

John 17:1-5

~ The Inner Sanctum of His Heart ~

Introduction

I want to begin this morning by taking you back to the year 1560 – the gospel has been penetrating **Popish German hearts** for the last 45 years...

Luther has been dead for well **over a decade** – and Phillip Melanchthon (a contemporary of Martin Luther) is about to give his **final lecture** to his students!

Melanchthon stands up – addresses the class – and says some of the **most memorable words** ever to be said in the 16th century church:

There is no voice which has ever been heard, either in heaven or on earth, more exalted, more holy, more fruitful, more sublime, than the prayer offered up by the Son of God in John 17...

I think that's a good place to begin!

Context

It's the final night before His crucifixion – Jesus is roughly 9 hours away from being crucified – dead – and buried after giving **one of the greatest sermons** ever to be preached to His 11 disciples!

The atmosphere is **highly charged** – these men have been under intense **scrutiny** – intense **direction** – intense **exhortation** – and intense **command**!

And **right before** they leave this room and head to His final arrest and betrayal – Jesus looks up to His Father in heaven and says some of the **most memorable words** ever to be uttered by the Son of God!

Quotes

J.C Ryle the famous Bishop says of this prayer:

These verses begin one of the most wonderful chapters in all of Holy Scripture!

Luther said that:

*This truly is a remarkable prayer that is truly **beyond measure** – a warm and hearty prayer. He opens the depths of His heart, both in reference to us and to His Father, and He pours them all out. It sounds so honest, so simple; so deep, so rich, so wide, no one can fathom this prayer...*

The great Scottish Reformer, John Knox, before he went to be with God –**every night** on his **deathbed** his wife (Margaret Knox) would read these words in John 17!

In fact someone once said that:

John 17 is the key to unlocking the Gospel of John – in fact they said that it's the key to unlocking the entire bible – because **it's in this prayer** that we have the bible in miniature!

In this prayer we have what God is doing – what His Son is doing – what the disciples are doing – and what **we should** be doing when it comes to the salvation of the world!

This prayer has comforted hundreds of men – thousands of churches –millions of missionaries – & billions of people everywhere!

High Priestly Prayer

And so this is **NOT just** another prayer prayed by another human sinner somewhere in the bible – but this is **rightly** to be called:

The Lord's Prayer!

Unlike the prayer in **Matthew 6** that we call the **official Lord's Prayer** where Jesus prays:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name...

But one thing He **cannot pray** from that prayer is:

Forgive us our sins...

Because Jesus never sinned!

Jesus is the Son of God – He never once sinned!

But **here in John 17** we have what can **truly be called**:

The official Lord's Prayer!

Or if you like:

The other Lord's prayer!

And it's a prayer that really **only Jesus** can pray!

We can pray elements of this prayer – we can pray **parts** of this prayer – but as **soon as** you start hearing a brother or sister in Christ praying to the Lord:

Father glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began...

You're probably in a cult at that point...

And you took a **wrong turn** a long time ago...

Before the world

In this prayer we are invited into the **intra-trinitarian glory** of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit:

And the glory that they had before the world existed!

I wonder if you ever had that thought about **what God was doing** before He created the world...

What was it like – what did He say – How did He act!

Well in a lot of ways those questions are **complete speculation** – we have **no idea** what that was like!

But **on the other hand**:

A lot of those questions are answered here in John chapter 17!

Many have said that this prayer is:

The **sum-total** of Jesus' earthly ministry!

Because it has been structured after the Old Testament system of Leviticus 16!

Day of Atonement

It's often called the *High Priestly Prayer* because **in it** Jesus is making intercession for His people – He is making intercession for His disciples – He is making intercession for us!

Just as the high priest in Israel would **once a year** go into the *Holy of Holies* and make intercession **on behalf of the people** – Sinclair Ferguson notes that:

*By the time of Jesus, the high priest's preparation for his ministry on the Day of Atonement was carefully structured. First he cleansed himself by way of ritual washing & purification; then he engaged in an all-night vigil (that is an all-night prayer time **dedicated to** keeping watch and staying awake); and then he would appoint several men to help him stay awake through these hours of prayer...*

This was the practice in the time of Christ on the Day of Atonement!

