



# WATCHMAN'S TRUMPET



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May 2023



## FROM THE MISSION DIRECTOR

Hello,

I welcome you to this new month and present to you May 2023 edition of Watchman's Trumpet. The theme of this month's edition is "Praying Believers' High Priest (Part 1)".

Jewish High Priest is the most significant office in Israel when considering the nations' relationship with God. He leads and supervises the priests and Levites in ministering at the altar, burning sacrifices and teaching the law. Together with the priests, who are his descendants, he mediates and maintains the nation's covenant relationship with God and reflects in symbolic form the purity and holiness that should characterize that relationship. The High priest bore the names of all the tribes of Israel on his breastplate thus representing all the people before God (Exodus 28:29). Only he has the unique privilege of entering the Holy of Holies once a year to offer sacrifices for the forgiveness of the sins of the nation on the Day of Atonement.

Hebrews 2:17, 4:14-16, 7:25-27 applied this title to Jesus Christ and precisely illustrated how His death on the cross, resurrection and ascension to Heaven satisfies all God's demand for the forgiveness of the sins of all who believe in Him. He continues to represent us and unceasingly intercede for us in God's presence. Jesus as believers' High Priest is holy, blameless and pure, set apart and exalted above the heavens.

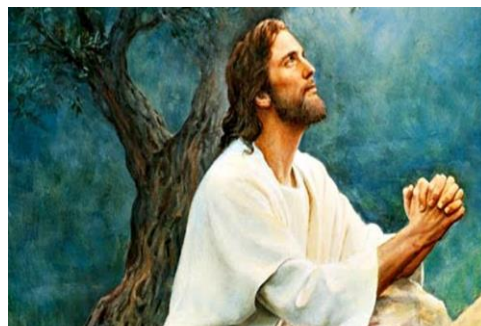
*He does not need like Jewish High Priests to offer sacrifices day after day, first for His own sins and then for the sins of the people He represents. He sacrificed Himself once and for all. He is a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God. His partaking in our nature (yet without sinning) makes Him able to sympathize with our weaknesses such that we can approach Him with confidence to receive help and find grace in our time of need.*

*On the night before His crucifixion, Jesus approached God in prayer for all His people past, present and future disciples the way Jewish High Priest do on the Day of Atonement on behalf of Israel.*

*This month's Watchman's Trumpet is a first of a two part expository review of this prayer in John 17. It is my prayer that as you read, your faith and entire Christian life will be strengthen as you share in Christ's burden for the Universal Church and experience His great love for you and for all His people reflected in the content and context of this prayer. Welcome!*

## PRAYER OF THE NEW TESTAMENT AND BELIEVERS' HIGH PRIEST

*"These words spake Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee: As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he*



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*should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him. And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent." John 17:1-3*

This entire John's Gospel chapter Seventeen recorded the prayer of Jesus. It is the longest prayer of Jesus recorded in the Bible. Some Bible scholars called it Jesus' "High priestly prayers". Jewish High priest enters the Most Holy Place once a year on the Day of Atonement to make sacrifice for the forgiveness of the sins of the nation. This prayer came on the eve of Christ's atonement for the sins of the world. Only that in this case Jesus is both the priest and the sacrifice, but undoubtedly one of the prayer points Jesus took in this chapter was that His sacrifice, the sacrifice He was about to make will be acceptable to God and would be made by God to serve its purpose as High Priest do in Israel on the day of atonement. This particular prayer point is coded in this form "Father, the hour is come; glorify

thy son, that they son may also glorify thee "John 17:1

We shall consider three subtopics:

1. Uniqueness and importance of John 17 prayer
2. Focus of Christ's High Priest Prayer
3. Present intercessory ministry of Christ on God's Right Hand

### 1. Uniqueness and importance of John 17 Prayer

*"These words spake Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, Father, ..."John 17:1*  
*"... men ought always to pray, and not to faint;"Luke 18:1*

John 17 prayer is important and unique for many reasons. First, it was prayed by the Lord after an instituted church ordinance- The Lord's supper. It was the first and maiden edition. We are by it taught to accompany the administration and participation in church ordinances like Water Baptism and Holy Communion with prayers so that the blessings of administration of it and participation in it will be permanent.

