

GULF SHORES CHURCH OF CHRIST

Sermon by Ray Reynolds

Jesus Prayed For His Church

Text : **John 17:20-26**

Introduction :

1. This is truly the Lord's Prayer.
2. In the first part of this prayer, we examined two weeks ago, He prayed for His mission.
3. In the second part of this prayer, which we examined last week, He prayed for His disciples.
4. This week we will be studying the last part of His prayer in which He prays for His church.
5. This is a culmination of the latter two parts of the prayer, which we have already studied.
6. This prayer is the first as High Priest, the Intercessor for God's people.
7. These few verses tell us about the disciples of Jesus.

Discussion :

- I. JESUS PRAYED THAT HIS CHURCH WOULD BE BELIEVERS (v.20)
 - A. Christian believers believe in the word of the disciples.
 - B. Christian believers believe in the word of God.
- II. JESUS PRAYED THAT HIS CHURCH WOULD BE UNITED (v.21)
 - A. A united church is one with God, Christ, and the Holy Spirit.
 - B. A united church is one with each other.
- III. JESUS PRAYED THAT HIS CHURCH WOULD BE GLORIFIED (v.22)
 - A. We are given the glory by Jesus Christ.
 - B. We are given the glory for a reason (to let our light shine).
- IV. JESUS PRAYED THAT HIS CHURCH WOULD BE PERFECT (v.23)
 - A. The church is made perfect by its unity (with the Godhead).
 - B. The church is made perfect by its love.
- V. JESUS PRAYED THAT HIS CHURCH WOULD BE SAVED (v.24)
 - A. Jesus wants His church to have eternal life.
 - B. Jesus wants His church to have understanding.
- VI. JESUS PRAYED THAT HIS CHURCH WOULD BE KNOWLEDGABLE (v.25)
 - A. Jesus wants His church to know the Godhead.
 - B. Jesus wants His church to know His message.
- VII. JESUS PRAYED THAT HIS CHURCH WOULD BE LOVING (v.26)
 - A. The church should love to proclaim His message (notice "*will proclaim it*").
 - B. The church should love the Lord and each other.

Conclusion :

1. Jesus was concerned about His mission, His disciples, and His church.
2. The mission was about to be concluded and the disciples were about to die.
3. The church is now the only means by which others can know about Jesus.
4. Are you ready to become a part of the Lord's church?