

John 59 – Christ Prays for Us – Then for Himself

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John 17:20-26

Christ Includes All Believers

- Christ requests to the Father extends to all New Covenant believers (Includes all believers in all times)
 - All believers will obtain the New Covenant in the New Earth/Jerusalem eternity (Bride of Christ) (Re 21:1-3)
 - Everyone has a simultaneous intimate relationship to the Son (Re 1:36; 10:12; Ga 3:28; Col 3:11; Re 2:17)
 - Everyone has unique individual function in His body (1Co 12:12-14)

Christ Excludes the World

- Christ clearly said He was not praying for the World
 - He prayed for those given Him by the Father
 - The Logos of the Father (Light) excludes the Lost who have the logos of Lucifer (Darkness)
- World ignores this teaching – Universalism
 - All will be saved by *loving* God who would not keep anyone in torment forever: Man's philosophy; not Bible

Apostles Laid the Foundation

- The Apostles, eyewitnesses to Christ, taught Christ's teachings and, via the Spirit, laid the foundation for the Scriptures, transmitting the Gospel to the World
 - Each person has his, her, place in Christ's body and ministry as directed by the Spirit (1Co 12:12-31)
 - No one is of more importance than another; it is the *charisma* of the Spirit that empowers believers (1Co 19:1-10)

Basis for Unity of Believers

- The basis for the unity of believers is the word of God which negates doctrine based on:
 - Emotionalism (Pentecostalism)
 - Intellectualism (Mainline denominations)
 - Philosophy (Social Justice Evangelicalism)
- Scriptures, via normative hermeneutical interpretation, is the only basis for knowing Christ and His Gospel

English idiom: You cannot turn a sow's ear into a silk purse
All governments belong to Lucifer (Mt 4:8-10)
Christians who seek to turn their government into a Christian rule are doomed to apostasy

All Believers Unified via the Son

- Believers bound to the Scriptures written by saints as *breathed out* by God, empowered by Spirit (Ep 4:4-7, 2Ti 3:14-17)
 - One Gospel
 - One Logos
 - One Faith
 - One Baptism
- Our difference: Assigned ministry by Christ (Ep 4:11-14)

Saints: Refers to all saved persons united by the Spirit, given the New Covenant nature
Saints does not refer to people considered especially holy by man; misnomer
Violates unity of the Body

Believers Living Epistles {Testaments}

- Believers from every age left in the World to be living letters of the Truth of the Father's Gospel to the World leaving the World without excuse (2Co 3:1-3; 4:3-6)
- It is not only the Bible but the Bible *and True* believers that carry the message of salvation until Christ returns (Ro 10:6-17)
- False believers demand works as *proof* of Christ's gospel; they would seek to have Him die before them and still they would not believe (He 6:4-6)

Same Logos: Same Glory

- The new nature is the Father's Logos
 - Christ was of the Father's Logos
 - Apostles, on Pentecost, would have the Father's Logos
 - All subsequent believers will have the Father's Logos
 - Since all share His Logos, all exhibit His glory though veiled in our fleshly body until it is shed to reveal His glory in us (1Co 13:9-12; 15:42-49; Col 1:27)

We Are to Be With Him Also

- Christ ends with the request that all believers be with Him after shedding the fleshly body to include:
 - All saved during *First Fruits* Dispensation {Raptured}
 - Old Testament saints raised at the Millennial Kingdom
 - Millennial Kingdom saints brought into New Jerusalem
- All believers through time will be in the New Heaven, Earth and Jerusalem: Bride of Christ - New Covenant (Re 21:1-7, 9-14, 22:25; 22:1-5)

Visible Quality of God: Love

- How do we *know* we are in the Body of Christ? We exhibit the Love of God (1Co 13:4-8, 13; 1Jo 4:30-18)
 - As we mature in Christ, we more fully exhibit God's love; the outward manifestation of His Logos
 - If we say we are saved but do not exhibit His love, we are in effect calling Christ a liar; and ourselves lost (1Jo 1:5-10; 2:4-6, 9-11)
 - Faith without love is simply faith in Lucifer (Jo 8:44; Jo 2:12-19)
Everyone lives by faith (He 11:2)
The empirical test live by faith; in fact, it is impossible to be faithless
The evidence of one's faith, worship, reveals one's moral source: Father or Lucifer

