

Notice the unity that is sought for can only be found through “their word.” The words of the inspired apostles. The Holy Spirit would come on the day of Pentecost and would guide them into all truth. This was the means of unity then and is still the means today. As the Father and the Son are united, so are we to be united. As Paul would later write, “Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment” (1 Corinthians 1:10). The prayer of Jesus’ was that we would be “perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment” as was He and the Father.

One reason for being united is so “that the world may know that thou has sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.” If those who claim to be followers of Christ are not united, how can they ever convince the world that He is first in their life and wants to be first in everyone’s life?

It is a great shame that the prayer which Jesus prayed has yet to be achieved in this present time. There are over 5,000 denominations worldwide today. Instead of unity, the religious world is divided from one end to the other. Every denomination adds to the confusion of what we should be united upon—each one as its own creeds, etc., contrary to the word of God.

Robert R. Taylor, Jr. wrote: “The denominational world, as well as brethren who

foster sinful divisions and factions in the church, do not understand the spirit of this prayer let alone the imperative practice of it. How tragically sad and yet it is painfully true!” 2

Tom Wacaster also wrote these words: “It is astonishing, and tragic, that men who are so enamored and engrossed in their denominational way of thinking cannot seem to see the point in this portion of the Lord’s prayer. Unity to them is something unrealistic and unachievable. This portion of our Lord’s prayer is not only practical, it is attainable, and something expected to be sought after with all diligence (Eph. 4:1-3).” 3

We should listen to the Lord’s prayer and strive with all our being to stand united on the word of the Lord. To be one as He and the Father are one. This is the only way in which true unity can be accomplished.

When we stand before the Lord on judgment day, it will not be the creeds of men that will judge us. Instead, it will be the word of the Lord. So Jesus said, “He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day” (John 12:48).

Footnote:

1. Baxter Batsell Barrett, Family of God. Gospel Advocate Co. Nashville, TN. 1980 p. 20
2. Taylor, Robert R. Jr. Studies in the Gospel of John. Quality Publications, Abilene, TX. p. 243
3. Wacaster, Tom, The Magnificence of Jesus. Gospel Light Publishing Co. Delight, Ar. p. 298

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SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

- Sunday Bible Classes.....10:00
- Morning Worship11:00
- Evening Worship..... 6:00
- Wednesday Classes.....6:30

Free Bible Correspondence Course to all who ask. Please call us or write to us and we will help you get started.

Abundance and Blessings come through JESUS!

Jesus is the Word, the Master, the Maker.
 He is God the Son, Lord of all!

Blessed are all those who put their trust in Him.

Ps. 2:12

Jesus is life, health, and strength
 for those who rely on Him,
 for those who trust Him.

The whole earth belongs to the Lord.
 He gives the increase.
 He gives the abundance.
 He gives the blessings.

Then trust Jesus.
 Try to be gentle.
 Try to be understanding.
 Try to show love to everyone.

Patiently rely on the power of the Christ,
 and He will open the windows of heaven...

To Bless You!

THE PRAYER FOR UNITY – JOHN 17

Johnie Scaggs

The seventh chapter of the book of John records one of the prayers of our Lord. It is easily divided into four divisions. (1) His prayer for himself (John 17:1-5); (2) His prayer for His apostles to be kept from evil (John 17:6-19); (3) His prayer for those who would believe (the church) on Him through the teachings of the apostles (John 17:20-23); (4) His prayer for His apostles once again (John 17:24-26).

His prayer for those who would believe (the church) is the focus of this article—the prayer for unity. As our Lord was thinking about His impending death and His return to the Father, He was concerned about those who would believe in Him after his departure. He wants all His followers to be united as He and the Father are. Unity was at the top of His list of things he was thinking about before leaving this world. So it should be at the top of our list also.

Batsell Barrett Baxter wrote:

Serious Bible students are inevitably impressed by the powerful emphasis which the New Testament gives to the theme of Christian unity. From one end of the New Testament to the other there is a continuing emphasis on the essentiality of unity among all believers in Christ. Perhaps the strongest single passage is found in the prayer which Jesus prayed on the night in which he was betrayed, just a few hours before he was to be nailed to the cross: “Neither for these only do I pray, but for them also that believe on me through their word; that they may all be one; even as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be in us: that the world may believe that thou didst send me” (John 17:20-21). In this intimate glimpse into the innermost yearnings of our Lord we see his urgent desire for unity. The degree of unity is impressive, for he prays that all his disciples may achieve the same unity which exists between himself and God. The purpose of this plea was that the world might believe. Truly, the price that has been paid for a divided Christendom is an unbelieving world.

Is unity possible? It would seem from the attitude of many that unity is not even possible! But if this is true, why would Christ pray for such to happen? Hear His prayer: “Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me” (John 17:20-23).

FAMILY MATTERS

ONGOING HEALTH PROBLEMS

SICK:

Pat Joiner, Leslie Guevara, Letha Angst, Gracie Pope, Michael Baugh, Melba Wilkins, Brenda Rogers, Jackie Flowers, June Breazeale, Sharon Joiner’s mother, James Parlor, and Gail Brown, Jeff’s brother wife. Please pray for Tim Franks, friend of Jeff Brown’s and his cousin Jan Moses. Freddie Blackshear is in need off our prayers. Please keep Martha Stewart in your prayers, she had surgery this past week. Keep the Jenkins family in your prayers.

LOCAL NEWS

PANTRY ITEMS FOR THE WEEK:

When buying items for the Pantry, try to buy canned goods that have a top on them that can be opened without a can opener.

Soups of all kind

NEW YEARS PARTY

On the 9th of February at 6:00 pm we will have a new years party. We will be having hamburgers and hotdogs.

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARY FOR THE MONTH OF JAN.

- Joe & Maryann Blackburn1/4/1966
- Jeff Brown1/25/1962
- Peyton Dennis1/16/1999
- Shawn Hickman1/10/1973
- Olivia Sage Morgan1/11/2019
- Amberly Dixie Rose Morgan 1/21/2021
- Crystal Pierce1/29/1973
- Martha Robinson1/14/1950
- Flora Shepherd1/15/1956

Jim Dearman and the TV program “Good News Today” airs on Macon TV every Sunday morning at 6:30 A.M. on WGXA-ABCTV16 both on Cox Cable and over the regular airwaves and may be picked up on an antenna. You can even download an app and see the programs any time you wish. See the website at <http://gnttv.org/> and on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/Good-News-Today-TV>.

SHUT-IN:

Sonny Teagle, Mary Harris

Welcome to the Bellevue Road Church of Christ. If you are a visitor, you are our honored guest. Please sign the guest book in the foyer.