

## Jesus' prayer for believers

### The hope of believers

One night at dinner a man, who had spent many summers in Maine, fascinated his companions by telling of his experiences in a little town named Flagstaff. The town was to be flooded, as part of a large lake for which a dam was being built. In the months before it was to be flooded, all improvements and repairs in the whole town were stopped. Why repair anything when the whole village was to be wiped out? So, week by week, the whole town became more and more bedraggled, more gone to seed, more woebegone. Then he added by way of explanation: "Where there is no *hope* in the future, there is no power in the present." *Halford E. Luccock*

John 17:24

Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.

#### 1) The desire of Jesus

- John 17:24 Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am.
- God doesn't just save us and give us a hope because he feels sorry for us. He himself desires us to have salvation and the hope that that salvation brings.
  - Jesus gave Himself to die on a cross because He loved us
  - Romans 5:8 God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
- We need to keep in mind that Jesus was praying for believers in this prayer.
  - ..they also, whom you have given me...
  - This means that believers need prayer to persevere in the faith until the end
  - If Jesus prayed for believers to be with Him, then we ought to be praying for one another
  - It also means that we can't just relax in our salvation, do whatever we want to do, even if it's contrary to the will of God, and expect to attain to the final glory of God
- Paul gives warnings to believers
  - 1 Corinthians 10:9-12 <sup>9</sup> We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents, <sup>10</sup> nor grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer. <sup>11</sup> Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come. <sup>12</sup> Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall.
- As much as our salvation is a gift of God by the grace of God and we are also sustained by the grace of God throughout our lives, we have a responsibility to live lives according to that grace
  - Philippians 2:12-13 Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.
  - We work our what God works in us
- We hold on to Him, but ultimately know that He is faithful to us
  - Hebrews 10:23 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful.
- Hope and faith work together
  - Hebrews 11:1 Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.
  - We persevere through the trials of life because we have that assurance of what we hope for – what Christ has promised us and we are certain that He is faithful to give it to us

## 2) The hope of believers

- Many times when we think about our hope and our inheritance in heaven we think about eternal life – life without end full of bliss.
  - We think about streets of gold and mansions, which we will encounter in our heavenly abode
- However, what was Jesus' idea of our hope?
  - John 17:24 Father, I desire **that they also**, whom you have given me, **may be with me where I am**.
  - John 14:3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and **will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also**.
- Jesus isn't interested in the things you'll get in heaven. He's interested in you having Him for Himself
  - In Him is eternal life. Without Him we have no hope. He Himself is our hope of glory
  - Colossians 1:27 To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.
- What we ought to be looking forward to is our marriage to our bridegroom
  - Revelation 19:7-8 Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride has made herself ready; it was granted her to clothe herself with fine linen, bright and pure" – for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints.
  - When a man and woman are about to get married, they put all their effort into that wedding day – the day of their marriage – to make it a special day
  - It's not so much the day, but their love for each other that makes them look forward to their relationship being consummated in marriage to live the rest of their lives together
- Jesus, our bridegroom, initiated the relationship with us as He loved us to make us ready for Himself
  - Ephesians 5:25-27 Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that he might present the church to himself in splendour, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.
  - In the same way that we take marriage vows on the day of our marriage, which is a covenant between Husband and wife, so Jesus has made a covenant between Himself and us, His bride to be
- He desires us to be in heaven with Him as an eternal relationship between us, and He desires that we love Him in the same way that we long for that Day when we'll be united with Him in all glory forever
- He's coming for those who don't just want to escape this world and its hardships, or those who are looking forward to mere bliss in paradise for eternity, but for those who are waiting for Him.
  - Hebrews 9:28 So Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.
- If we don't love Jesus and want Him now, we won't want Him when He comes.
- He Himself is our hope. Do we love Him and desire to spend eternity with Him as much as He loves us and desires us to spend eternity with Him?

## 3) Not what is, but what will be

- Hope never focuses on what is now, but what will be revealed and given
  - John 17:24 Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.
  - Jesus stepped down and out of the fulness of His glory for a short time that He might redeem us to share in His glory to be revealed when He comes back
  - Romans 8:18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.
- Whatever our lot in life is, hold on to the hope of glory in Jesus who is faithful and true to you to the end.