*The high priest's intercession (he says) was formed of **three concentric circles**: first, he prayed for himself and the ministry that he was about to exercise; then he made intercession for those who were consecrated with him [**that is the priests and the helpers in the temple**]; and then, he prayed for all the people of God who had made their pilgrimage to Jerusalem!*

So the Priest would pray **first** for Himself – **then** for his disciples – and **then** for all the people!

3 Sections

And you'll notice that this is the **exact same structure** that Jesus follows here in John 17:

In **verses 1-5**: Jesus is **praying for Himself** – for His ministry – for His own excellence and glory that He had before the world began!

Second in **verses 6-19**: Jesus is praying for the Disciples – for their ongoing ministry and consecration in the truth and their sanctification in the truth!

And then finally in **verses 20-26**: Jesus is praying for the Church – He's praying for us – for you and for me – and for the **future believers** that will come to faith through their ministry!

In short brothers and sisters – this prayer is:

Profoundly **Trinitarian** – Profoundly **intercessional** – profoundly **missional** – and profoundly **God centred!**

This prayer is an invitation into the **inner sanctum** of the very heart of God!

His heart to win the nations – His heart to preserve His church – and His heart to see unity in His church because of His death on the cross!

We will not be able to **plumb the depths** of everything Jesus says in this wonderful prayer – and we're only **gonna scratch the surface** in verses 1 to 5 here today!

Main Point

And so let me give you the main point of verses 1 to 5 and really the main point of this entire chapter...

God is redeeming a people, by His Son, through His word, and for His glory

And that is the main point of verses 1 to 5 – and really **the main point** of this **entire chapter!**

God is redeeming a people, by His Son, through His word, and for His glory!

John 17

And so with those words **ringing in our ears** – let's begin at verse 1 of John 17 – John writes:

*When Jesus had spoken these words [and by that he means everything spoken in chapters **13 to 16** of the Upper Room discourse], He lifted up His eyes to heaven [a **very common** Jewish posture of prayer to God communicating full submission and dependence on God as provider] ...*

And so He lifted up His eyes to heaven and said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you, since you have given Him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given Him...

Opening Gambit

2 predominant themes that come out of these opening **verses**:

First: The significance of **His hour!**

&

Second: The glory that comes **from** that hour!

The Hour

This is now **the 7th time** Jesus has mentioned the word *hour* in John's Gospel; the **hour of** His death – **the hour** of His glory:

This is a theme we have been chasing ever since John chapter 2!

This is the hour when He will be lifted up and crucified for sinners on a cross to accomplish the **glory & salvation** of the Father's will!

And we understand **don't we** that this hour – **isn't referring to a literal** 60-minute period – but to:

The **time-span** of His death!

The **time-span** of His glory!

It is that **period of time** that was anticipated by the Father in **eternity past** – and executed by the Son in eternity **present**!

When Winston Churchill famously said:

This is Britian's finest hour!

He **wasn't speaking of** a literal 60-minutes – but was referring to the time of war in resistance – & battle – & courage across all of England!

And so too here with Christ!

In the final moments of His life – Jesus is living in light of **the hour of His death** – the hour of **His cross** – the hour of **His burial** – and the hour of **His resurrection**!

Jesus lives with this constant reminder of the mission of God that He's come to accomplish!

Lifted Up

And to be honest **why would it NOT** be this way when reading through the Gospel of John?!?!

The way that glory is anticipated in John – and the way that His Kingdom **is established** – is:

Through the death of Christ!

It is through the death of the Son!

That's the **pinnacle glory** in John!

That's the way He is glorified!

God's **primary way** of building His Kingdom & establishing His church – **is through** the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus!