Secondly, Jesus prayed this prayer loudly so it could be heard and recorded by His disciples as a model for them. Thirdly, it is a prayer at the end of a sermon, a very long sermon given in John chapter 14-16. We from this learn that those who speak to people the word of God on behalf of God should set time aside to pray for those who heard us preach to receive grace from God to obey. We must water our seed with prayer so that it will make positive and lasting impact on those who listened to them. It is only doers of the word and the work that shall be blessed James 1:22-29. Fourthly, Jesus was going away from His disciples, at least temporarily to face the ordeals of the cross alone as part of the first of two crucial steps that will see Him return to Heaven where He came from.

Brethren should commit one another to God in prayer at parting moments. Fifthly, it is a prayer of submission to God and dedication of the time and task ahead for God to be in-charge and take control. We should do this with every assignment we undertake for God so that God will lead us, guide us and be our partner in all that we undertake for Him. Finally, it is a prayer that reveals the mind of the Lord and His concern about the needs of the church He will be leaving behind in the world to make them (and us) to understand our priority.

### 2. Focus of Christ's High Priest Prayer

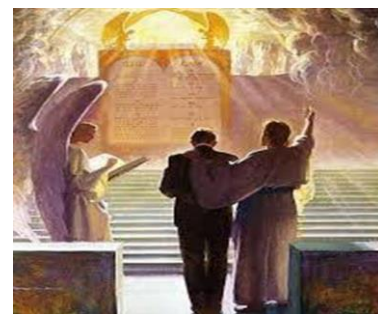
*"... Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee:"John 17:1*

*"Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God."Philippians 4:6*

First, He prayed for Himself. Ministers and believers should pray for themselves. Secondly, He prayed for His disciples, that God will protect them from evil or from the evil one. We should find and spend quality time in interceding for workers and Christ's disciples who partner with us and partake in God's work. We should always pray for our mission partners and members. Thirdly, He prayed for the church, for the entire



body of believers in the world including those that will come after through the witness of the disciples. He saw us coming and prayed for you and me. He prayed for our preservation in faith. He prayed for our sanctification because without holiness and practical consistent Christ-like Christian living, all our labour and efforts on earth and in religion shall be in vain. He prayed for our unity, because kingdom expansion and progress in the work of the Lord can only be achieved in an environment in which there is peace and unity.



Finally, he prayed for our glorification, that God will grant to us the privilege of living with Him in eternity. This is the ultimate and most important goal of following the Lord and serving Him. The Bible stated that those who follow or serve the Lord only for worldly gains are miserable 1corinthians 15:19.

### 3. Present intercessory ministry of Christ on God's Right Hand

*"Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us."Romans 8:34*

The prayer that Jesus prayed in the 17, specifically the key prayer points hinted about His present intercessory role and prayer for us on the right hand of God in heaven now. The things that are His concerns about His people in the world at that time are obviously still His concerns today. In those prayer points lies the key of survival, sustenance, progress and desirable destination of all God's people in the world and the universal church. These then should be our priorities too. We must show concerns and cooperate with the Lord for our preservation in faith and protection from the evil one. We must show concern and cooperate with the Lord for our sanctification and consistent bearing of the fruit of it. We must show concern and cooperate with the Lord for our unity and glorification. God always answer any prayer that Christ prayed. We should therefore be convinced that once we cooperate with the Lord, these prayers will be answered for us and concerning us both individually and corporately.





## ABOUT WATCHMAN OUTREACH MISSION

Watchman Outreach Mission as envisioned fundamentally comprises of men and women of faith who watch over one another and together watch for the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. Next to this primary assignment is an equally important responsibility of bringing others into the same state of watchfulness and readiness as the coming of the Lord draws near. Ours is a trans-ministerial, trans-denominational mission. Our core values include expository teaching, prayer and counselling. We train in principles and practice of Christian discipleship and equip for effective Kingdom Service.

The Lord Jesus Christ in one of His parable said “*While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept*” **Mathew 25:5**. Watchman Outreach Mission is a response of faith to this and similar warnings about events in the last days. Our response is based on the premise that prophecies, visions and revelations about the future such as the one documented in the Lord’s parable of the Wise and Foolish Virgins are sign-posts by which men are warned to keep vigil to avoid disastrous end. We serve to wake up the church and men everywhere to remain alert and watch for the Lord’s return.

