, “The Word,” was with God in the beginning and He was God. *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God.”* John 1:1-2

And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

Jesus has thus identified the hour in which He will be glorified by God and when Jesus, (The only begotten Son of God), will glorify God, the Father.

Why is this so important? It is important because without Jesus being glorified (Honored), He could not have brought us into a divine fellowship with the Father, God. This type of fellowship is far superior to man’s quest for God. It is such that we can, because of it, enter into the Holy presence of God Himself without even being announced... *“Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need”* Hebrews 4:16

Our acceptance at God's throne of Grace is because of the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross and His current glorified status. Jesus is seated at the right hand of God and makes continual intercessions for all of us. *"Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us."* Romans 8:34

You don't sit at the right hand of God without being honored. It is a place of honor and is full of glory. Man never before sat in the throne of God, until Jesus was highly exalted. He earned the right to sit there by His life and obedience. Glorified He was and still is.

God's Word Is Supreme

Jesus says this in His prayer, *"I have manifested thy name unto the men which thou gavest me out of the world: thine they were, and thou gavest them me; and they have kept thy word. **Now they have known that all things whatsoever thou hast given me are of thee.** For I have given unto them the words which thou gavest me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came out from thee, and they have believed that thou didst send me."* John 17:6-8

Jesus knew that He always did what His father said. He never acted alone or without the specific direction of His Heavenly Father. There is a great lesson for us in this passage of scripture. In a world that is centered in the "Me" generation that excludes God from its reality, doing just the opposite is certainly unique. However, that is exactly what Jesus did and what He wants us to do. The Word of God is supreme. You can trust in its wisdom and counsel.

If we realize that all power comes from God, we can listen for the voice of God that will show us the way and tell us what to say in any given situation. This is what being a child of God is all about...not my will be done but rather "Thy Will Be Done", Oh Lord. The hour is come that we should move and live and have our being in Christ.

Jesus Glorified In His Followers And His Followers Glorified In Him

As we have seen, being glorified is to be honored or worshiped. Listen to what Jesus said in His prayer. *“And all mine are thine, and thine are mine; and I am glorified in them.”* John 17:10

God gave everything to Jesus and in return, Jesus gave all He had to God. The glory or honor was in the giving of one’s self and all that is associated with self. Jesus’ unconditional surrender, His giving of Himself to God, created a transfer or sharing of Authority. He did say, just prior to ascending into heaven, *“And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, “All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.”* Matthew 28:18

This “All Power” that Jesus now shares with His Heavenly Father came as a result of being glorified or honored by His Heavenly Father. His desire and prayer is that we could share in the same authority as He now has.

*He in God and God In Him and we In Him
as He and God are in each other.*

This is the ultimate oneness that could ever exist. This was Jesus’ prayer and we know it was answered because of what the apostle Paul said in Ephesians.

*“But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up together, **and made us to sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus**, that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.”* Ephesians 2:4-7 ...there could be no greater honor than to be seated together in Christ at God’s throne of Grace.



Salvation, Free Will And Destiny

I hope you have seen that all that is being foretold, in Jesus' prayer originates with God the Father and flows through Jesus to us. Listen again to what Jesus prays for...

“While I was with them in the world, I kept them in thy name: those that thou gavest me I have kept, and none of them is lost, but the son of perdition; that the scripture might be fulfilled.” John 17:12

Jesus lets it be known that He lost none of the men that His father gave Him, except, Judas, the son of perdition. Just to be clear, the word perdition, (in Christian theology), means a state of eternal punishment and damnation into which a sinful and unrepentant person passes after death.

There are a few things to realize that Jesus' prayer reveals in this scripture:

God initiates Salvation. We did not seek Him. He sought us and we responded. This concept is clearly seen in what Jesus said as recorded by John. *“No man can come to me, except the Father, which hath sent me, draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.*

It is written in the prophets, and they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me.”
John 6:44-45

It's obvious that God has been speaking to mankind for generations, calling all to come to Him through His Only Begotten Son. Our “Free Will” is also a gift from God. We can accept or reject this “Heavenly Call.” However, life eternal is at stake. If we decide not to listen or openly reject His call, we will ultimately face Him at the Great White Throne Judgment at the end of time. He has given us the right to say no and will honor our decision. He takes no prisoners. It's like this...

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. And this is the condemnation, that

light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.: John 3:16-19

Our eternal destiny is linked directly to our choices. Jesus said that there were two gates that we could enter in, one being the broad way that is full of people but leads to destruction. The other is the narrow way but leads us to life eternal. Jesus says that there are few that find it.

“Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.” Matthew 7:13-14

*“ I Peter 3:9 says... ”The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, **not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.**”*

God’s desire is that all of mankind come to repentance and be saved. However, we have the final say so. *He takes no prisoners.* If we end up going through the wide gate and experience a destiny that leads to Hell, it isn’t God’s choice or will that it happen. He is bound by His own Sovereignty to honor our free will. We send ourselves, by choice, to be destroyed and that means we will miss out on all that God has for His ultimate creation, man. The hour is come that Jesus should be glorified. It’s your choice to do so or not.

Hated By The World

As Christians, we don’t think about non-Christians hating us. Most of us were told that if we just trust in Jesus that life would be happy and without hassles. However, Jesus’ prayer reveals a truth that few now-a-day Christians believe. Listen to what Jesus says in verse 14 of John chapter seventeen...

“I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.” John 17:14

Notice that this, “without a cause,” hatred is because the followers were given the Word of God. It is the Word that transforms us and takes us out of

the world system of things. We no longer like the dirty jokes, immorality, liberal mindset and all the other things that go with being part of this world.

We have been translated into Christ and now walk with Him in the Spirit. It's an entirely new lifestyle where Jesus is Lord and we are His disciples. That's why the world hates us...because we no longer walk with them along the broad way that leads to destruction.

As I said, it is important to realize that you will be hated because the world hates Jesus...and if you follow Him, you'll be hated too. The only way to not be hated is to make friends with the world by compromising your values and turning away from your beliefs. However, God sees this as treason and even says that those that do so will reap what the sow and that will not be a happy outcome. See it in the scriptures.... Galatians 6:7 *"Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows."*

This doesn't mean that we are to try to be perfect in every way and always be obedient. We are of a fallen nature that causes us to always fall short of what God wants and expects. That's why we seek God's forgiveness. I John 1:9 says, *"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."*

Our salvation is based upon what Jesus did, not our good deeds. We are saved by grace through faith. It is a gift of God. (See Ephesians 2:8-10)

So...because we are joined to Jesus, the world hates us but that's ok. They walk in darkness and do not understand.

Separated From The Crowd

Jesus prayed that we would become separate from the world. How do we withdraw from life and yet master it? Well... we do not withdraw. We, instead rule over it in the power of Christ, utilizing His wisdom and mercy. Being separate does not mean being shy, afraid, and submissive to evil or anything else that exalts itself above the knowledge of God.

"For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to

the obedience of Christ, and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled.” II Corinthians 10:3-6 ...we do not have to live in bondage.

I believe that God wants us to bring life not death to an immoral society. I believe that morality is part of the character of God and He wants it restored in the earth. I always pray that this revelation will grow in me and blossom so I can bless God. Here's what Jesus said about that...

“I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. I pray not that thou should take them out of the world, but that thou should keep them from the evil. They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.” John 17:14-16

If they, the disciples, are not of the world, then where are they? The word that Jesus shared with them took them out of the world system of things. They suddenly realized that their world, with all its evil, was set for destruction. No longer could they find peace and a future by following the ever-changing morals of their society.

However, Jesus' disciples were not forced to learn from Him or pushed into following Him. They were eager learners that recognized that He was the “Christ”, the “Only Begotten of the Father”, the “Coming One” This is a far cry from today. Most Christians do not consider themselves a “Followers” of Jesus. Nor do they, in their wildest imagination, see themselves as a “Disciple”

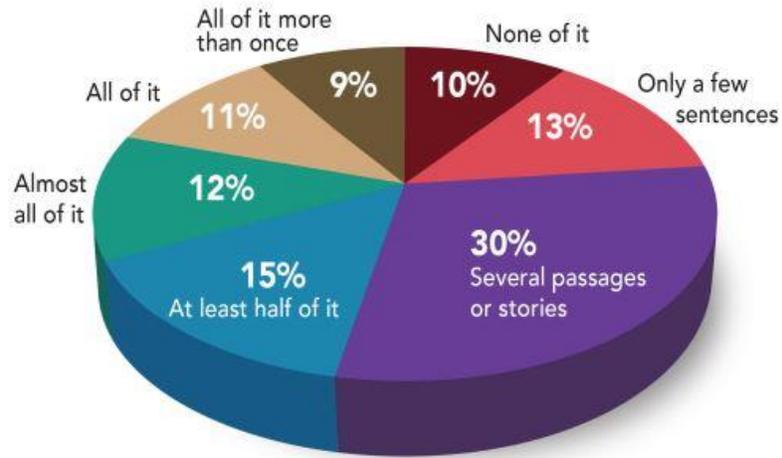
Today's Christianity is a watered down stale religion where folks do their own thing, keep their own stuff, focus on their, “Me” generation instead of being obedient to the teaching of Christ. This is evident by the statistics that tell us about Christianity a group.

1. More than 30% of all abortions come from women who profess to be Christian.
2. Over 44% of today's church goer's believe that you can get into heaven outside of personal faith in Jesus.
3. Four out of ten Christians (40%) strongly agreed that Satan “is not a living being but is just a symbol of evil.”