God Building

And so part of what we are celebrating here **each and every week** as we gather together **as the people of God** – as we sing these songs – as we pray these prayers – and preach these sermons – and eat the bread – and drink the cup:

All of it is a celebration of the Son of God and His **kingdom advancing** through the world!

The church that He built – and He purchased – and He established **by His blood** because of His **heavenly hour!**

And **sometimes it's hard for us** as Christians to wrap our minds around these **2 realities** – or to harmonize them together:

That the kingdom of God **advances through** the suffering of the local church – through the suffering of His saints!

First through the sufferings of His Son – and then through the suffering of His people!

That's seems **counter intuitive** to the way we think here in the West – because we don't understand the **heavenly way** of glory!

Acts

But we just have to read through **the book of Acts** to see this principle on display:

Beginning with Pentecost all the way to the end of the book with Paul under house arrest in Rome – God **drives the Kingdom forward** through the **suffering**, through the **controversy**, through the **slander**, through the **riots**, through the **beatings**, through the **imprisonments**, though he **executions**, through the **shipwrecks**, the **pain**, the **suffering**, the **jail breaks**, **angels**, **demons**, & **midnight baptisms...**

Like the book of Acts is the **ultimate adventure story** where line after line you and I are tempted to think that the **latest collision** is bad for the gospel... but then **time after time**, Luke (the author of Acts) says:

And many more were added – and many came to faith – and God increased their number – and the brothers were greatly encouraged, and the leading women believed, and God is saving sinners, and the gospel is advancing, and so on.

The reality is that:

The apostles were made to be **public spectacles** in the eyes of the world **so that** when they spoke,
every person was listening!

And it's the pattern we see here in John!

The way to God's glory is through His suffering!

C.H Spurgeon says:

Our Lord's lowest stoop was His highest glory. He was never more resplendent than when He hung upon the cross, for the cross was His true spiritual throne...

Friends is this how you think when **chaos seems to be reigning** in the world?

Is this how you think when you feel the persecution increasing in the world?

When the world says that men can get pregnant!

Or that women should have abortions!

Or that we need to buy into specific pronouns!

Or whatever other crazy theory you hear!

Are you tethering yourself to the reality of the Scriptures – or are you **being swayed** by the popular opinion of the day?!?!

Is this how you pray when you're praying for the glory of God to be displayed in your darkest hour?

Friends Jesus' lowest hour – His darkest moment – was His highest glory!

And so He says prays there in verse 1:

Father the hour has come, glorify your Son, that the Son may glorify you!

Glory

In fact **4 times in 5 verses** Jesus uses that word *glory*:

It literally speaks to the **heaviness**/ the **weightiness**/ the **immensity**/ the **magnitude**/ of all that God is!

Moses

When Moses **asked to see the Glory** of God in Exodus 33 – He was hit with the full **weight & heaviness** of all that God is!

Isaiah

Or what about **Isaiah** in Isaiah 6 **he hears** the angels crying out:

Holy holy holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is filled with His glory!

His soul is **humbled** – and his heart is **broken** as he cries out:

I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips...

*So the glory of God is the **public display** of His **infinite beauty** and infinite **worth** in all that **He is** and all that **He does!***

And if that's what God's glory is — then **to glorify** God is to put **all of that character**:

On display!

It is **to put on display**:

The **immeasurable** beauty – the **inexhaustible** wisdom – the **unspeakable** greatness – the **incomprehensible** fullness — the **unfathomable** wholeness – the **inexpressible** vastness – the **unequalled** goodness – the **terrifying** holiness – the **blinding** otherness – the **unutterable** deepness – the **unthinkable** graciousness – and the **inconceivable** tenderness!

So that when Jesus is lifted up on the cross:

God's wrath
And love
And mercy
And grace
And fullness
And wholeness
And tenderness
And all His attributes

Are put on display in that one full moment of His hour!

And Jesus prays to His Father:

*Please please please do that for me – put **all of those attributes** on display so that I **may in turn** put your glory on display!*

Authority

And there's really **3 reasons why** Jesus can pray a prayer like this – and it **NOT be** blasphemy for Him to pray!