The Mission, based in Ibadan, Nigeria, was launched in 2009 and its maiden outing took place on the 20th November of the same year. On that day, we partnered with All Nations Evangelical Ministry (ANEM), Akobo, Ibadan for Evangelistic and Medical Mission Outreach to Idi - Ose Village on Arulogun - Olorunda Road in Lagelu Local Government, Ibadan.

In the years that followed we networked with churches and other Christian groups too to implement our mandate which include conducting gospel outreaches, discipleship training for new converts, organizing and facilitating workers and ministerial training, conducting administrative reviews in churches and ministries, writing of proposals for reforms and church growth strategies that can enhance social cohesion, improve church finances and foster overall development, unity and growth of such ministries; monitoring and/or supervision of the implementation of such reforms and strategies.

Some of these Christian groups and ministries include with Christ Apostolic Church, Oke - Ife in Ajangboju, Ibadan, Nigerian Military Christian Fellowship, Adekunle Fajuyi Cantonment Chapter in Oyo - State Nigeria, Christ Gospel Mission International, Light of Jesus Evangelistic Ministry with branches in different cities in South Western Nigeria, and Ark of Salvation Church of Christ (ASCC) with headquarters at Molade, Monatan Ibadan.

Till date, although partnered ministries change from time to time depending on the leading we receive from the Lord, we remain committed to our main purpose and vision; that of service to the church and in the world to wake up men everywhere and encourage them to remain alert and watch for the Lord’s return. Through our activities, souls had been saved, believers edified and church workers’ spiritual growth and development enhanced, all to the glory of God.

## WATCHMAN PRAYER HOUR



### *Prayer Points - For May 2023*

1. Thank God for the atonement and Christ’s intercessory ministry
2. Thank God for the gift and hope of eternal life that we have through Jesus Christ
3. Pray for grace to follow Christ’s model of prayer
4. Pray that the priorities of Christ in prayer will be our priorities
5. Pray for fruitfulness of preaching in all those who listen to His word in our meetings
6. Pray for success in all assignment we undertake for God
7. Pray for sanctification and preservation in faith
8. Pray for continuing blessing of administration and participation in church ordinances
9. Pray that God will be glorified in our lives and in all we do
10. Pray for survival, sustenance, spiritual progress of all true believers and preservation in faith till the end  
“..... *men ought always to pray, and not to faint*,” **Luke 18:1**

**May the Lord hear and answer all our prayers - AMEN!**

**Watchman Prayer Hour** holds every Saturday from 10.30am - 12.00MD. We invite you to join us at our office in 78/80 Nepa (IBEDC) Building, Opposite U.I. Second Gate, Ibadan . Oyo - State Follow us on any of our Social media platforms and send your inquiries or prayer requests to any of our digital addresses.

## CHRIST PRAYED FOR HIMSELF

*“These words spake Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee: And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was.” John 17:1, 5*

In retrospect, and taking a broader view of John’s gospel, to fit this prayer into a general context, the first 12 chapters of John are about evangelism. John uses 7 miraculous signs to help non-Christians believe (John 20:31) that Jesus is the Messiah Saviour and Lord. But the Upper Room discourse John 13-16 shifted emphasis from evangelism to intimacy and followership with God. This segment of John’s Gospel is not for unbelievers and backsliders; hence Judas Iscariot’s departure in chapter 13 before the teaching began. The prayer recorded in John 17 is the Lord’s Prayer after the teaching.

We shall consider three subtopics:

1. Eyes lifted up
2. Praying to the Father
3. The defining moment and hour

### 1. Eyes lifted up

*“These words spake Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven,...” John 17:1*

*“I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help My help cometh from the LORD, which made heaven and earth.” Psalm 12:1, 2*

The opening verses (verses 1-5) of this chapter recorded the prayer of Jesus for Himself. Overall, the prayer points in the segment revealed that Jesus is focused and mission-minded. We should. It recorded a prayer of one whose main purpose for living and preoccupation in life is to glorify God in all that He does.