4. Nearly one-third of adults say they never read, listen to or pray with the Bible (32%), a five-percentage point increase over 2016.

Among Americans:

How much of the Bible have you personally read?



It's obvious that discipleship is a thing of the past. It's also evident that the World has invaded the church and diluted its core teachings. The Bible does say that the end will not come until there is a great falling away from the faith...

“Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him, that ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand. Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;” II Thessalonians 2:1-3

However, that doesn't necessarily mean anything to you and me. We are not a statistic. We can be the ones that take Jesus seriously and make Him Lord over our lives.

What's In Your Heart?

“And I have declared unto them thy name, and will declare it: that the love wherewith thou hast loved me may be in them, and I in them.” John 17:26

Jesus wanted the love that He shared with God, the Father, to be seen in us. He wanted to personally bring that love into our hearts and dwell there as

our Lord and Savior. In order for this to become a reality, we must surrender to His will and forsake our own.

He must be “Lord of All” or He is not Lord At All. Half measures just do not work.

The Apostle Paul wrote to the Ephesians, “*And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit.*” Ephesians 5:18... This is a be-being experience that requires a continual infilling. That means we need to seek the Lord daily and even at different times in a day if necessary to be filled.

The reason for such an effort is because the things of this world get to us and quite often pull us away into the “flesh”, (identifies certain sins as "carnal" sins, from Latin caro, carnis, **meaning "flesh."**), This is where we become worldly. We can see that happening by observing our attitude. If it is a manifestation of the fruit of God’s Spirit, we’re ok. On the other hand, if it is a manifestation of the deeds of the flesh, we need an immediate infilling. You can read all about the deeds of the flesh and the fruit of the Spirit in Galatians chapter five.

Oneness Among His Followers

Jesus wanted us, His followers, to be one as He is one with God, the Father. He even took steps to see that this oneness would happen. He gave us the same glory that was given to Him by His Father. Remember, glory is the same as being bestowed with great honor and respect. Here’s the proof text...

“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. And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one:” John 17:21-22

What has happened to the glory and the great respect? I believe that it faded away over the centuries through false teachings, heresy, power seekers, and increased demonic activity. There is no way that we can agree to agree. To do so would be joining those that follow false doctrines of devils. Here are some demonic lies that have deceived many even in our modern day.

1. Salvation is by works, not grace alone.
2. There is no real devil. That is a myth to scare children into being good.
3. Hell does not exist because a good God could never send anyone to a place of endless torment and pain.
4. Jesus showed us how to be good but other religions are equally good and can get us into heaven.
5. Abortion is ok because it is the law of the land.
6. Gay (Homosexual) people are ok because it's just an alternate lifestyle. They have a right to be different.

These are just a few doctrine that separate believers. If you agree with them, you are rejecting the truth of God as revealed in the Bible. The prophet Amos said, "*Can two walk together, unless they are agreed?*" Amos 3:3... The inference is, "NO" they cannot.

Oneness among believers comes only when they agree as touching a given issue or concern. We can agree to disagree but that gets us nowhere. It's a side step around the issue so as to keep the peace. However, there is still no oneness or unity of mind and Spirit. It's only calling a truce for the moment.

In these last days, before Jesus returns, our unity/oneness will be found among the like-minded who are in the Spirit and walking with the Lord. Trying to be one with an unbeliever or a professing Christian that is still in the world is like befriending a poisonous snake. After a while, the snake will bit you and it won't be pretty.

Conclusion

We should know that the prayer of Jesus in John chapter seventeen has already been answered, is being answered in every generation and will be answered in the days to come. God has highly honored Him and He is glorified now in the heavens and on earth in us.

As I read this chapter, I draw these conclusions:

1. Jesus knows that we will suffer persecution and hatred while on the earth. Thus He has sent His Holy Spirit as a guide and comforter to help us make it through all the hassles.

“And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;” John 14:16

2. We can be one with Jesus and God, the Father and should seek to find it daily.

“That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ. And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full.” I John 1:3-4

3. Oneness with other believers is possible as long as they are of like-mind.

“Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.” I Corinthians 1:10

4. God wants us to be separated from the children of darkness for we; the children of light have nothing in common with them...true fellowship is impossible.

“Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?

And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?

And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you.” II Corinthians 6:14-17

5. God’s Word is our authority and our victory over evil.

“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man

of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.” II Timothy 3:16-17

6. Salvation is of the Lord. It is His finished work of grace on our behalf.

“But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.” Ephesians 2:4-9

7. Jesus is our destiny. We will forever be with Him.

“In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.” John 14:2-3

8. The hour in which Jesus should be glorified is come. It is here and it is to be a life-changing event in us that shakes the entire world.

“For God has not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.” II Timothy 1:7

Let us follow after the lord, laying down our own lives and glorifying His wonderful name. The hour is come for you and me to glorify Jesus.

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