Other than the fact that He's God in the flesh!

I mean we know that!

But other than that – there are **3 reasons why** Jesus prays this prayer in John 17!

And the first reason is this:

Because the Father has given Jesus all authority over all flesh

This is what Jesus prays there in verse 2:

*Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you. **Since/ or because** you have given Him authority over all flesh...*

The reason Jesus can demand His glory be put on display is because He shares in the same **glory & authority** that the Father has!

From Oneself

The word authority there is the Greek word ἐξουσία [Exousia] – and it's actually a **compound word** taken from 2 Greek words:

Ek meaning – **Out of!**

And Ousia which is – **self!**

So literally it is:

An authority that comes from oneself!

It is a self-authenticating authority!

*It's really an authority that is **only unique** to God Himself!*

The very God that has all authority **in heaven and on earth** to command His holy angels – the very God who has all authority to command every leaf to fall and atom to exist is the same God who has given **all authority** in heaven and on earth to the Son of God to have authority over all flesh!

Flesh

The word *flesh* there can refer to all living creatures – but most noticeably to:

The entire human race!

All people – at all times – in all places:

Jesus is **King of kings!**

&

Jesus is **Lord of lords!**

And He uses this authority to govern all people!

All Authority

This is how Isaiah the Prophet speaks of this authority in **Isaiah 55** He says:

*For my thoughts are **not your thoughts**, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD.
For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so are my ways **higher than your ways** and
my thoughts than your thoughts...*

Paul will use a **similar argument** in Romans 9 where God gives the **hypothetical** scenario of a creature coming to God & feigning injustice **on the part of God** because He chooses some for salvation and others for eternal destruction!

And Paul says that what if a creature **hypothetically came to God** and said:

Well how can He still find fault with us?

If He's totally sovereign in salvation – then how can anyone resist His will?

How can He still condemn sinners if those sinners have no choice?

Is there injustice on the part of God?

Is there unfairness on the part of God?

Is there discrimination on the part of God?

And do you remember the response Paul gives to this man in **verse 20?!?!!**

But who are you, O man, to answer back to God?

Who do you think you are?

Will the thing that's made say to the one who made it – why have you made me like this?

Can the clay say to the potter what have you done?

*Will the creature cry out to the Creator you are **unjust!***

Shut up

One pastor summarised this thought with a very provocative phrase – and I'm gonna say it knowing that it's probably **gonna upset** some people here this morning – and it's gonna **sound harsh** – but I think it gets to the heart of Jesus' authority in John 17 today – He says:

*There's **a fundamental reality** at the centre of the Christian faith where the word of God comes to mankind, and it says this:*

SHUT UP!

Shut your mouth!

You're made out of dirt!

Like who do you think you are!

You are a creature!

God is the Creator!

*You just got here 15 minutes ago and you're **gonna be dead** in 15 more minutes!*

So who do you think you are!

Where do you get off in thinking that **you know better** than God who made all things – who created all things – who sustains all things!

Thinking that God is unjust and unfair or that He **doesn't have the power** & authority over the things He has made!

In what universe do you think that you have the **right & authority** to say to yourself:

Well I just don't think God would be like that... I think He should do it like this...

Well...Okay...

But His thoughts are **NOT** your thoughts – and His ways are **NOT** your ways...

So shut your mouth – fall on your knees – and submit to the sovereign Lord!

That's how the Scripture addresses us!

A People

And yet what's astonishing to me is that given this supreme **authority** and **supremacy** of Jesus – given His ability to rule the nations...

He **doesn't use** that authority as some **despotic dictatorial tyrannical dictator** – reigning in a way **heartless & ruthless way** – rather He uses that authority:

To grant to His people eternal life

With all the authority in heaven and on earth given to Him – He uses that authority:

To seek and to save the lost **X2**

NOT to **crush** them – but to **call** them!

NOT to **harm** them – but to **heal** them!

