

Series: John

Title: For Them Which Shall Believe

Text: John 17: 20

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Place: SGBC, New Jersey

The intercession Christ made in John 17 is the intercession Christ ever lives to make for his people. Christ prayed for those he had called out by his grace. But not only for those he had called but for those he would call.

John 17: 20: Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word;

Proposition: Our great High Priest also intercedes for his people who shall believe.

It is a great comfort to see that Christ intercedes for believers that he has already quickened and called to faith in Christ. But what comfort to know that Christ intercedes for his people who *shall be* quickened, called and converted.

What love Christ has for his people! Their names are always on his lips. Christ stands before his Father's throne, "ever-living to make intercession for us." It is by Christ's intercession for us that we are brought to believe on him.

A PEOPLE FOREKNOWN

John 17: 20: Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word;

Our text shows us that Christ know and loves his people before we believe on him. We saw before in this high priestly prayer that Christ only prays for those that God the Father gave him out of the world. He prayed in verse 9, "*I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me.*"

Why does Christ pray for those God gave him but not for the world? It is because the eternal, everlasting love of God for his people is "in Christ Jesus" in the holiness and righteousness of Christ our Surety (Rom 8:9). The love of God is in Christ Jesus in whom his people are righteous and holy. The apostle Paul said, "[Nothing] shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Rom 8: 39).

If we read the scriptures, there is no way we can believe that God begins loving his people when we begin to love him.

Jeremiah 31:3: The LORD hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee.

God is eternal. Those God loves today, he has always loved and shall always love. There is no beginning or end to his love. There is no hatred yesterday then love today nor love today and hatred tomorrow. Christ knows and loves his people before as yet his people even know we are his.

Psalm 103: 17:...the mercy of the LORD *is* from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him, and his righteousness unto children's children;

All those the Father gave to Christ are equally loved of God the Father and his Son Christ Jesus. Our names are all written in the same book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. His people are all purchased with the same precious blood. All are justified with the same righteousness. The same Spirit sanctifies all. All receive the same inheritance the same Way.

God loved us while as yet we were sinners and it is only in Christ that God could love us and be longsuffering to us. We were sinners yet Christ died for us in love for his people.

Romans 5:8...God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

Titus 3: 3: For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, *and* hating one another. 4: But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared, 5: Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; 6: Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour;

CERTAINTY OF FAITH

John 17: 20: Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word.

Do you see the certainty that they shall be given faith to believe? He says they shall believe on him. God foreordained that each one he chose shall be called.

Romans 8: 29: For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate *to be* conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. 30: Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.

Ephesians 1: 5: Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, 6: To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.

Not only does God foreordination and predestination guarantee they shall be called, but Christ also suffered for each and every one of his people. He took the sin of each and every one of his people. He suffered the divine wrath of each and every one of his people and satisfied justice. He died and arose for each and every one of his people. For each person for whom he died “our old man is crucified with *him*, that the body of sin might be destroyed” (Rom 6:6).

When Christ was quickened, we were quickened together with him. When Christ was raised, we were raised up together with him. When Christ sat down, we sat down together with him. It was FOR A PURPOSE. It was GOD’S PURPOSE that in the ages to come, he might give us life and faith and show us the riches of his grace through Christ.

Ephesians 2: 4: But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, 5: Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) 6: And hath raised *us* up together, and made *us* sit together in heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus: 7: That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in *his* kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. 8: For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God: 9: Not of works, lest any man should boast.

That is why each one for whom Christ died MUST be given life and faith in Christ. That is why Christ said, “them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice, and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd” (Jn 10: 16). That is why our great Shepherd said not one shall be lost.

John 6: 39: And this is the Father’s will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day.

The very reason the church is in this earth, the very reason we continue to preach and send forth the gospel, is because we know Christ has a people that he shall call by the Spirit of God.

SAVED THROUGH THE GOSPEL

John 17: 20: Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word;

Notice our Lord says each shall be saved through the preaching of the gospel—"through their word." God ordained that his people will be called out through the public preaching of his works and his glory in Christ and him crucified.

2 Thessalonians 2: 13: But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth: 14: Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Notice, "he called you by our gospel." Our risen Advocate and Head shall have each one for whom he died. He will have each redeemed child hear what he has done for them. So he sends them a preacher.

Romans 10: 13: For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. 14: How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? 15: And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!...17: So then faith *cometh* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

But it is Christ through the Spirit who does the calling by our gospel.

Isaiah 52: 5: Now therefore, what have I here, saith the LORD, that my people is taken away for nought? they that rule over them make them to howl, saith the LORD; and my name continually every day *is* blasphemed. 6: Therefore my people shall know my name: therefore *they shall know* in that day that I *am* he that doth speak: behold, *it is* I. 7: How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace; that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation; that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth! 8: Thy watchmen shall lift up the voice; with the voice together shall they sing: for they shall see eye to eye, when the LORD shall bring again Zion.

Christ called his apostles and sent them forth to preach his word to call out others Christ redeemed—"for them who shall believe through their word." Christ continues to do the same today. Christ's is our Prophet, Priest and King. He gets the glory for being the gospel we preach, for sending his preacher, for making the word effectual in the heart of his people. Paul said, "Whereunto HE called you by our gospel..." Peter said, "Who BY HIM do believe in God, that raised him up from the dead, and gave him glory; that your faith and hope might be in God" (1 Pet 1:21). Christ said,

Isaiah 61: 1: The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound; 2 To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn; 3 To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he might be glorified.

What assurance we have that our God shall call out his people. God chose us in Christ and predestinated us to be called. Christ redeemed us so justice demands we be called. Christ lives to intercede that each one be called to him. He is able to send the gospel to each one. The Holy Spirit is irresistible in quickening each one.

Isaiah 55:11: So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper *in the thing* whereto I sent

2 Peter 3: 9: The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward [his elect], not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance...15: And account *that* the longsuffering of our Lord *is* salvation;

Every time I prepare a message, I pray for you who do not believe on him, as well as for you who do. I ask the Lord to make his people hear. If you are his yet lost then one of these days, he will open your eyes.

He shall bring each of his own to cry for mercy. He shall give each one faith to see him coming across the mountains with free justification, free pardon, free redemption by his blood. He said, “my people shall know my name: therefore they shall know in that day that I am he that doth speak: behold, it is I.”

John 10: 16:...they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, *and* one shepherd.

2 Corinthians 5:20: Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech *you* by us: we pray *you* in Christ’s stead, be ye reconciled to God. 21 For he hath made him *to be* sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him. 6: 1: We then, *as* workers together *with him*, beseech *you* also that ye receive not the grace of God in vain. 2: (For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now *is* the accepted time; behold, now *is* the day of salvation.)

Amen!