

**Title – The Lord's Prayer, Part II**

**Opening**

This morning we continue in Jesus' wonderful and powerful prayer. Last week we examined Christ's prayer for Himself in verses 1 to 5. Now, we continue His prayer for His disciples in verses 6 to 19. Jesus' prayer is different than ours because we are primarily selfish creatures.

The ninetieth century poet Robert Browning said, "Man seeks his own good at the whole world's cost." Can we not see our fallen nature in our prayers? We pray for ourselves much of the time and even when we do pray for others it is often from the viewpoint how it helps us. We pray, "Lord, help my wife to get better – so she can cook meals, do the laundry and take care of me." We may not say it quite that openly, but our thoughts often betray us. We pray, "Lord, let my boss come to Christ – so he won't be so mean and I will have a better place to work."

Jesus was not selfish and His prayers are not either. It is true that Jesus' prayer began concerning Himself. In verse one He says, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you." Even this is not selfish, for He asks that He will be glorified in order that the Father would receive even greater glory. The first five verses are focused on Jesus' glory in order to glorify the Father. However, the next twenty-one verses Jesus focuses on His disciples and then all believers who will follow.

## For His Disciples

Verse six is transitional and contains important doctrine. Jesus said, **"I have manifested your name to the people whom you gave me out of the world. Yours they were, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word."** To **"manifest"** the name of God means to reveal or make known. To make known who God is involves God's name, His character, His Word and the gospel He has given us through Christ. Here in verse 6 we find the doctrines of divine sovereignty – first, that God elected sinners for salvation in eternity past. Secondly, God has given those He has chosen to Jesus. Third, Jesus has made God known to them. And, fourth, human responsibility; people are held accountable for how they respond to the Gospel of Christ and for keeping His word. **The disciples have been obedient and Jesus says, "they have kept your word."** This is the **goal** for all believers - for you and me. Very matter of factually the scriptures teach, **"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, 4 even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love 5 he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will."** (Ephesians 1:3-5) Here Paul reaffirms what Jesus taught in verse 6 of John 17.

The first thing we learn in verse 6 is, **"Yours they were"** or that those given to Jesus are created by and belong to God; He can do as He wishes with us. Specifically the disciples specifically were given to Jesus who made the gospel known to them. Jesus makes the gospel known to us, as well, through the power of the Holy Spirit. There is order in these four things and it is obvious that our

response is and should be last.

To understand that all, everything, belongs to God, I ask, “Do you believe that from the smallest particle man has been able to discover to the expanse of the universe, which is beyond our knowledge, all, everything exists because of the Creator God?” Everything obeys the laws set in motion by God. God is the only thing outside of the laws of the universe for He is independent of the universe and existed before the universe was created. If this were not so, God would not be able to bend or supersede the laws of the universe and do what we as humans refer to as miracles. God controls all creation, not the other way around. Why would the God who has created every atom in the universe have a special and specific creation He is concerned with? The answer is because God loves us.

Above all other creation God desires **relationship** with those He has chosen, made in His image, and given to Jesus. Paul spoke of this to the believers in Rome,

**29** “For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.

**30** And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.” (Romans 8:29-30) You

see it is this possession of His own by God which Jesus is focused on in His prayer.

Jesus says, “I have manifested your name to the people whom you gave me out of the world.” (v.6) It is this possession by God and His gift of believers to Christ

that is the foundation and assurance of our salvation. Our salvation was not a whim of God for it had been His plan since before creation. We, you and I have whims, but not God. Our salvation did not rely on our choosing, because we are inconsistent and falter in our resolve and this is very unlike God. Our salvation is possible because it does not rely on us, but on the Creator God.

Jesus did not need to speak verbally to talk with God. Now that the cross is near, Jesus says this prayer in order that the disciples will hear. Jesus knew the immediate future; He knew the disciples would abandon Him and that their faith would be shaken, but He also knew they were the future of His church. This prayer can be broken into two parts: Jesus' prayer for the disciples whom the Father had given Him in verses 6 to 10 and second His requests for them in the light of His soon departure in verses 11 to 19. We will spend time in verse 6 as the foundation and then 7 to 10 as Jesus prayed to the Father for His disciples.

**Prayer** is the lifeblood of our communication with God. If Jesus had not gone to the cross we would have no true way to communicate with Him. Jesus prays for the disciples that God has given Him, for their mission will be the same as His has been - to glorify God to the world. Now that Jesus no longer walks this earth how do we know the will of God? We know the will of God through God's Word, but even that is a mystery without the Spirit and prayer is greatly limited without the Spirit. We just looked at verses 29 and 30 of Romans chapter 8, but let me back up so we can see the foundation of those verses, please turn to verse 26, "The Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words." *God knew that we are weak and He had to give us a way to pray to Him that was not dependent solely on us, this is just one aspect of how the Holy Spirit helps us.* Back to verse 27 "And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God." *When we pray, we are not to pray like so many and ask for our wants, although we can share with God what our wants are, but we are to pray through the Spirit to know the will of God. As we grow in our understanding of God's will then we*

*understand verse 28* “we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.” (Romans 8:26-28) Believers “are called according to his purpose.” What is God’s purpose?

