

Introduction

1. "The most wonderful prayed...prayer on earth"
2. A conversation between two divine persons!
3. The subject? Our eternal good in Christ!

1. CHRIST PRAYS THAT WE MAY BE SANCTIFIED: v.17

- 1) Meaning: made more and more holy;
 - (i) it is a progressive thing in this life
 - (ii) reflecting God's holiness more and more
 - (iii) thought, speech, behaviour, motive – all
- 2) How? "through thy truth", i.e. the Bible:
 - (i) reading the Bible is sanctifying
 - (ii) sermons on the Bible are sanctifying
 - (iii) meditation and fellowship also
- 3) There are great benefits:
 - (i) our Master is visible in us
 - (ii) the world notices the differences: **Illustration**: McCheyne
 - (iii) it makes for heaven on earth

APPLICATION: "Be ye holy, for I am holy"

2. CHRIST PRAYS THAT WE MAY BE ONE: v.21

- 1) Unity is the second thing we notice here:
 - (i) NOT external but internal: v.21
 - (ii) union and communion with Christ
 - (iii) we enjoy this with the Three Persons
 - (iv) it is the result of conversion
 - (v) it must be on the basis of the truth

OBSERVE: This is the fault of Ecumenism
- 2) We should seek to promote unity!

- (i) by showing love to all believers
- (ii) by emphasising the main things
- (iii) by overlooking faults as far as possible

3) There is of course a limit to unity:

- (i) when one of the marks of a church is lost
 - (ii) when error of a major kind is allowed
- EXAMPLE**: God / Christ / Bible / Gospel / Sacraments
- (iii) "Come ye out from among them"
- OBSERVE**: I think this refers to the grave problem in the C of S just now
- APPLICATION**: Be kind, welcoming, forgiving.

3. CHRIST PRAYS THAT WE MAY BE WITH HIM: v.24

- 1) The end of the prayer refers to heaven:
 - (i) "with me where I am": in heaven
 - (ii) "behold my glory": as it now is
 - (iii) "these have known": faith in the truth
 - (iv) "the love...in them": eternally
 - (v) "I in them": mystical union forever
- 2) These blessings begin here on earth:
 - (i) they must do – we are now in Christ
 - (ii) but the fulness awaits the future
- 3) The future of a believer is wonderful:
 - (i) after death: glory with Christ
 - (ii) after resurrection: full glory with Christ

APPLICATION: O what happiness is ours!

CONCLUSION

1. This is what we pray for
2. Christ prays for it
3. The Father will give it!

PSALM**89: 15 – 20****45²: 13 – 17****16: 8 – 11**