

THE SUNDAY AFTER ASCENSION

May 28, 2017

The Lord's Prayer for You – John 17:6

INTRODUCTION: SOME QUESTIONS TO PONDER.

Do you love Jesus? Do you love what Jesus loves? See Eph. 5:25-27:

The next level: Do you love YOUR Church?

John 17 – Jesus' "High Priestly Prayer,"

Today's focus, v. 6: ***"I have manifested your name to the people whom you gave me out of the world. Yours they were, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word."***

QUESTION: Who is included in this prayer? Everyone? The Twelve? The Eleven?
See John 17:20.

Put a sharper point on this: "US" collectively, or each one of us? See John 10:3, Rev. 2:17

I. JESUS' EARTHLY TASK IS NOW ABOUT TO BE COMPLETED. Notice how he describes that in v. 6: ***"I have manifested your name to the people whom you gave me..."***

II. HOW HE DESCRIBES US: WHO WE ARE. We are GOD'S GIFT.

v. 6: ***the people whom you gave me out of the world. Yours they were, and you gave them to me...***

See also John 1:1, 14

A. When did this happen? Long before Advent, God the Father chose them (us) and now has entrusted them (us) to the Great Shepherd. We are the Father's gift to His Son.

See Eph. 1:3-6; John 15:18, 19

B. Why the Father did this.

See Ephesians 2:1, 2; Colossians 1:13

In other words, it was not on account of any perceived goodness in us!

C. How we are to see ourselves now. IN the world, as salt and light, but not **OF** the world.

III. WHAT JESUS SAYS ABOUT US TO THE FATHER

v. 6: “*They have kept your word.*”

REALLY?

“The Perseverance of the Saints” In a nutshell, *“we are not saved because we believe and persevere in our faith and in our confidence in the truthfulness of God’s word and thus continue in our obedience to it, but rather we believe and persevere in our faith because we are saved.”*

See John 6:39, 40

The Protestant reformers liked the phrase “the perseverance of the saints.”

The Reformed view is, to put it simply, that As our Lord himself stated: *“And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.”* (John 6:39,40)

“We cannot look into the Book of Life and see whether our names are amongst those of whom the Lord says, ‘thine they were , and thou gavest them to me’; but we can look into the Word of God , and if we can honestly say we have received that Word of God, and do rest our souls upon the promises contained therein, and upon the faithfulness of Him whose Word it is, then we have the first and all-sufficient evidence of our relationship to God.” *Marcus Rainsford, 19th century Anglican priest. “Our Lord Prays for His Own,” p. 121.*