### Name of God Manifested

To manifest God’s name or to make the name of God known, was a core purpose of Christ’s mission on earth as verse 6 records Jesus saying to God the Father, “I have manifested your name to the people whom you gave me out of the world.” Jesus **manifested** God’s name to Israel, to the disciples and to those **whom God the Father gave Jesus out of the world.”** This became the mission of the disciples and is our mission today. King David said, “those who know your name put their trust in you, for you, O LORD, have not forsaken those who seek you.” (Psalm 9:10) Later David said of his mission in life, “I will tell of your name to my brothers; in the midst of the congregation I will praise you: You who fear the LORD, praise him!” (Psalm 22:22-23) My mission is to tell you of God the Father and God the Son so that you may fulfill your mission to go into the world and share the gospel of Christ with the lost.

We have a resource unlike any other in the world. We have the Word of God written, in the Flesh and in Spirit. As we study the Word and seek the will of God as individuals, as families and as a church, God spiritually removes us from this world and we have direct communion with Him and we manifest His name in our praise, prayer and the living of our lives to bring Him glory. Through the Spirit we are connected to the divine power of the universe – does this thought not just sit you back in awe and make you tremble? It overwhelms me because I realize I'm not worthy of this relationship. I don't deserve to be loved like that. So, I just say

-- Halleluiah for grace, praise God and I accept His gift of grace and strive to live for Him.

This was the work of the cross: Jesus secured salvation for all the people who are God's **called** – the people God had chosen for all history and before history. The intercession of Jesus on the cross enables us to become believers. When I am asked if I am a Christian, I like to respond in this way saying, "I am a believer and follower of Jesus Christ." I do this because what does the word "Christian" mean in America or in the world for that matter? It means those who believe the Bible is the inspired Word of God, but it also means those who believe the Bible is stories and guidelines to be used as we chose and even rewritten as we desire. My beloved you and I are the remnant, as the Marine Corp would say, we are the few and the proud: the few who believe God as He has revealed Himself and the proud in the glory of Christ and to live for His glory. This is also why we are to not have close or intimate relationships with those that are not part of God's chosen remnant. Jesus never tried to force a relationship with anyone not given to Him by the Father, He shared the gospel with all, but invested only in those whom God has called. We are to follow this example today.

### **Jesus' Ministry**

In verses 7 and 8 Jesus capsulizes His ministry and mission, **7 "Now they know that everything that you have given me is from you. 8 For I have given them the words that you gave me, and they have received them and have come to know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me."** Jesus taught His followers and especially His disciples everything that God the Father wanted Him to teach. Jesus said, **"I have given them the words that you gave me,**

and they have received them and have come to know in truth.” (v.8) Jesus was obedient to the mission God gave Him, even unto death. They disciples were obedient, at least almost all the time for they were redeemed sinners like you and me, but they too taught the words of God and were obedient unto death. What this means for you and me is that we are to be obedient to the calling of Christ in our lives, study His Word and share the gospel unto death; whether that is our natural death as we live and grow old or our unnatural death by being martyred for the glory of Christ our Lord.

The message of Christ is more than the cross. I do not want to minimize the cross for without it there is no salvation, but there is more than the cross. Jesus is telling God the Father that the disciples, “have received *Jesus words* and have come to know truth.” The truth of Jesus’ work did not stop at the cross, but continues. In Hebrews we see Jesus “is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.” Hebrews 7:25 makes two important points: first, our Lord Jesus lives eternally, and second, our Lord, who is alive makes constant intercession for those God has given to Him and because of Him they draw near to God.

Now we can better understand what Jesus said in verses 9 and 10 of John 17, “I am praying for them. I am not praying for the world but for those whom you have given me, for they are yours. **10** All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I am glorified in them.” God did not save some and then sit back to observe as some of those who claim to be saved would argue. God saved you to love you and for you to love Him. This is why Jesus intercedes for you constantly. We often fail, but He is ever before God so that God sees us through the sinless life of

Jesus. This is love, not as we know it or even fully understand it for this is the pure love of God for His children. Now is this not an amazing thought? Does this not make you want to shout praises to God?

### Name of God - Meaning

Jesus said, “I have manifested your name to the people” in verse 6 of John 17. Jesus made the name of God known. What do the names of God tell us about Him and why does He have so many names? In the first verse of the Bible the name of God that is used is “*Elohim*” meaning “Mighty Creator” a very appropriate name for Genesis 1:1. In addition it is unique in that it is a singular word with a plural meaning, thus at the very beginning of God’s holy Word there is found the concept of the Trinity. “*El Shadday*” in Genesis 17 means “God the Mountain One” and like a mountain God is strong and unchanging. “*El Shadday*” is found over 400 times in scripture. Then in Genesis 21 we find “*El Olam*” meaning God the eternal, everlasting, forever and ancient. This name is found only 4 times in scripture. In Genesis 22 Moses writes God’s name as “*Yahweh Yireh*” (yah-WEH yir-EH) meaning “The Lord Will Provide.” The names of God help reveal who He is and His characteristics. His names are many in the Bible, we could go on and on. I suggest you get the book the women spent over a year studying, “*The Names of God*” by Ann Spangler. It will enrich your understanding of our Creator God.