NOT to **reject** them – but to **redeem** them!

This is now the **second reason** Jesus can pray this prayer...

Jesus uses His authority over all flesh:

To **seek** – and to **save** – and to **serve** a dying people!

This is what Paul says in Acts chapter 20 – when addressing the Ephesian elders – he says:

Jesus Christ purchased the Church of God with His own blood!

1st Peter 1 says that:

*We have been ransomed from our futile ways **NOT** with perishable things like silver or gold
– but through the **precious blood** of the Lord Jesus Christ!*

And Jesus in John chapter 10 says:

I am the Good Shepherd, the Good Shepherd lays down His life for His sheep...

Eternal Life

And so the purpose for which the Father has given to the Son authority over all flesh is **so that**:

*The Son may **grant eternal life** to **all those** the Father has given to Him to purchase &
redeem on the cross!*

And Jesus **then defines** what this eternal life is in verse 3 – He says:

*And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you
have sent...*

Notice that:

*This is eternal life that they may **know you** the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent!*

Eternal life **before** it is **ever a description** of the duration of time & eternity – it is **foremost** a description of the **life-long pursuit** of:

Knowing God!

Loving God!

Obeying God!

Treasuring God!

Eternal life says Jesus is **NOT so much** a focus upon the **quantity** of time but upon a **quality** of life!

The sum and substance of biblical Christianity is knowing God Himself!

It is a life spent in the pursuit of knowing – loving – obeying – and glorifying God!

Packer

Here's how J.I Packer in his book *Knowing God* put this – he says:

You sum up the whole of New Testament religion if you describe it as the knowledge of God as one's holy Father. If you want to judge how well a person understands Christianity, find out how much he makes of the thought of being God's child, and having God as his heavenly Father. If this is not the thought that prompts and controls his worship and his prayers and his whole outlook on life, it means that he does not understand Christianity very well...

What I think Packer is trying to say is basically what Jesus says here – that:

Although the removal of our sin and rebellion is glorious and wonderful step in the gospel – although the removal of our sin and guilt before a holy God is grand and glorious reality of the gospel:

There is **more to salvation** than just being redeemed from **the slave market** of sin!

Christianity is first and foremost a religion about knowing God!

Seeking God!

Worshipping God!

Communing with God!

And so if hypothetically we had our sins forgiven – our souls redeemed – and our hearts washed by the cleansing blood but we **did NOT know** God:

That would **NOT** be Christianity!

If hypothetically we knew that the Father was propitiated toward us because of Christ – but we **did NOT know** the Father was?

What would that be?

This is why John Piper famously said that:

God is the gospel!

God is our good news!

He is our treasure!

He is our greatest joy!

He says:

The best and greatest gift of the gospel is that we get Him...He is our prize – He is our greatest good!

And so eternal life – before it is ever a description of the duration of time – it is first and foremost a description of a life spent in community with God!

This is what Jesus is **inviting us into** in the Gospel of John – the gospel of John is a divine invitation into the fullness of eternal life!

Because our great treasure – our highest joy – our only purpose is knowing God in this life!

Call to come

Which begs a **most obvious & important** question...

Do you have this life?

Do you have this eternal life being prayed for by Christ in John 17?

Is God your most valued & highest treasure of your heart?

Is your greatest good?

Your highest aim?

Your chief end?

Your final goal?

Is He the blazing centre of **all that you do and say** in your home, in your family, in your marriage, in your work?

Do you enjoy reading God's Word?

Do you enjoy meditating on God's Law?

Do you enjoy gathering with God's people?

Do you enjoy singing with Him?

Do you enjoy sharing Him with others?

Do you have the joy of knowing your sins are forgiven – your guilt is removed – and your soul is restored?

If NOT then you're probably **NOT** a Christian...

But here's the best bit – **even if He's NOT** – all of that can change today!

You can repent!

You can come to Christ!

You can have your sins forgiven and your conscience cleansed by a good and gracious God!

