

# God's Gift, Dream & Work, John 17.1-5

## Introduction, v1

- Prayer
  - Earthly example of his post-ascension intercession role.<sup>1</sup>
  - Typical Jewish way of praying.<sup>2</sup>
  - No prayer for deliverance but for the right perspective and necessary strength.<sup>3</sup>
  - 'the time has come' is the last of many references to Jesus' 'hour/time'.<sup>4</sup>
- Glory to the Son because...<sup>5</sup>
  1. Brings glory and honour to sender, Jn 5.23; 7.18
  2. Does the sender's will, Jn 4.34; 5.30, 38; 6.38, and works, Jn 5.36; 9.4
  3. Speaks the sender's words, Jn 3.34; 7.16; 12.49; 14.10, 24
  4. Accountable to the sender, Ch 17
  5. Bears witness to the sender, Jn 5.36; 7.28; see Jn 8.26
  6. Represents the sender accurately, Jn 12.44-45; 13.20; 15.18-25
  7. Exercises delegated authority, Jn 5.21-22, 27; 13.3; 17.2, 20.23
  8. Knows the sender intimately, Jn 7.29, see Jn 15.21; 17.8, 25
  9. Lives in a close relationship with the sender, Jn 8.16, 18, 29; 16.32
  10. Follows the sender's example, Jn 13.16

## 1. God's Gift, v2

### A. Authority

- Seen on the cross where he is proclaimed King, Jn 19.19.
- Jesus has authority:
  - to judge, Jn 5.27
  - to lay down his life and take it up again, Jn 10.18
  - over all things, Matt 28.18
- All authority - a new ruler; see: Is 9.6-7; Dan 7.13-14.

### B. Eternal Life

- Jn 3.15, 16, 36; 4.14, 36; 5.24, 39; 6.27, 40, 47, 54, 68; 10.28; 12.25, 50; 17.2, 3.

### C. Given<sup>6</sup>

- Christ gives life: Jn 1.4; 3.15-16; 4.14; 5:21, 26; 6:33, 54; 10:10; 11:25; 14:6.
- Reminds us of Jesus' willing to his subordination to the Father, Jn 14.28.
- This humility continues in eternity, 1 Cor 15.28; 1 Cor 11.3.

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<sup>1</sup> 1 John 2:1; Heb 7:25; 9:14; Rom 8:34.

<sup>2</sup> Ps 121:1; 123:1; Ezek 33:25; Dan 4:34; Mk 7.34; Matt 18.13; John 11:41.

<sup>3</sup> (see, Jn 12.27, and contrast Matt 26.36f),

<sup>4</sup> See Jn 2.4; 7.6, 8, 30; 8.20; 12.23, 27, 31; 13.1; 16.25, 32; 17.1.

<sup>5</sup> God will not give his glory to another (e.g., Isa. 42:8; 48:11).

<sup>6</sup> John 17.6, 9, 24.

## 2. God's Dream, v3

### A. Only Jesus<sup>7</sup>

- The only one who knows the Father is Jesus: Matt 11:27.

### B. Knowing God<sup>8</sup>

- Not understanding, but relationship, Jer 31:34.<sup>9</sup>
- What does it mean to you to "know" God?

### C. Eternal Life

- Possible in the here and now because God is life itself and Jesus is the Son of God.<sup>10</sup>
- Are you enjoying "eternal life" already? What does that mean in daily life?

## 3. God's Work, v4<sup>11</sup>

### A. Costly<sup>12</sup>

- What did the work cost Jesus?
- What does the work of the Gospel cost you?
- How do you feel about the cost?

### B. Completed

- What work/s do you think God has in mind for you to "complete" in 2016? Eph 2:10

### C. Focussed<sup>13</sup>

- What might help you to be more focussed on God and His work for you in 2016?

## Conclusion, v5

- Christ's identity<sup>14</sup>
- Deity in Flesh, see John 1:2.<sup>15</sup>

### Questions:

What have you learned about Jesus?

What have you learned about Jesus' relationship with His Father?

What have you learned about eternal life?

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<sup>7</sup> John 3:36; 5:39–40; 14:6; 20:31

<sup>8</sup> "only true God" sounds like the shema, Deut 6:4, but adds Jesus to the mix.

<sup>9</sup> The basis for the unity for which Jesus will pray later in the chapter, Jn 17:20-23.

<sup>10</sup> Jn 1:4; 5:24, 26; 20:31

<sup>11</sup> John 4:34; 5:36; 9:3–4

<sup>12</sup> Jn 4:34 (Mk 3:20-21)

<sup>13</sup> "...Jesus' prayerful waiting for God's instructions freed Him from the tyranny of the urgent. It gave him a sense of direction, set a steady pace, and enabled him to do every task God assigned. And on the last night he could say, 'I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do.'" From "Tyranny of the Urgent", Hummel.

<sup>14</sup> Preexistence: "the Word" (Jn 1:1, 14); title "Son of Man" (Jn 3:13; 6:62); "I am" preceding Abraham (Jn 8:58); Jesus as the one who came from the Father and who is about to return to him (Jn 16:28).

<sup>15</sup> "This petition for a return to his pristine glory implies unmistakably his preexistence and equality with the Father." Tenney, Merrill C. John. Expositor's Bible Commentary