God expects nothing less from us. His prayer posture was also instructive. He lifted up His eyes to heaven. This posture commutates faith, hope and expectation. We find in it’s the obvious direction of where the true God is and lives. God lives above. He lives in Heaven and He is higher and greater than all; from Heaven he governs the universe and reigns over all that He created.

### 2. Praying to the Father

*... and said, Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee: And now, O Father, glorify thou me ...” John 17:1, 5*

*“After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.” Mathew 6:9*

Jesus opened His address to God by calling Him “Father”. God in a unique, peculiar and special sense is the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. The word indicates filial attachment and family connection or relationship. In this chapter, Jesus prayed with a deep sense of family and familiar relationship with God. It not only revealed whom God is to Jesus, it also revealed whom Jesus is to God, and even revealed His inner man, mind and thoughts about God and about all things concerning which He offered prayers. Sincere prayer reveals so much about the inner mind, life and thoughts of the one praying. It reveals our priorities, concerns and interests. Specifically for Jesus, this prayer revealed His concern, love and interest in God, God’s work and kingdom as well as His disciples. Jesus’ address of God as “Father” also implies submission and dependence. It revealed commitment and trust. A father loves, protects, encourage, disciplines and instructs his children.

We are God’s children too by adoption through Jesus Christ and these are the things we should trust God to do for us and do in our lives. On our part, we should submit to Him, trust Him and depend on Him. We should be committed and dedicated to Him.

### 3. Defining moment and hour

*“... Father, the hour is come; ...” John 17:1*

*“And Jesus answered them, saying, The hour is come, that the Son of man should be glorified.” John 12:23*

Jesus began His prayer to God His Father in John 17 by stating that the “Hour” (His time) has come and that God should glorify Him as His Son, so that He too, God’s only begotten Son can glorify God His Father. Contextual reading and study of John’s Gospel revealed that “the hour” that has come that Jesus mentioned refers to the cross, crucifixion of Christ; His resurrection and associated events John 12:27-33, 13:30-33. The hour refers to Jesus’ experiences and events ahead of Him over the next 48-72 hours. Specifically it included the Gethsemane agony, the midnight trial, the morning scourging, next day’s crucifixion, the silent Sabbath days and hours in the grave and His resurrection on the first day of the week including the fame and honour on earth and in heaven that His successful passage through them will attract to Him. Jesus summed them up as an “hour” a short period of time. It is an encouragement to us that like Christ, all earthly sufferings including suffering for Christ are temporary and for a short time when compared with eternity of rewards, blessings, glory and honour that heirs of the kingdom shall receive if we overcome all like Jesus did. Even though weeping endures for a night, joy comes in the morning.





## GLORIFY THY SON

*"... glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee: And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was."*

**John 17:1, 5**

*"Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God"* **1Corinthians 10:31**

The word "glorify" as used by Jesus in this prayer to God refers to enhancement of His attributes and reputation.

We shall consider three subtopics:

1. Glory of divine companionship
2. Beauty for ashes
3. The power of Jesus over all people

### 1. Glory of divine companionship

*"... glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee:"***John 17:1**

*"And he that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone; for I do always those things that please him."***John 8:29**

By praying that God should glorify Him so that He too can glorify God in the prayer, Jesus was asking for divine strength, sufficient grace and empowerment including God's companionship essential for His success in this last phase of his earthly mission. For the Lord, it is promotion examination. We all need God's presence and enablement to succeed and to pass promotion examinations. We need God in our moment of trials, difficulties and challenges; we need God at all times. We are to ask for these in our prayers like Jesus did. God is glorified when we worship Him with our successes and achievements,



when we bless others with them and by use of them give others opportunity to praise God. On the other hand, our attitude and comportment during trials, difficulties, suffering and loss too could glorify God if we obtain grace from Him at such moments to act by faith and act in faith. Men will through such comportment and attitude witness the possibility and profitability of gracious life.

### 2. Beauty for ashes

*"For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God."*  
**1 Corinthians 1:18**

*"And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:"*  
**Philippians 2:8-9**

The cross and crucifixion is not a noble or beautiful thing by the standard and measure of values in the days that Christ lived on earth and was crucified. Actually, it is a shameful way to die. It is God's intervention most probably in response to Christ's prayers in Upper Room and Gethsemane that turned all these around. The cross and crucifixion of Christ was turned by God's power into an event that men all over the world will love, celebrate and appreciate. It is the manifestation of God's power in answer to the prayer of Jesus that turned crucifixion into a source of eternal blessing. There is a way in which God gives beauty for our ashes and fame for our shame.