So friends if you are here this morning **NOT** knowing Christ – **NOT** loving God – and **NOT** desiring to live for His supreme glory then please come see me after this service – please talk to **someone** after this service – and please **do NOT leave** this building without first making your calling and election sure!

For this may be the very day that God calls you home to give an account of all these things!

Verses 4-5

Well in verses 4 & 5 then Jesus finishes off **this section** by giving to us the **third and final qualification** for why He can pray this prayer – He says in verse 4:

[Father] I have glorified you on the earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do. And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed...

The third reason Jesus can pray this prayer in John 17 – is because:

He's simply asking to be restored back to ***His rightful position of glory X2***

He's **NOT** asking to be restored back to something He **did NOT previously** have – He's **NOT** grasping at something that was **NOT** ever His!

He's asking to be **restored back** to a former glory that He has **always obtained** in eternity past by virtue of His divine nature!

And so if in **verse 1** Jesus is appealing to the Father to glorify the Son on the basis of His commitment to obedience X2

Well then in **verse 4** we see the same request but now it's an **appeal based upon the completion of obedience X2**

One is in **anticipation** of His obedience – the other is in **completion** of His obedience!

Mission Accomplished

And really what makes this prayer such an astonishing request to behold is **the tense of the verb** that Jesus is using here in verse 4:

*I have glorified you on the earth by **completing the work** that you gave me to do...*

He **has** glorified!

And He **has** completed!

It's almost as if Jesus is speaking of the cross **that is before Him** – as something that is **already behind Him!**

Something that has already been accomplished!

And yet we know that this prayer is **looking forward** to the cross!

It's looking ahead to His hour – and yet He prays and though his hour had **already been** completed!

Well the **simple answer** is that:

Jesus speaks of the cross with such **certainty**/such **assurance** of obedience that **in His mind** He can speak of the cross as a completed action!

It is a deed that has already been accomplished in His mind!

It is still **yet to come** in time/ in the future – but in His divine nature and obedience He has **committed to completing** the work the Father **has sent Him** to do!

In other words:

There is NOT one thing that can halt – or stop – or thwart – or hinder the divine plan of God!

Jesus **will get** His bride!

He **will die** for His people!

He **will purchase** His church!

This is a guaranteed mission that will be completed!

Application #1

And so what can we learn from this text in John 17 – what can we take away from this text to apply to our own hearts and minds?!?!

Well the **first thing** I want us to see from this text is this:

Because our salvation is wholly Trinitarian that means that our salvation is wholly secure

And Jesus speaks of our salvation here as **fully accomplished** in the providence of God because part of what He's trying to communicate to us is the **certainty of the mission** that He's come to **secure!**

And when it comes to the divine plan and purposes of God:

Each Person of the Trinity **plays His role** to perfection:

The Father will send!

The Son will accomplish!

And the Spirit will apply!

Those whom the Father has predestined!
 The Son will then purchase!
 And the Spirit will preserve them!
 Until the day they die!

Jesus has said this multiple times in the Gospel of John:

All those the Father gives will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast away...

John 6:44:

No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws Him, and I will raise them up at the last day...

John 10:27:

*My sheep hear my voice; I know them, and they follow me. And I give them eternal life, and they shall **never perish**; and no one will snatch them out of my hand...*

And even in this very chapter in John 17 – Jesus says in verse 12:

*While I was with them, I kept them in your name, which you have given to me. And I have guarded them, and **not one of them has been lost** except the son of destruction, that the Scripture might be fulfilled...*

The point is that because our salvation is wholly Trinitarian – each Person of the Godhead plays their role to perfection!

You and I are **never going to fall away** from the gracious grip of God!

He will never cast us out – He will never push us away – He will always preserve his people until the very end!

Application #2

The second thing I want us to see is this – that:

When it comes to prayer in the Christian life the glory of God is our highest aim and chief goal

One of the ways the doctrine of God's glory has been summarized in the Solas of the Reformation is:

Soli Deo Gloria – all glory goes to God alone!

