

**Valley Bible Church**  
**Sermon Notes for December 9, 2007**

**The High Priestly Prayer of Christ**  
**John 17:13-16**  
**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 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.

When Jesus used the word "but" in John 17:13, He did not change the request, He simply changed His focus in respect to the request.

Jesus changed the focus from the perseverance of His disciples, in respect to keeping His Father's name, to what they themselves would personally enjoy as a consequence of that perseverance.

The positive consequence of Christ's disciples remaining loyal to His Father's name in answer to Christ's prayer on their behalf was that Christ's joy would be made full in them (John 17:13).

When Christ referred to His joy being made full in His disciples He was referring to the joy of obedience being made full in them (John 15:10-11).

When the disciples of Christ are joined to the life of Christ and choose to live their lives in the power of Christ they will be characterized by His joy.

Though Christ's disciples will, while in this world, be characterized by Christ's joy, they will also experience the world's hatred (John 17:14).

The world started hating Christ's eleven disciples after they had received God's truth provided to them in and through Christ.

The world started hating Christ's disciples after they had received God's truth because God's truth so radically changed them that Christ described them as no longer "of the world."

Though Christ knew that those who had been radically transformed by God's truth and who were no longer of the world would be hated He did not ask His Father to take them from this world (John 17:15).

Christ did not ask His Father to take them out of this world because they, as His disciples, had work to do (Matthew 28:19-20).

But even in spite of the fact that Christ did not ask His Father to take His disciples out of this world He did not ask His Father to keep them from the evil one, or in other words Satan (John 17:15).

May God give us the grace, in spite of the hatred of the world and the attacks of Satan to know that through the prayers of Christ we will preserve and will one day be with Him on glory.