God's answer to Christ's prayer made His crucifixion a subject of eternal beauty and glory. This will happen if we like Jesus prayed that God will be glorified in our lives. God seeks to be glorified in every moment of our lives-in life and in death **Philippians 1:20**; in strength and weaknesses, in gains and pains, in gladness and sadness. We are to exalt or glorify God in all that we do **1Corinthians 10:31**.

### 3. The power of Jesus over all people

*"As thou hast given him power over all flesh ..."* **John 17:2**

*"And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth."***Mathew 28:18**

Next in Jesus' prayer to God, He declared that God has given Him power over all people so that He can give eternal life to those that God has given Him. He further defined eternal life as knowing (that is, becoming acquainted with, recognizing and understanding) the only true God and Jesus as Saviour, and Messiah, the anointed one sent by God. The fact that Jesus has power over all things and all men resonates all through the New Testament scriptures; the power is given to Him by God **John 17:2**, **John 3:35**, **Mathew 11:27**, **28:18**, **Luke 10:22**, **John 13:3**, **Hebrew 2:8**. God gave Jesus all powers, power over



all things and over everyone. By this power He was to give eternal life to those whom God has given to Him. No one can come to Christ, except those whom God has called **John 6: 65**. Anyone who comes to Jesus and believes in Him receives the gift of eternal life.

## THE GIFT OF ETERNAL LIFE

*"As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him."* **John 17:2**

*"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."* **Romans 6:23**

Eternal life is a gift from Christ. Jesus is the author of eternal life. Life in its simplest term simply means "activity" the absence of it is death. The more life we have, the more active we are. Physical life is recognized by physical activities, spiritual life is known by engagement in and involvement in spiritual activities. Life's activities are relational, adjudged by positive, practical interaction and relationship. Those who are spiritually alive are those who formed and have relationship with God who is described in the scriptures as the God of spirits. Such relationship is not possible without Christ. Spiritual life begins as relationship with God through Christ the Saviour. The unending dimension of this life is eternal life.

We shall consider three subtopics:

1. Understanding Eternal Life
2. The giver of Eternal life
3. Deity of incarnate Christ and His oneness with God

### 1. Understanding Eternal life

*"And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent."* **John 17:3**

*"And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand."* **John 10:28**

Knowledge of God and of Christ is eternal life. No one can truly claim to know God who did not know Christ John 1:18, 14:9, Mathew 11:27. Jesus gives life John 6:37, 39. He gives eternal life John 17:6, 9, 24. The more we know Him the richer, fuller, deeper and better our life becomes. Spiritual life and eternal life comes from the knowledge of and relationship with Christ and with God. This is more than prayer, meticulously following an order of service or working in the church. Beyond life on earth, eternal life is much more than streets of Gold and pearly Gates. A rich man could duplicate that even here on earth if he so wishes. Eternal life is more than company of angels (Jacob experienced that on earth) and life in paradise. The main point and central factor or core in eternal life is relationship, unending relationship with God and with Christ. It is unending intimacy and relationship with God and communion with Christ. This is Christ's definition in John 17:3. Eternal life is life in God's presence forever. All the other things mentioned earlier are effects and consequences or benefits of that relationship.

Eternal life has quantitative (time), qualitative (with who) and dispensational (now and future) dimensions. We have it now once we are born again and are in constant continuous communion, fellowship and relationship with God.



But the fullness of it shall come when we see the Lord face to face and will be living with Him forever. On our part and now, we must ascertain that every spiritual activity we engage in deepens our relationship and communion with God and with Christ.

Otherwise, it is a waste of time. All that we do spiritually should be with the intention of knowing God more and entering into closer and more intimate relationship with Him.

### 2. The giver of Eternal life

*"And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life"* **1John 5:11, 12**

Christ repeatedly declared His God-given authority to give life and bestow eternal life on those who come to Him John 4:14, 5:21, 26, 6:35, 54, 10:10, 11:25, 14:6. This life is about enjoying personal and intimate relationship with God forever. This is why we are here on earth. It is man's main purpose for living. To know God and to know Christ makes life good, pleasant and desirable; the more, the better.