And it comes from texts like this in John 17!

We want all the glory – we want all the honour – we want all the praise to go to God alone!

And this is true **NOT** just when it comes to the doctrine of prayer but in every area of the Christian life!

We want God's glory to permeate:

In our marriage!

In our parenting!

In our workplace!

In our nation!

In our government!

Everything we do is to the praise of His glorious grace!

NOT Impractical

Which tells us that:

The glory of God is **NOT just** some impractical doctrine for us to look at

But the glory of God is what drove Jesus to the cross!

The glory of God is what drove the Apostles to plant churches!

To send missionaries!

It's what drove men like Judson & Taylor & Goforth & Studd these men who despite going through the deepest pain of persecution and suffering –these men **gave their lives** for the glory of God!

Because:

The glory of God has legs!

It causes Saints to act!

It causes hearts to obey!

Museum Curators

*And one of the temptations we have as Christians is that we look at doctrines of the Reformation/doctrines of the Reformed faith – and we can become like **museum curators**:*

Like look at this doctrine – isn't it nice – John Calvin recovered it in the Reformation — now don't touch!

Look at this doctrine – isn't it nice – Luther gave his life for it – now don't touch!

*But what we actually want to do is **take these truths** – we want to take these texts and **fire them** at real modern enemies!*

We don't want to polish them and rehearse them on how they were once used in the glory days of old!

*But we actually **want to use these weapons** against real life enemies!*

Or to switch the metaphor:

What does the bible say the bible is?

Well the bible says that:

The word of God is a **sword!**

And what are swords designed to do?

They're designed to **cut** – they're designed to **kill** – they're designed to **hunt** real modern enemies!

Enemies that want to change truth – enemies that want to kill babies – transition children – alter history – and erase God!

They're the kinds of enemies we want to attack with the word of God and with prayer!

And so what I don't want you to do is think:

Oh look at this text – look at John 17 – isn't it nice – it teaches us about God – now don't touch!

NO NO NO – we want to **apply this text** to every area of life!

How is the glory of God permeating your marriage?

How is it permeating your home?

How is it driving you to pray?

To Scripture?

To evangelism?

To service in the church?

How does this text help you to love your wife?

How does this text help you to pray with your wife?

How does this text help you to be holy – to sin less – & to pray more!

And if you do NOT have a good answer to that – then you had better get on your knees and start crying out to God!

Because the glory of God in prayer is **NOT just** something for us to look at – but to use!

Conclusion

When it comes to John 17:1-5 friends- it really is an **immeasurable well** of fullness and beauty that no man could ever plumb!

But this is my attempt to begin – friend's:

God is redeeming a people, by His Son, through His word, and for His glory.

And the reason He does that is so we would take these truths and apply them to **every area** of the Christian life!

John 17:1-5

Discussion Questions

[Read John 17:1-26].

Main Point: *God is redeeming a people, by His Son, through His word, and for His glory.*

Q1. [Read verse 1]. What does the posture of Jesus tell us about prayer? – What is the content of Jesus’ prayer? – What does this tell us about the heart of God? – What does Jesus mean by *the hour*?

Q2. [Read verse 2]. What guarantee do we have that Christ is able to answer our prayers of petition? – What are the implications of His supreme authority?

Q3. [Read 3]. How do you understand the concept of “*eternal life*?” – [See also John 3:36; 6:54; Romans 6:23; 1 John 5:13]. – Why does this matter

Q4. [Read verses 4-5]. What is Jesus praying for and how does it relate to verses 1-2? – How is John 17:1-5 an encapsulation of the redemptive plan of God?

Q5. Why is one of Jesus’ important works that of interceding for His people?

Q6. How does Jesus’ work on the cross glorify both the Father and the Son?

Q7. Why is everything in this vast universe subject to the Lordship of Christ?

Q8. Our task as the Church is to make the glory of God more visible to a world that is lost and dying. How can we live our lives to glorify Him?