

**17:20-26 One with the God of Hope**  
Series: Who is Jesus, the Christ?  
Reading – **John 17:20-26** 28<sup>th</sup> August, 2016

This last week I came across Romans 15:13: “Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.” I have been thinking about this title, the God of Hope. Isn't hope something for which the world is desperate? We look for answers in environmental philosophies, in politics, in aid agencies, in retirement planning, in nutrition...yet it all comes up short. Where do we get our hope from...our joy...our peace? It is from God, who sought us, redeemed us, and took us in. Join us this week as we look at the end of Jesus's prayer in John 17 and start thinking about what it means to be one with the Father and Son.

- Why does Paul, led by the Spirit of God, give God this title?
  - What is bigger than God? Creator, who will destroy death, conquer Satan, promises a new heaven and earth where righteousness dwells...
  - Yet with our sin, a just God who seeks perfect righteousness would be a disaster.
    - **Psalms 130:3-5** “<sup>3</sup> If You, LORD, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand? <sup>4</sup> But *there is forgiveness with You, That You may be feared.* <sup>5</sup> I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, And in His word I do hope.”
  - How do I get this forgiveness? Through faith in the sacrifice of Christ on my behalf. God is not just big in ability to create rule, but in His ability to reach down to sinners.
    - **Romans 3:20-26** “<sup>20</sup> Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin. <sup>21</sup> But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, <sup>22</sup> even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference; <sup>23</sup> for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, <sup>24</sup> being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, <sup>25</sup> whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, <sup>26</sup> to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.”
  - More than ability – It is His love that draws us to hope in Him.
    - **Revelation 1:4-6** “<sup>4</sup> John, to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from Him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven Spirits who are before His throne, <sup>5</sup> and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, <sup>6</sup> and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him *be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.*”
  - And we are not left without a witness to His love. He tells us of His love in His word and He demonstrated it on Calvary.
    - **John 13:1** “Now before the feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that His hour had come that He should depart from this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end.”
    - **John 15:9** “As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love.”
    - **Romans 8:37** “Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.”
    - **Galatians 2:20** “For I through the law died to the law that I might live to God.”
    - **Ephesians 2:4** “But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us,
    - **Ephesians 5:2** “And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.”
    - **1John 4:10** “In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the

propitiation for our sins.”

- Lastly, we are welcomed into this prayer for us, to hear the heart of God, praying that God would keep us, would sanctify us through His Word, and now finally to make us one in Him, a perfect union in the Godhead. That is our hope, joy, peace...
  - **Ephesian 5:28-32** “<sup>28</sup> So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. <sup>29</sup> For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord *does* the church. <sup>30</sup> For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones. <sup>31</sup> "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." <sup>32</sup> This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church.”
    - Hear the call to repent and come and follow...
    - **Mat 16:24** “Then Jesus said to His disciples, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.””
- **John 17:20** “<sup>20</sup> I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word;”
  - Belief comes through the words of the Apostles... understanding.
    - **Romans 1:16** “<sup>16</sup> For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.”
    - **1 Corinthians 1:18** “<sup>18</sup> For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.” Message / preaching / LOGOS (logic argument complete story)
    - **Romans 10:17** “<sup>17</sup> So then faith *comes* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”
- **John 17:21-23** “<sup>21</sup> that they all may be one, as You, Father, *are* in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me. <sup>22</sup> "And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: <sup>23</sup> I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.”
  - What is the oneness for which He prays? It is a submission to the Father in thought, word, and deed.
    - **2 Corinthians 10:3-6** “<sup>3</sup> For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. <sup>4</sup> For the weapons of our warfare *are* not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, <sup>5</sup> casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, <sup>6</sup> and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled.”
    - **John 8:26-28** ““<sup>26</sup> I have many things to say and to judge concerning you, but He who sent Me is true; and I speak to the world those things which I heard from Him.” <sup>27</sup> They did not understand that He spoke to them of the Father. <sup>28</sup> Then Jesus said to them, “When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am *He*, and that I do nothing of Myself; but as My Father taught Me, I speak these things.””
    - **John 14:24** “<sup>24</sup> He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine but the Father's who sent Me.”
    - **John 14:10** “Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own authority; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works.”
- **Vs. 21b** “that the world may believe that You sent Me.” – A visible sign to the world – the submissive oneness.
  - **John 13:34-35** “<sup>34</sup> A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. <sup>35</sup> By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”
  - Why all these signs for the world?
    - God created us to show forth His glory. John 11:4: Lazarus – this sickness, not unto death, but for the Glory of God.
      - **Ephesian 1:4-6** “<sup>4</sup> just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, <sup>5</sup> having predestined us to adoption as

sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, <sup>6</sup> to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He has made us accepted in the Beloved.”

- **Ephesian 1:11-14** <sup>“11</sup> In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will, <sup>12</sup> that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory. <sup>13</sup> In Him you also *trusted*, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, <sup>14</sup> who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.”
- **Ephesian 2:7-9** <sup>“7</sup> that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. <sup>8</sup> For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God, <sup>9</sup> not of works, lest anyone should boast.”
- **John 3:18-19** <sup>“18</sup> He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. <sup>19</sup> And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.”
- **Vs. 22-23** <sup>“22</sup> And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: <sup>23</sup> I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.”
  - What Glory? **John 17:1** “Father the hour has come, Glorify your Son. Make us a part of the Cross.” **John 7:39** “(But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)”
    - 1) Salvation. 2) Suffering – Acts 5:41 - Rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His name. Acts 3:13 - Glorified His Son Jesus. Phil 2:9 - God has highly exalted Him. 1 Peter 1:21

As we look at Christ's prayer, we can see why we have hope. God has done the work; He has sought us, redeemed us, washed us, and is keeping us. We are to be His. What a view of salvation: one with God, grafted into Him, a part of His body and the church; made to be signs to the world. Let us not grow weary in well doing...(Gala 6:9). Let us be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that our labor is not in vain (1 Cor. 15:58).