

**The Word Became Flesh  
(Week 53)  
John 17:13-19  
“The Real LORD’S Prayer - Part 3”**

**Introduction**

**“Now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have My joy completed in them.”** **John 17:13**

I want you to think about something for a moment. Who are the happiest people that you know. Think of all the famous movie stars, the richest people, the people in the news media, and all those who appear to be “movers and shakers” in this world, not to mention all the various politicians in government. And then ask yourself this question: Do any of these people seem to be genuinely happy? It is no secret that the personal lives of most of these people are a complete disaster. They never seem to be able to hold on to their money, marriages, or mental stability. Why do you suppose that is?

Then think of all the so called “activist” who are consumed by the latest cause. Do the gay rights people seem happy? What about those “global climate change” people? Do they seem to possess any sense of personal serenity whatsoever? Every time I see that little girl from Sweden (Greta Thunberg) rail against those whom she deems are “destroying the planet and her future”, I see the most unhappy little person I think I have ever seen. So all of this begs the question: If all of these people are “right”, and their cause is so just, why on earth are they all so miserable? Well, I don’t intend to leave you hanging here. I will tell you why. Because ALL of them are focused upon the things of this world. And that, my friends, is a lost cause.

**And the world with its lust is passing away, but the one who does the will of God remains forever.** **1 John 2:17**

The word that John uses in this verse that is translated “lusts” (*epithymia*) primarily refers to longing for that which is forbidden, but it also can mean pretty much *anything* that is strongly desired. This world longs for fortune, fame, personal security, and pleasure. In short, they want what they want in order to fulfill all of their own selfish longings. That is what the world does. And as a result, they are all the more miserable for it, for quite frankly, there will never be enough “stuff” to fill the emptiness inside them.

Human beings were created in the image of God. And our purpose is to bring **Him** glory, and not to glorify ourselves. If you wonder why there is so much strife and depression in the world today, there’s your answer. The human race is not “evolving” as some would articulate. But rather it is devolving. There are less and less people in the world who are even the slightest bit concerned with bringing glory to God, and far more consumed with the glorification of self.

So, who are the “happiest” people we know? Well, in my own personal experience, the happiest people in the world are Christians! Oh we certainly have our share of trials and tribulations in this world, but in spite of everything there is an overwhelming sense of joy that permeates the life of the Believer. What is the source of this “joy” that Christians seem to have? And why do we have this when the world does not?

The answer to both these questions can be found in The Real LORD’S Prayer in **John 17**. The source of our joy is **Christ**. And the reason we have His joy is because He **prayed** for us to have it! It is that simple. The Believer is able to face all the trials that may come into his/her life, because from deep within, they have the everlasting joy of Christ that brings stability in a tumultuous world. I not only have seen it over and over again, but I have experienced it in my own life as well. Can I get a witness? Thanks to the joy of Christ, there is no such thing as a “hopeless” believer!

So let us look today at the “mid section” of The Real LORD’S prayer in which He prayed for His disciples. He knew that He was soon to leave them behind, so He made sure to provide for them the very strength they would need to carry out the mission that He had preordained for them. And He was to become the very source of that strength. His joy, for the glorification of The Father, would be passed along to them. I love this prayer. Especially this particular section where Jesus declares that His followers are **Separate** from the world, **Sanctified** by The Word, and **Sent** back into the world on a mission.

### **Separate (vs. 13-16)**

**“Now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have My joy completed in them. I have given them Your word. The world hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. I am not praying that You take them out of the world but that You protect them from the evil one. They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.”** **John 17:13-16**

Notice that Christ prayed for His followers to have not just any old happiness, but “His” joy. And what exactly was Christ’s joy? His joy came from bringing glory to His Father. He *joyed* in the cross!

