

Christ's Work on Earth – Part 5

John 17

Scripture Reading: II Corinthians 5:1-21

Let's continue to examine Christ's intercessory and priestly prayer, in John chapter 17, looking for the areas of mission that Christ completed. Note the phrase, **"I have."**

1. **Christ glorified the Father and finished the work given by the Father. John 17:1-4**
2. **Christ manifested (declared) the name of the Father unto His disciples. John 17:6,26**
3. **Christ gave the disciples the words and the word of the Father. John 17:8,14**
4. **Christ kept the disciples (gathered, taught and protected them). John 17:12**
5. **Christ sent His disciples into the world. John 17:18**
6. **Christ gave the disciples glory (i.e. a unifying purpose and power which comes from the Father and glorifies the Father). John 17:1,5,22**
7. **Christ knew the Father (i.e. was intimate with the Father and confessed Him to others). John 17:25-26**

This time our focus is on the fifth point, **Christ sent His disciples into the world. John 17:18.** Christ was sent to earth on a mission. As He was completing His earthly mission He gave a mission to His disciples. Let's see how Christ prayerfully thought of this in **John 17:18.**

"As you sent me into the world..." John 17:18 cp. 20:21.

Let's look at how Christ was sent into the world.

- Christ came to be light (John 1:4-5,9; 8:12 cp. Matthew 5:14-16; Philippians 2:14-16).
- Christ came to be the Savior (John 17:2-3; 3:16-17; Matthew 1:21; Luke 9:51-56; 19:10; I John 4:14). See John 14:12. Rather than focusing on His miracles, focus on Christ as a soul winner (John 17:20; Matthew 24:14; 28:18-20; Mark 16:15; Luke 24:44-48; John 20:21; Acts 1:8).
- Christ came to be a shepherd of His sheep (John 10:1-30; Hebrews 13:20-21; I Peter 2:25). Christ has given the work of shepherding to us (John 21:15-17; Matthew 28:19-20; John 13:34-35 cp. Acts 20:17,28; I Peter 5:1-5; I Corinthians 12:25; Colossians 3:16; Philippians 2:1-4; I Thessalonians 4:9-10; 5:11). Consider Jeremiah 33:12.

“...Even so have I also sent them into the world.” John 17:18 cp. 20:21.

How did Christ send His disciples into the world?

- To be in the world, but not of the world – sanctified by the truth
(John 17:15-19; I Peter 1:13-16; John 8:30-32; 15:1-8; Galatians 1:3-5; II Timothy 2:1-4; 3:12-17; James 4:1-10; I John 2:15-17).
- To reach others – instilling faith in them
(John 17:20 cp. Romans 1:14-17; 10:9-17; II Corinthians 5:17-21; I Thessalonians 1:5-8).
- To be a powerful demonstration to the world of the love of the Father and of the Son of God (John 17:23; 13:34-35; II Corinthians 5:14-15; I John 3:16-19; 4:7-21).

For further consideration:

John 15:18 – 16:4; John 16:33; Matthew 10; Luke 21:5-19; 24:44-48.