

**Valley Bible Church
Sermon Notes for December 2, 2007**

**The High Priestly Prayer of Christ
John 17:11-12
Dale Whitehead**

Who did Christ pray for in His high priestly prayer?

Christ in John 17:1-5 prayed for Himself.

Christ in John 17:6-19 prayed for His eleven disciples.

Christ's prayer on behalf of His eleven disciples was motivated by an unconditional love rooted in the eternal decrees of His Father (John 17:6-11).

Christ's request on behalf of His eleven disciples in John 17:11-16 was that His Father would keep them in His name.

When Christ referred to His Father's "name" He was in essence referring to His Father's person.

When Christ asked His Father to keep His disciples "in His name," or according to His person, He was asking His Father to keep His disciples loyal to Him as He Himself had revealed Him.

No one could reveal the Father in the way that Christ could reveal the Father for the simple reason that His Father had given to Christ His name.

Christ prayed for His eleven disciples to be kept in His Father's name so that they, like Christ and His Father, might continue to be loyal to His Father's name as revealed to them by Christ.

The one disciple who had not remained loyal to Christ's perfect self-disclosure of His Father, who in fact had never responded to Christ's perfect disclosure, was Judas, the son of perdition.

The word "perdition" (APOLEIA) is often rendered "destruction" with reference to final damnation (Matthew 7:13; Romans 9:22; Revelation 17:8,11).

Judas' rejection of Christ's perfect manifestation of His Father had been prefigured by Ahithopel in Psalms 41:9.

May God give us the grace to live our lives in such a way that we may prove by the way we are living that we are in fact loyal to Christ's Father, as He has been perfectly manifested to us by Christ.