**...Let us run with endurance the race that lies before us, keeping our eyes on Jesus, the Pioneer and Perfector of our faith. For the joy that lay before Him, He endured the cross, despising the shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.**  
**Hebrews 12:1b-2**

Christ understood fully the true path to happiness. It is to live according to the will of God and to bring Him glory in all that we do. This is why we are “separate” from the world. To be in Christ is to think completely different than this world thinks. They live for themselves, but we are called to live for Christ. And to live a life that brings glory to Him is the only path to true and everlasting joy. As I am writing this, I cannot help but be reminded of the perfect illustration of this truth in **Psalms 1**, which shows the contrast between the happiness of the child of God juxtaposed against the misery of worldly living.

**How happy is the one who does not walk in the advice of the wicked or stand in the pathway with sinners or sit in the company of mockers! Instead, his delight is in the Lord’s instruction, and he meditates on it day and night. He is like a tree planted beside flowing streams that bears its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers. The wicked are not like this; instead, they are like chaff that the wind blows away. Therefore the wicked will not stand up in the judgment, nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous. For the Lord watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked leads to ruin.** **Psalms 1:1-6**

The word for “happy” (or blessed KJV) in this psalm is “*esher*” in the Hebrew. And it is derived from a word that means to “*lay something out straight*”. So don’t miss this! In order to be truly “happy”, to have everlasting joy, is to have your life straight, or in line as it were, with the will of God. It is to be perfectly aligned with *His* plan for *your* life. Only when the created thing is living out its purpose, as prescribed by its Creator, does it find true and lasting fulfillment. In short, you can live for the pleasures of this world and be miserable, or live to the glory of God and find joy everlasting. Simple as that. This is the message of **Psalms 1**.

The word that Christ used for “*complete*” as in “*joy made complete*” (**John 15:11; 17:13**) literally means to be “*stuffed full*”, much the way a person might stuff a suitcase full of clothes to the point where it would be hard to close the lid. This is what the joy of Christ will do for the Believer. It completely fills the emptiness inside of us, whereas the world shall never find satisfaction in all worldly pleasures it tries to “stuff” into its empty existence.

So to be separate from this world is to find your joy in Christ and not in the things of this world. And trust me, if you live in this manner, you will be happier than the world, and the world will despise you for it. Jesus knew this reality all too well, for the world hated Him first. This is why He prayed for the continual protection of those who belong to Him. They are not of this world, just as He is not of this world. Those who belong to Him are completely separated from this world's wisdom. And therefore, the world despises them and us, for this fact has remained constant for over two thousand years now. Christians are despised because we are nothing like this world.

***Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of The Father is not in him. For everything in the world — the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride in one's possessions — is not from The Father, but is from the world.*** **1 John 2:15**

This in a nutshell describes the world's passions. The lust of the flesh (whatever feels good in the moment). The lust of the eyes (the covetous nature of man that longs for all he sees). And The pride of life (the boasting of one's status due to all that he has and does). These things are what the world lives for, and it has brought them to a perpetual state of anger, misery and frustration. While the believer who is "straight" with the will of God shall have the perpetual joy of Christ. We are separated, and as a result... we are a happy people!

### **Sanctified (vs. 17)**

***Sanctify them by the truth: Your word is truth.***

**John 17:17**

These first two things, Separation and Sanctification, go hand in hand. To be separate is to be set apart from the crowd. To be sanctified is to be set apart with a purpose. It is more than being just the oddball or nonconformist. To be sanctified by God is to be called out and made holy in order to fulfill God's purpose for you life. And my friends, in order to do that, you must be cleansed (made holy) by The Word of God. This is why Jesus prayed for His followers to be "sanctified by the Word of Truth".

The Word of God is the means by which The Spirit of God conforms us to the image of Christ. There is only one way for a Believer to become more like Christ with each passing day, and that is to study The Word, Meditate on The Word, and live according to The Word. To do so is to be made holy, or to be "sanctified" by The Word. The more that you are in The Word, my friends, the more you will be conformed to the image of Christ.