*"But this man, because he continueth ever, hath an unchangeable priesthood. Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that comes unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them."* **Hebrews 7:24-25**



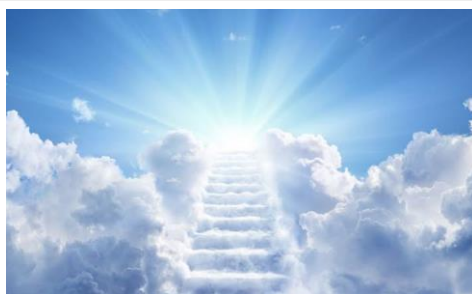
Ideal God-ordained lifestyle offers and ought to offer classes in God's knowledge. We are and ought to be in it taught to know Him and know Him more daily, worship Him, commune with Him and be prepared to live with Him forever. Augustine stated this about God and the Lord *"Our hearts are restless until they can find rest in you"*.

Through His suffering, sacrifice and death, Jesus purchased eternal redemption and life in God's presence for us who believed in Him and accepted Him as our Saviour and Lord. Eternal life is a future promise as well as present reality and gift for all who believe in Christ. We have it documented in John 3:15-16, 36, 4:10-14, Romans 6:23, 1Timothy 1:16, 1John 5:13 and Revelation 22:17 as a present reality and experience. But we also have it indicated as a future possession and reward for sacrificial service to Christ and in God's kingdom in Mathew 19:29, Mark 10:29-30, John 12:25-26. Eternal life is only for those who accepted Christ as Messiah and Saviour, and worship and obey the only true God. These words of Jesus imply that there are gods that are false. Gods that does not acknowledge Jesus or the need for His offer of salvation as a basis for reconciliation or restoration of relationship with God are false. Eternal damnation awaits everyone who worships them.

### 1. Deity of incarnate Christ and His oneness with God

*"And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was. And all mine are thine, and thine are mine; .."* John 17:5, 10

*"All things that the Father hath are mine:"* John 16:15, *"I and my Father are one."* John 10:30



Jesus' oneness with God is emphasized in this prayer. According to Him, He has finished the work that God gave Him to do and was about returning to God, and to Heaven. While on assignment on earth, He glorified God and now that He was returning to God, He prayed that God will restore to Him the glory that He shares with Him before the creation of the world. This clearly attested to the eternity of Christ and His oneness with God. In John 10:38 and 14:10-11, He repeatedly stated that He is in the Father, and the Father is in Him. The same statement that the Lord made about God the Father in John 17:2, John the beloved repeated in 1John 5:20. He stated that Jesus is the true God and eternal life. In Isaiah 42:8 and 48:11, God declared plainly that He will not share His glory with any creature. If therefore according to Christ's statement in John 17:5, God shares His glory with Christ before the world began, it become obvious that Jesus Christ is divine. He is not a created being, He is God.



Jesus is fully man and fully God: **He is fully man** Genesis 3:16, Isaiah 9:6-7,7:14, Daniel 7:13-14, Mathew 8:24, 9:11, Mark 6:3, John 1:14, 2:12, 4:6, 7:3, 5, 11:35, 12:27, 19:28, 21:12, Philippians 2:7-8, 1Timothy 2:5 and 1 John 4:2-3. **Jesus is fully God**, Isaiah 9:6-7, 44: 6. John 1:1, 14-18, 34, 49, 5:6 - 47, 6:69, 8:57-59, 9:35-38, 10:30-39, 11:27, 14:7-9, 17:5, 20:28, 31. Acts 16:31, 34, 20:28, Romans 1:3-4, 9:5 Philippians 2:6,9-10, Colossians 1:15-20, 1Timothy 3:16, 4:10, Titus 2:13, Hebrews 1:8, 1John 4 2-3, 5:20, Revelation 1:17, 22: 13.