Jesus revealed a unique name for God. The name is “**Father.**” This name is truly unique among all religions in the world. Today we are comfortable with the name of Father used to speak of God. But at the time of Christ to use such a name for God was unheard of. The thought of have familiarity with “*Elohim*” was foreign.



We know that the use and concept of God as Father was new with Jesus. Jesus always used the name Father when speaking and praying with one exception. Can anyone tell me what that exception is? This exception reinforces the importance of Jesus using the title of “Father” for God. This exception is found in Matthew 27:46 and Mark 15:34. Brother David would read aloud for everyone Mark 15:34. “And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, ‘Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?’ which means, ‘My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?’ ” Thank you Brother David. Here Jesus uses a form of God’s name “*Elohim.*” Jesus speaks from the cross at the moment He was made sin for our salvation. The intimate fellowship He always had with God the Father is momentarily broken.

The Lord Jesus’ use of “Father” when speaking to God revealed Him as the Son of God. After His resurrection Jesus reveals that this name “Father” may also be used by those who become sons of God through their salvation found in Him. Jesus said to Mary Magdalene outside the tomb, “Do not cling to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to my brothers and say to them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’ ” (John 20:17) Jesus made clear that through Him we are to enjoy an intimate relationship with God as our “Father,” which is a unique only for the believers in Jesus as the **risen Christ**. Jesus began teaching this very idea back in Matthew chapter 6 in what we call the “Sermon on the Mount” saying in verse 9 this how you should pray, “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.” This means while God has many names in the Bible to help us understand who He is: Mighty Creator, The God who sees me, Almighty, Everlasting, the Lord who provides, Master, Healer, Consuming Fire, Peace, Shepherd, King, Eternally Living, Righteous and many

other outstanding and defining names. We have the privilege to know God as “*Abba*” our “Father.” God was your Father before you were born, He was your Father when He awoken you spiritually and during your infancy as a believer in Jesus. He is a loving Father who, earthly fathers are to model themselves after, but because sin came into the world through Adam not all earthly fathers are as God the Father originally designed them to be; that is a father walks with you through life, loving you, teaching you, protecting you and equipping you to mature and be able to love and serve others as modeled by Jesus.

Is God your Father? If He is, He will be your Father today, tomorrow and for eternity. Our country and society use to recognize human fathers as essential and responsible for the protection and care of their children, but our society is sick and failing.

As a fallen, but redeemed father I am reminded of the story of Charles Francis Adams, the 19th century American political figure and diplomat, who kept a diary. One day he entered in his diary: "Went fishing with my son today--a day wasted." Charles' son, Brook, also kept a diary. On that same day, Brook Adams made this entry: "Went fishing with my father--the most wonderful day of my life!" The father thought he was wasting his time while fishing with his son, but his son saw it as an investment of time. The only way to tell the difference between wasting and investing is to know one's ultimate purpose in life and to judge accordingly.

In addition, Brook Adams graduated from Harvard in 1870. He authored a number of books. See if you think what Brook taught has any bearing on our country and us today. Brook taught, that commercial civilizations rise and fall in predictable cycles. First, masses of people draw together in large population

centers and engage in commercial activities. As their desire for wealth grows, they discard spiritual and creative values. Their greed leads to distrust and dishonesty, and eventually the society crumbles. We can certainly see this in the history of Rome and other civilizations. Let me ask you, “Do we see any of these traits today in America, especially the discarding of God?”

The result of earthly fathers failing to live as the spiritual leaders of their family is seen in the startling results of research conducted by the Christian Business Men's Committee. Their research found the following: When the father is an active believer, there is about 75% likelihood that the children will also become active believers. But if only the mother is a believer, this likelihood is dramatically reduced to 15%.

God the Father, on the other hand, accepts His responsibility of His children through Jesus and is ever faithful. He will not let you down, He will not disappoint and He will not desert you. **God our Father cares more for each of His children than for all other creation.** In Matthew chapter 6 where Jesus taught us how to pray to our heavenly Father He continues teaching many things and towards the end of His teaching Jesus says, “If God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? **31** Therefore do not be anxious, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ **32** For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. **33** But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.” (Matthew 6:30-33) My beloved, we are to seek first to live in God’s will and His righteousness and honor Him.

If God is your Father, He will preserve you to the end. Nothing in this world can change your relationship with Him. I pray for you, my beloved, and for myself that we will live worthy of our high calling as a child of the living God that we have the privilege to call "Father."

Let me end by praying for us.