

**AFTER DARKNESS, LIGHT:**  
**A STUDY OF THE HIGH-PRIESTLY PRAYER OF OUR LORD**  
**(JOHN 17:1-26)**

**Topics:** ♦ The Chief End of Jesus Christ (17:1-5) ♦ **The Only Heaven There Is (17:3)** ♦ What Makes a Good Disciple (17:6-8) ♦ Us and the World (17:9-11) ♦ What Jesus Wants for Us, I: Our Preservation (17:11-16) ♦ What Jesus Wants for Us, II: Our Sanctification (17:17-19) ♦ What Jesus Wants for Us, III: Our Unity (17:20-23) ♦ What Jesus Wants for Us, IV: His Glory (17:24-25) ♦ Immortally Beloved (17:26)

**THE ONLY HEAVEN THERE IS (JOHN 17:3)**

**I. Putting the Gift Above the Giver**

**II. The Definition of Eternal Life (Jn 17:3)**

- A. The First Petition of Jesus (17:1-5)
- B. “And This is Eternal Life...” (17:3a; see also Jn 3:16; 6:40; 10:28)
- C. Eternal Life Is Knowing *God*
  - 1. Eternal life is more than a matter of *time* or *space*—but *relationship*
  - 2. Knowing God is humanity’s highest good (Dt 30:20; Jer 31:34; Hos 2:20; Is 11:9; Hab 2:14)
  - 3. The God whom we must know is...
    - a. the God of the Old Testament
    - b. the God who has revealed himself through Jesus Christ
- D. Eternal Life Is Knowing *Jesus Christ*
  - 1. Why is Jesus next to God in importance?
    - a. He has been given authority over all flesh (17:2)
    - b. The problem of Jn 17:2
      - i. Ex 20:3: No worship of other gods
      - ii. Is 48:11: God does not share his glory
    - c. Jesus is equal to God
    - d. Not two gods—Jesus is part of the one true God (Jn 1:1)
- E. What It Means to *Know* God and Jesus Christ
  - 1. “To Know”
    - a. To arrive at a knowledge of someone or something
    - b. To grasp the significance or meaning of something
    - c. To have intimate experience of someone or something
  - 2. Summary: the only heaven that exists is being in relationship with God and his Son, Jesus Christ.

### **III. The Art of Living Eternally**

- A. By *adoring* God and Jesus Christ (Jn 1:14; 8:56; 12:41; 14:9; 17:24)
- B. By *submitting* to God and Jesus Christ (Jn 3:36; 12:49-50; 14:23-24)
- C. By *feeding* on God and Jesus Christ (Jn 6:53-55; 7:37; 15:5)

#### **Questions for further discussion:**

1. What images or ideas does the phrase “eternal life” conjure in your mind? How does Jesus define eternal life?
2. What does Jn 17:3 mean by “to know”?
3. What is involved in living eternally?
4. What does it mean to adore God?
5. What does it mean to submit to God?
6. What does it mean to feed on God?
7. Ps 37:4 says, “Delight yourself in the LORD and he will give you the desires of your heart.” Having heard this sermon on Jn 17:3, how can this Scripture be misused?