

How Jesus Prays: Preserve My People
John 17 – Part 2
Sermon Outline

Main Takeaway—*Christian, the Father has held you in his favor as his treasured child since eternity past, wrapping you in his gracious thoughts like swaddling cloths. Do you truly believe he would relax his grip upon you in the last days and let you fall into the chasm of his wrath? Never. For Christ's word forever sings to you the lullaby of his love to keep you from wriggling free in faithless distress; Christ's cross forever stands between you and any condemnation of sin that would make him toss you away in just judgement; and Christ's prayers forever stay Satan's thieving hand from stealing you away in hateful malice. So let your prayers join with Christ's that the Father might preserve your faith and the faith of all those he possesses, and then live and die in the assurance that as you ask in Christ's name, you will receive.*

Introduction: Christ's Passion for his People

Jesus Prays for His People

1. *Jesus is not praying for the whole world, but for those whom the Father gave him.*
2. *The Son came into the world already possessing the people his Father gave him.*
3. *These people, therefore, already belonged to the Father.*

Jesus Prays According to God's Pre-Ordained Plan

1. *God's redemptive plan was in place before the world was in place. (Key References—Acts 2:23; Ephesians 1:3–14; Romans 8:29–30)*
2. *God's plan was never to redeem all people.*
3. *The Father's love for the world is not the same as his love for his people. (Key References—John 1:5, 9–10; 3:16–17, 19; 2 Corinthians 4:6)*

Jesus Prays for the Preservation of his People

1. *Jesus prays for the Father to keep his people, not to receive them, because they already belong to him.*
2. *Jesus prays for the Father to keep them in his grip, not to keep them from the world's trouble. (Key References—John 16:33; Philippians 3:8–11)*
3. *Jesus prays for the Father to keep them in his grip and out of the devil's.*

Jesus Accomplishes What He Prays For

1. *Christ's people will be preserved by the power of the word he gave them. (Key References—Romans 1:16; Isaiah 55:11; 1 Peter 1:15, 23, 25; 2:2)*
2. *Christ's people will be preserved by the death he died for them. (Key References—John 10:15, 27–29; Romans 8:33–34)*
3. *Christ's people will be preserved by the power of the prayers he prays for them. (Key References—Hebrews 7:25; Luke 22:32)*

Conclusion: Encouragement and Instruction