

## A Prayer for All Time: Part 2

John 17.9-19

In His high priestly prayer, Jesus asked His Father to glorify Him as He completed His mission to save mankind. He then prays for His disciples as they continue living in the world. But His prayer for them is not what we might expect. Hint: It's *not* for health, wealth, or prosperity!

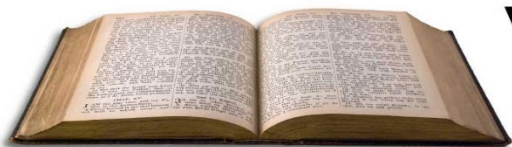
Who are Jesus' Disciples? Those who...

- Belong to God, and are given to Christ (9-10a)
- Are in the world, but not of the world (11, 14c, 16)
- They glorify Christ, and are hated by the world (10b, 14b)
- They have received (taken in) God's word (14a; cf. 17.8)
- They are sent by Jesus to the world (15a, 18)

Jesus' Prayer for His Disciples

- "Keep them in Your name" (guard their hearts; 11)  
*Jesus did this for the disciples while He was on earth (12)*  
*God does this for us through His Spirit in us (John 14.17)*
- "Keep them from the evil one" (but not out of the world; 15)  
*Believers are not 'of the world' anymore! (16)*
- "Sanctify them in the truth" (which is Your word; 17)  
*Sanctify = consecrate = "set apart for special use"*  
*Jesus and Scripture together 'set us apart' to be used by God*

# Sanctify them by Your truth.



# Your word is truth.

John 17.17

May 11, 2025



New Braunfels Bible Church

1. In the opening of His prayer in John 17, Jesus declares that He has completed (in His forthcoming death and resurrection) the work His Father sent Him to do. All is accomplished; the way is prepared for His disciples to 'pick up the baton' and take the gospel to the world. This 'rescue mission' now *depends* on the disciples. Do you see why Jesus did not pray for the world, but for His disciples (9)? How does Jesus' prayer for His disciples demonstrate His love for the world? How is Jesus glorified through His disciples (10b)?
2. In v11, Jesus anticipates the time when He will no longer be in the world with His disciples. In v12 He states that while He was with them, He was 'keeping' or 'guarding' them. How did He do this? What is He therefore asking the Father to do when He is gone? How is this accomplished in our lives today? Do you ever sense God guarding your heart? See Jn 14.17, 26-27; Phil. 4.4-7.
3. It is common in our prayers to ask God to deliver us from the world, from who would hate us, persecute us, even kill us. Of course, Jesus willingly came into the world, knowing that it would hate Him and eventually kill Him. (Do you still want to be like Jesus?) Jesus knew His followers would be hated by the world (see Jn. 16.2!), but He clearly did *not* pray for us to be spared this hostility (14-15a)! What does this show about His desire for us, and for the world? What that we do *now* will bring us joy in *eternity* (see Matt. 25.19-23)?
4. The word "sanctify" occurs in verses 17-19. It sounds 'spiritual,' but is confusing to many. What does it mean for us to be "sanctified in the truth" (17), or for Jesus to 'sanctify Himself' (19)? The Greek word translated "sanctify" is ἁγιάζω (*hagiazō*), closely related to the word for "holy" (ἅγιος, *hagios*). Sometimes translated "consecrate," it means to "set apart"; temple objects were set apart for special use in worship of the Lord. Jesus twice prays that we will be "sanctified in the truth" (17, 19). How is this realized in our lives? What role does God's word play in this? What did Jesus 'set Himself apart' to do for us? How did Jesus sanctifying Himself for us make possible our sanctification?