

King James Bible Study Correspondence Course

An Outreach of Highway Evangelistic Ministries
5311 Windridge lane ~ Lockhart, Florida 32810 ~ USA

The Book of John

Lesson 31 - unity

Return pages 6 & 7 only

Read: John 16: 1-33

John 17: 1-26

John 17: 13 *And now come I to thee; and these things I speak in the world, that they might have (Look at this.) my joy fulfilled in themselves.* It is amazing what Jesus desires for His church, Fullness of joy – His joy in us. *I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. I pray not (You better get this verse.) I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil.* Let us get this on several levels. First of all, as much as we desire the rapture for our benefit – the world will not be benefited by the rapture. God will not be benefited by the rapture; We are the only ones who will benefit by the rapture. As much as I desire for the Lord to take me out of the world, God is not willing that any should perish but that all should come to the knowledge of the truth. (2 Peter 3:9; 1 Timothy 2:4) When we leave this world, the Great Tribulation and those terrible twenty-one judgments begin. The Apostle Paul is writing under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit and he says, I have a desire to depart and be with Christ which is far better, nevertheless, it's expedient for you, it is better for you that I stay here, that I abide in the flesh. (Philippians 1:23-24)

The second level. *I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil.* Should I enter a monastery, or a closed community, where the world can never creep in? Should I build a wall or a fortress around my church building and all of us camp upon the church grounds and have a little compound thing going because after all, the world's an evil place? Jesus prayed just the opposite. I need my witnesses in the world, else the world – nobody in the world can be saved, but "Father, I sure pray that while my witnesses are out in this evil world that you would keep them from the evil." That is His prayer.

The third level, on a daily basis - It be wonderful (we think in our minds) if saved people all worked for saved people and all their co-workers were saved people who only did business with other saved people? That would be great. Well, from our standpoint, yes. From the standpoint of those who are lost and do not know Jesus, it would not be a good thing. So the Lord says in First Corinthians 7:21, the vs. 20, *Art thou called being a servant? care not for it ... Let every man abide in the same calling wherein he was called.* Why? So you

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can reach people with the gospel. And Jesus prayed, "Father, do not take all the saved teachers, plumbers, carpenters, truck drivers, attorneys, doctors – out of the world. I want you to let them go out there, with a good testimony, be a good witness, earn a good living without being overcome by the evil that they will encounter on a daily basis." That is what Jesus is praying for.

If He did not ever want us to come in contact with evil, He would have clearly said so in His word. Lost people normally do not take the initiative to seek out salvation they need to be encouraged. Therefore you will have to use some of the world's devices in order to reach the lost, such as your car that runs on Arab gasoline, your money that is funded by an evil Federal Reserve System. If you say that you do not want to put gospel tracts in the mail, because the US mail is an evil organization, then you are contrary to Jesus' direction. We cannot escape evil; Jesus prayed that you would not succumb to being part of the evil that is in the world.

Let me give you an example. These lessons are being typed on a computer, that is good, no evil in the computer, This same computer device could be used right now to record lies, profanity, slander, vulgar stories. If the person who is using this computer has an unclean heart, then the action is evil. "There is nothing unclean of itself." (Romans 14:14) It is possible for a boy with his mother's prayers to grow up in the vile reprobate home of Eli and his perverted boys and grow up to live a holy life like Samuel did.

Some people misuse this verse saying "you had to come out of the world", being separated, cannot mean you never come in contact with bad people who are doing bad things.

The world needs true Christians. Look what happens to this world when the church is taken out. When the church is raptured, this whole world falls apart. Here's our blessing, "I pray that you keep them from the evil that is in the world." (John 17:15)

Verse 16. *They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.* Jesus just came to this world to minister. So when He says of the believers of his disciples, they are not of the world even as I am not of the world. What is He saying? Their home is in heaven with the Father; they are just here for ministry and then they are going to end up in heaven with the Father.

Verse 17. *Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.* So I ask the man with a new version. "Is it truth?" "Well, for the most part." "Is it completely true?" "Well, not entirely..." "Well, then, it is not God's word." *Thy word is truth.* It is not part truth. It is not mostly truth. It is not close to the truth. – if it is God's word, it is all truth. And it will take the word to sanctify you.

Verse 18. *As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world.* That is just what we were talking about. Jesus was separated

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when He was in heaven. He never ran the risk in heaven of having seen a prostitute. He never ran the risk in heaven of having to rub elbows or shoulders with a thieving tax collector or a cussing commercial fisherman. But the Father said, "Son, you have to go down there to win those people." And Jesus said, "I am going to do the same for them. At the moment somebody gets saved, I could take them right up to heaven so they would never have to run the risk of any defilement. Jesus said to the Father " I am going to send them into the world, the same way you sent me into the world."

Verse 19. *And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth.* (We are about to get in on this.) *Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word;* (Well, hallelujah. That is us, do you believe on Jesus because of what Matthew, Mark, John or Peter said? – so Jesus is praying for you. Right here in John 17, Jesus was praying for each and every one of us.

And look at His prayer. Verse 21. *That they all may be one;* (He is praying for unity. He did not say – now listen carefully - that they all may be the same. *But that they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us:* The same Holy Spirit that is in you; is in me. There is only one Holy Spirit. In that sense, we are members of one body. We are bricks in one building.

Listen to this analogy, when you knit, you take one long piece of yarn and you work with it to become something beautiful. At one time it was just a long piece of yarn. When our hearts are knit together or when the members of the body of Christ are knit together, we are already one. The Lord is just taking what is one and working with it to make something beautiful.

