

**Year B #411**  
***Glorify and Keep***  
**040803-1**

*Hello! This is Dorothy -*

Imagine three circles: a small circle and, around it a bigger circle, and about that one a third circle, which is greatest in size. This will mentally perhaps give you a picture to understand the Lord's progression in His high priestly prayer, which we are looking at **John 17**. The inner circle of the prayer is found in **verse 1-5**. There, the Lord Jesus deliberately prays for Himself, with the anticipated crucifixion elevated to its rightful perspective of sovereign predestination and saving power. In other words, Jesus knew He was going to be crucified; He knew He was going to die; He knew He was going to be raised again; He knew He was going to ascend; and He knew He was going to take His rightful place in Heaven. Our Lord sees the glory of the Cross. It is interesting that some people think it all has to do with a little piece of metal around the neck. *No!* The Lord Jesus sees the glory of the Cross as far more fundamental than the glory that today we have as we identify people with pomp and honor and artificial aggrandizement. Jesus sees beyond the goriness, the horror, the Blood, the beating, the mess of the body of Jesus. He sees beyond the goriness of the Cross to a display of the glory of God. There are many perhaps suffering out there for Jesus. Some of you know persecution and difficulty. Look beyond your situation and see the

glory, all to do with the Lord.

For in **verse 1**, we read - . . . **Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son may glorify thee.** It is interesting that in **Galatians 6:14**, the Apostle Paul declared - **But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world.** Oh, that every one of us, who loves Jesus, could really mean that! From the glory of the Cross in spiritual sequence, our Lord then moves on in His prayer to a petition for the glory of the crown. In **verses 1-5**, the prayer is occupied with God's redemptive love as expressed in His incarnate Son. But in **verses 6-26** - that is, to the end of the chapter - our Lord now prays for His disciples and He goes on to pray for the inclusive Church, as His concern extends to all Christians in every succeeding generation, which includes you and me.

It is very interesting that in these twenty-six verses, the amount of time that the Lord prayed for Himself only took five verses; the remaining twenty-one verses were His prayers for others. Actually. in **verse 6-19**, Jesus prays for the disciples whom He is about to leave. Then from **verse 20 to verse 26**, He prays for those who will personally be a part of His inclusive Church, those who have or will personally receive the Lord Jesus Christ, and that can include you if today you receive Jesus and you, if you know and love the Lord.

In **verse 15**, our Lord Jesus prayed that His Father would . . . **keep** . . . - *protect* - . . . **them**. . . - *His disciples* - . . . **from the evil one** - *that is Satan, the prince of the power of the air, who is for a period of time here on earth*. Kept by the power of God. Do you know that keeping power? Are you conscious of it? Can you so testify? I think most of us who love Jesus can testify of the awesome impact of that keeping power. Repeatedly, the Lord Jesus uses the word **keep** in this prayer. As He was going to leave His disciples, He prayed that they might be delivered from this present evil age. Are you willing to be delivered from this present evil age? Are you willing to avail yourself today of this keeping power of Jesus? Do you pray that God may keep His children in these days of spiritual and moral hazard as you look out across the nations and you understand that the Church of Jesus Christ knows much suffering, much persecution? Are you praying for those that the Lord will keep them that they might stand true to the Name of Jesus? Are you praying that they might know the enabling strength and the power of the Lord Jesus? Are you praying for those in those dark, dank prison cells where some of them have been beaten and thrown? Are you praying that there might be a reproduction of the life of Jesus to bring others into the Church because God allowed them to be there?

He will keep us. Jesus will keep His Church in the terrible pressures, the dreadful pressures of some of the things going on in the world. He

is going to keep us. He is going to keep us against the flesh and against the devil, if we are willing to say, *Lord Jesus, not only apply that prayer to my life to keep me in this evil world, but to keep me true to Thee. To keep me, dear Lord, because You are my Great High Priest ministering right now in Your Father's presence, praying on my behalf. Lord, keep me that I might be as an instrument in Your hand.*

*In Jesus' Name. Amen.*