Let us look again to the source of "happiness" according to **Psalm 1: "How happy is the man who does not walk in the advice of the wicked or stand in the pathway with sinners or sit in the company of mockers! Instead, his delight is in The LORD's INSTRUCTION (The Word), and he meditates on it day and night."** We need to understand exactly how this "meditation" on God's Word works, so that we too can be "happy" and straight with God.

Now, I have a small sheep farm, and every morning those sheep rise up and consume as much green grass as they possibly can. After doing thus they go and lie down in the pasture. And if you watch closely, they start chewing again as they lie there. This process is known as "chewing the cud". They eat as much grass as they can, storing it in a chamber of their stomach called the rumen. Then they lie down and regurgitate the grass to in order to chew it again more thoroughly for digestion.

This is exactly what it means to "meditate" on God's Word. We read it every morning, and then all throughout the day, we bring those verses back to mind, as we pray over them and get every single piece of spiritual nourishment from them that we can. We make the Word a very integral part of our lives, and The Spirit uses this to change us from the inside out. Our way of thinking is completely transformed (**Romans 12:2**), and we are sanctified by The Word. Show me a Christian who is not hungry for the Word of God, and I will show you someone who is living an unfruitful life. The Joy of Christ comes from being Separated from the world and Sanctified by the Word. Child of God, if you want to find everlasting joy, then you must get a grasp of this concept, or you will spend a life of aimless and joyless wandering.

**Sent (vs. 18-19)**

***As you sent me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. I sanctify myself for them, so that they also may be sanctified by the truth.*** **John 17:18-19**

Jesus knew that He was leaving His disciples here on earth to carry out the mission for which His death and resurrection was intended. It was His Father's plan that He die for the sins of men, and that those redeemed men in turn would carry the message of redemption to this fallen world. Christ had called and commissioned these, His disciples, for such a purpose. In order for a Christian to be effective in this fallen world, they need to both be kept Safe (protected) by The Father, as well as, Sanctified by The Spirit, before they can be Sent. We are powerless to fulfill the Great Commission, if it were not for the empowerment of The Holy Spirit. This is why Jesus so earnestly prayed for such things in earshot of His disciples; so that, not only would The Father answer His prayer, but also that His disciples would desire them.

The very same things that Christ requested for His disciples are the same things that He is praying for us today as well. In two thousand years, the mission of The Church has not changed. We have been sent into the world as ambassadors of The Gospel of Christ. The word that The Savior used for "sent" in the Greek is "apostello" from which we derive the word apostle. And it literally means "one who is appointed to be sent away". It carries with it the implication of an ambassador sent to a foreign land on behalf of the king and kingdom. This is exactly what the apostles of Christ (as well as us today) have been commissioned to be. We represent Christ and His kingdom to this evil fallen world. And as we go about our mission, we are both protected and prayed for by The King of kings Himself.

***Therefore, He is able to save completely those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to intercede for them.*** **Hebrews 7:25**

So who are the happiest people on earth? Who are they that live in the perpetual joy of Christ? It is those committed Believers, who have been called out from this world to be *Separated, Sanctified, and Sent*. It is those who have forsaken this treasures of this world in exchange for the treasures of heaven. Those are the happy ones here on earth. They may never win "American Idol", nor have the riches of Elon Musk. They may never be chosen to serve in the highest offices in the land. In fact, for the most part, they will find themselves despised by all of these. But to be in Christ, and by His Word, to be made straight with the will of God The Father is to be truly joy-filled to the brim. If you don't believe me, then just look around at the faces in your church this Sunday morning and let me know how much joy you see there! Those who are the ambassadors of Christ are a genuinely happy people. And I for one am encouraged just by being around them!

***"I have told you these things so that My Joy may be in you and your joy may be complete."*** **John 15:11**

So how is your joy this morning?

Let the *Separated, Sanctified, and Sent* all say... TRUTH!