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Prayer Meeting address by Mr J. Delves at "Ebenezer" Clapham on  
Saturday evening 24.10.70

JOHN 17

This chapter might well be called the Lord's Prayer, for this is what it was; an intercessory prayer; and it is noticeable the frequent references He makes to the world as distinct from those who are in union with Himself and for whom He prays.

We may safely conclude that if we have an interest in this prayer we are safe for heaven, for each one stands in union with the blessed Redeemer and is given to Him by His Father. There is a reference to a universal authority that is in relation to His meditorial power, As God He possessed everything, but He said, "As thou hast given him power over all flesh". They are all in His hand and all things are under His feet, and He said to John in the Revelation, "I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death". But there is a particular people here that were given to Him and He says, "that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him". O what an amazing mercy it will be if you and I come in the latter part of this chapter. He has power over all flesh absolutely, but there are those that are given to Him to whom He gives eternal life, the greatest of all gifts, and this is referred to in an earlier chapter, "I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand".

He says here, "I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do". "I have finished the work". But He had not as yet passed through the agonies of Gethsemane, neither was He then crucified on the cross, but this point came to me like this, He had finished the work relating to His active obedience throughout the whole of His life, but He had not finished the work, practically speaking in relation to His passive obedience.

In relation to His active obedience we find Him saying, "I have a baptism to be baptized with; and how am I straitened till it be accomplished"; but relating to His passive obedience it is recorded of Him, "He is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so He openeth not His mouth". His holy will, His divine determination and His humble subjection to His Father's will which He came to fulfil incorporate both His active and His passive obedience.

This is the point with us whether we have a part and lot in this. Those who have a prayerful concern, a gracious exercise, whose hearts are softened by His mercy and grace, may feel a hope that it is so. May the Lord graciously confirm us, so that, though this will bring mourning for our sins, we shall rejoice in His full and complete salvation.

Hymns: 117, 481