Verse 21. *But 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.* Our unity impresses the world with the truths about Jesus Christ. We have all heard unsaved people say " ... "how come there is so many different churches and so many different denominations and how come they cannot get along with each other... you guys say you have the truth and those guys say they have the truth and you do not speak to them and nor they to you" The world does not believe the truths about Jesus because of our lack of unity. Jesus prayed in His praying so that would not be the case.

Verse 22. *And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one:* (we could enjoy this unity, it is available) *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.* Our unity is also in evidence to the world that we understand God's love. God certainly loves us all – even though we are very different; and we all have our

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hang-ups, short comings, and our failures but He still loves us. If God's love governed our heart, we could love one another.

Verse 24. *Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world.* Jesus wants all believers eventually to be with Him. *O righteous Father, the world hath not known thee: but I have known thee, and these have known that thou hast sent me. And I have declared unto them thy name, and will declare it: that the love wherewith thou hast loved me may be in them, and I in them.*

When you read that prayer of Jesus and you get down to verses 20 thru 26 these verse have nothing to do with the original company of disciples, but with the believers that would come later, it is striking that He is praying so fervently and so hard regarding love. Verse 23, *...loved.* Verse 23, *...loved.* Verse 24, *...lovedst.* Verse 26, *...love.* Verse 26, *...loved.* What seems to be lacking today is love, we are at a point in our definition of love, that if you talk about it, you are ridiculed as some sort of compromiser, effeminate or charismatic. Jesus is praying to His Father is that we love each other as much as He and the Father love each other, that God's love would operate in our heart toward our brothers and sisters in Christ. We have drifted a long way from Christ in what we call Christianity. We have gained a lot of head knowledge, pride, conceit, contention, strife, conflict and arrogance. Jesus said; "the world is not going to believe what you are saying, until you learn to love each other."

- In this chapter Jesus requests glorification based on seven claims.
 1. His Son-ship (Verse 1).
 2. The appointed time had arrived (Verse 1).
 3. Power over All Flesh had been given to Him (Verse 2).
 4. Power to give eternal life had been promised to Him (Verse 2).
 5. That men might know the Father (Verse 3).
 6. He had glorified the father on Earth (Verse 4).
 7. He had finished the work (Verse 4).
- There are seven times Jesus states His desire to glorify the Father.
 1. In verse 1, He says, *glorify THY Son*, the emphasis being on the Father. Glorify thy Son, not glorify the Son or glorify me, but glorify THY Son.
 2. In the same verse, *that thy Son also may glorify THEE*: He is not praying glorify me so I can be glorified. He said, glorify me so that I can glorify thee.

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3. In verse 2, *As THOU hast given him...* God gave Him power. His desire to glorify the Father is seen in that He acknowledges that His power came from the Father.
4. When He speaks of life eternal in verses 2 and 3, notice how He glorifies the Father by saying, I can only give eternal life because you allow me to. You gave me that power or that right or that authority.
5. In verse 3, *that they might know THEE*. He puts the Father first.
6. In verse 4, *I have finished the work that THOU gavest me to do*. It is your work.
7. In verse 5, *glorify thou me with thine OWN SELF...* Father, you know, the glory I want is you, so even when Jesus is praying about being glorified in all that He says and in all that He asks for He is given the honor and the preeminent place to His Father.

If you look down at verse 12, *those that thou gavest me*, the Lord did not begin by asking for the blessing of His disciples, but He first described them.

- In verses 6 to 10, He talks about who they are and how they came to be His disciples and their relationship they have to Him.
- In verses 11-12, He actually prays for them. Take a look at three verses regarding this. It is pretty amazing that Jesus is coming before the Father and bringing these disciples and their needs and His desire for them to His Father in prayer, when you think about it –

Ps 8:4

4 What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him?

(KJV)

And to think that Jesus is here facing the cross before He goes and endures all this suffering, wrath, torment and all that we cannot even describe that He stops and takes time to pray for the disciples. He does not mention their shortcomings, their failures, anything they have done wrong or about to do wrong. He is just telling the Father, they are just so great and thank you for giving them to me, thank you for giving them eternal life, bless them, keep them, glorify them and let them be one – that is how He intercedes for us. It is pretty amazing.

Notes

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Read: John 16: 1-33

John 17: 1-26

Name _____

John 16:1-33

1. What is the difference between the believer's tribulation and the great tribulation?

2. Explain the following terms:
 - lament

 - anguish

 - in proverbs

 - came out from God

 - every man to his own

John 17: 1-11

In verses 1-5 Jesus prays for himself

3. What three things does He ask of His Father?

4. What does Jesus claim to have done for the Father?

5. What is eternal life?

6. In these five verses He pleads seven times for glorification, name them:

a.	b.	c.
d.	e.	f.
g.		

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7. We are to be like Christ, list sevenfold desire of Christ to glorify the Father:

a.

b.

c.

d.

e.

f.

g.

In verse 6-19 Jesus prays for His disciples.

8. What does verse 6 teach us about the relationship of the eleven to God before Jesus called them?

9. What does verse 7 teach about what they learned in 3 1/2 years?

10. How did they get this sure knowledge?

11. Does Jesus intercede for everyone?

12. What does verse 9 teach us about our attempts to reform or convert the whole world?

True/False

- Jesus wants us to join a group that isolates themselves from the community, so we will not have to interact with the evil world.
- Jesus would rather that we only worked and did business with Christians.
- It would be better for everyone if we would be raptured today.



Scripture memorization verses (write these in KJV on the back of this sheet) John 17:3; 2 Peter 3:9; 1 Timothy 2:4.

any questions?