Christ's Prayer for Believers Ends

- John is the only gospel to detail Christ's prayer for all believers; yet, this is not the His only prayer
- The Synoptic Gospels detail Christ's personal prayer for the events to come: Betrayal and Execution (Mt 26:36-46; Mk 14:32-42; Lk 22:41-46)
- This gives us insight into the humanity of Jesus having trials like ourselves (He 2:14-18; 4:14-16)

Christ's Soul Agonizes

- Jesus did not simply, calmly face the torture and agonizing stauros with calm passivity; His flesh agonized over the torture and His Logos agonized over the separation from the Father He was to suffer as Sin for sinners (Jo 4:2-4:5)
- He took the three Apostles: Peter, James, John as were with Him during the Transfiguration for same reasons
Christ agonized frequently over the coming torture and death for sin
This probably not the first time He prayed to the Father about His death
It is not wrong for us to fear death (separation); it is wrong to do our will

Jesus Warns Apostles of Weakness

- When Christ leaves His three Apostles, He warns them not to succumb to the flesh, sleep, but pray with Him
 - They did not pray with or for Him (pre-Pentecost)
 - They were not able to exercise control over their flesh emphasizing the need of Jesus to die for sinful men (Jn 4:6-7)
 - They fell asleep three times (Showed complete weakness)

Jesus Like Us in All Aspects

- Christ did not want to experience death: Testing Him
 - This was the beginning of the final examination of Him as acceptable Paschal Lamb
 - His anguish is such that He sweats blood
 - He exhibits normal fear of death (separation from God)
 - Christ never separated from God; unlike us who were born separated from God & struggle to know God now (Jn 13:12)

Ever Present: Lucifer/Satan

- All Creation comes down to this decision; if He succumbs to His flesh there is no salvation: ever (Jn 5:16-18)
 - The indwelling Spirit strengthened Him; thus, Christ prayed not for His will but for God's will (Unlike us)
 - The angel strengthened His flesh so it would not die before its time on the stauros: "It is finished"
 - Though not detailed one can detect Lucifer's hand tempting Christ to reject the death of the stauros (Mk 4:1-11)

After Each Period of Prayer...

- Christ returned to the three Apostles after each period of agonizing prayer only to find them asleep
 - He tells them to resist temptation of the flesh not to pray; i.e., to live only in one's own strength (Failure)
 - He specifically tells Peter to resist his fleshly weakness warning Peter why he will fail his coming trial; even after being warned it was coming from Lucifer this night

Finally, His Betrayer Cometh

- After the third period of prayer, Christ returns to His three sleeping Apostles saying, "His Betrayer Comes"
 - Priesthood rejected God's truth Lucifer, most intimate of angels, sinned first
 - Apostle rejects Christ as Savior All were sources of God's truth
All rejected and betrayed God
- Thus ends the teaching ministry of Christ and begins the purchasing of the New Covenant as the Paschal Lamb

Comparing Christ's Prayers

- | <u>For Believers</u> | <u>For Himself</u> |
|---|--|
| ○ To the Father | ○ To the Father |
| ○ Quiet confidence Father will answer His prayer | ○ Agonized over His coming suffering and separation |
| ○ Unity of all believers based on Father's Logos with believers revealing His Love via the Spirit | ○ Relegates His will to the Father's will to be Paschal Lamb despite rebellion of His flesh to this prospect |

Teaches Us How to Pray

- When we pray for others, we are to perpetuate Christ's example:
 - Pray to the Father based on His will revealed in Bible
 - Quote specific promises as basis for your prayers
 - Pray specifically for God's will for others
 - Be willing to submit your desires to the Father's desires
 - Earthly ends (Death) are not spiritual ends (Life)

In the Face of Adversity

- We are to pray according to God's will
 - It is not faithless to ask the testing/trouble to cease
 - It is faithless demanding God do our will if He loves us
 - It is a sign of our maturing relationship that we accept the Father's will even to our current detriment
 - Faith recognizes that God works from Love for our good even if it means that our current hardship continues
(Ro 8:28-30), 2Co 12:7-10)

Prayer Reveals Basis of Our Faith

- Much of what passes for prayer in many churches from many Christians is demands that God gratify the flesh or give power to usher in God's kingdom on earth {Postmillennialism: Unscriptural} (Mt 7:15; Ro 2:13-15; Ja 4:1-7)
- Christians are to learn humility by testing; but, many regal in pride becoming more emissaries for Lucifer than disciples for Christ; until judged (2Co 5:6-10; 1Th 5:6-11)