

**A Promise of Preservation**

**John 17:6-23**

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***December 2, 2018***

John 17 is the longest recorded prayer of Jesus. In it, He prayed for Himself, for the 11 disciples who were with Him, and for His followers of all time. Last week we saw the overarching purpose of this prayer: the desire of Jesus that all of His followers would see Him in heaven in the fullness of the glory given to Him by God the Father. Today, we see how He prayed for all of His followers to be preserved for ministry that would glorify Him in the world and lead others to see His glory in heaven.

**“We are immortal until our work on earth is done.” George Whitfield**

**Jesus prayed that God the Father would keep us grounded in His truth, so that we will grow together in unity and in holiness, for the purpose of being effective in the mission that He has given us to do.**

1. **Jesus prayed that God the Father would preserve His followers in truth.**

**It is by God’s grace that we receive, know, and believe the gospel of Jesus Christ as truth. By the Father giving us to His Son, we are now able to keep – to internalize and obey – God’s truth.**

1. **Jesus prayed that God the Father would preserve His followers in unity.**
2. **Jesus prayed that God the Father would preserve His followers in holiness.**
3. **Jesus prayed that God the Father would preserve His followers in mission.**

**Questions to Consider**

1. What is your response to this statement: “We are immortal until our work on earth is done”?
2. Besides the verses we read in John 6, what are some other statements in John’s gospel, including in chapter 17, that reflect the twin truths of God’s sovereignty in saving people and man’s responsibility to respond in repentance and faith?
3. How are you actively striving to receive, believe, and obey God’s Word on a daily basis?
4. Are there ways in which your life falls short in reflecting the name (character) of God?
5. How does this passage speak to the unique source of Christian unity, and how is that unity being practically worked out in your life? What makes Christian unity so different from the kind of “getting along” that many people hunger for?

1. In what ways are you living out your union to a Holy Father, and in what ways are you falling short? What does it mean to be in the world, but not of the world, and what are some examples of how you are alongside people of the world, loving them, while still living a distinctive life that causes them to see a difference?

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