We should also understand the implication of the authority and power that God gave to Christ over all people. This can be viewed from two perspectives. He has power to give salvation to those who come to Him but the judgment of those who do not also lies in His hands Philippians 2:9-11, John 5:18-30. It means eventually, one way or another all mankind are answerable to Jesus as their Lord; as the Lord Saviour to those who are saved and their Lord, the judge to those who are not. Jesus is the law giver. He is the legislator, executive and judiciary in all matters pertaining to God and His laws including compliance or otherwise by all men saints and sinners. Christ is both the Redeemer and judge of all mankind. There is no one else.



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## EDWARD McKENDREE BOUNDS

was born in Shelby County, Missouri on August 15, 1835. He received a common school education at Shelbyville and was admitted to the bar soon after his majority. He practiced law until called to preach the Gospel at the age of twenty-four. His first pastorate was Monticello, Missouri. It was while serving as pastor of Brunswick that war was declared and the young minister was made a prisoner of war because he would not take the oath of allegiance to the Federal Government.

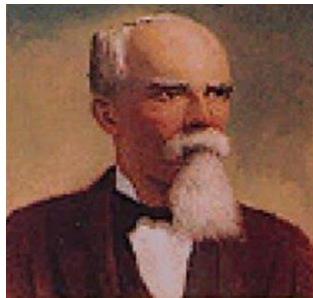
He was sent to St. Louis and later transferred to Memphis, Tennessee. Finally securing his release, he traveled on foot nearly one hundred miles to join General Pierce's command in Mississippi and was soon after made chaplain of the Fifth Missouri Regiment, a position he held until near the close of the war when he was captured by the Union Army in Franklin, Tennessee. After his release, he sought to have prayer meetings to rebuild Franklin but not the physical rebuilding but a spiritual rebuilding. He saw prayerlessness as a threat not only to the individuals but also to the collective body of the church.

After the war Rev. E. M. Bounds was pastor of churches in Tennessee and Alabama. In 1875 he was assigned to St. Paul Methodist Church in St. Louis, and served there for four years. In 1876 he married Miss Emmie Barnette at Eufaula, Alabama. She died ten years later. In 1887 he married Miss Hattie Barnette, who, with five children, survived him. After serving several pastorates he was sent to the First Methodist Church in St. Louis, Missouri, for one year and to St. Paul Methodist Church for three years. At the end of his pastorate, he became the editor of the St. Louis *"Christian Advocate."*

E. M. Bounds was a forceful writer and a very deep thinker. He spent the last seventeen years of his life with his family in Washington. He spent most of that time reading, writing and praying. He rose at 4 a. m. each day for many years and was indefatigable in his study of the Bible. His writings were read by thousands of people and were in demand by the church people of every Protestant denomination.

## MISSIONARY OF THE MONTH

**EDWARD M. BOUNDS**  
**1835 - 1913**



Rev. E. M. Bounds organized dozens and dozens of prayer meetings but he was later to become an itinerate preacher that traveled around the country preaching on how to pray and the necessity of prayer. He heavily emphasized prayer as the means to change the person praying, change the people around them, and change the world. Most of Bounds' sayings or quotes were focused on the subject of prayer because he was so consumed with the prayer life of the believer. He once said that *"God shapes the world by prayer. Prayers are deathless. They outlive the lives of those who uttered them"* and correctly stated that *"We can do nothing without prayer,"* which is very close to what Jesus said (John 15:4-7). For Bounds, *"Prayer honors God, acknowledges His being, exalts His power, adores His providence, secures His aid"* and again on the subject of prayer, he said *"Prayer is a trade to be learned. We must be apprentices and serve our time at it. Painstaking care, much thought, practice and labour are required to be a skillful tradesman in praying. Practice in this, as well as in all other trades, makes perfect."*

He died August 24, 1913. His books on prayer are still very relevant today because they are based on the timeless Word of God. They will forever be useful for growing in God's grace and knowledge.

### SCRIPTURE FOR MEDITATION

*"... this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent."*  
*John 17:3*

## SONG OF THE MONTH

### BEFORE THE THRONE OF GOD ABOVE

1. Before the throne of God above  
I have a strong and perfect plea  
A great High Priest whose name is love  
Who ever lives and pleads for me  
My name is graven on His hands  
My name is written on His heart  
I know that while in heav'n He stands  
No tongue can bid me thence depart  
No tongue can bid me thence depart
2. When Satan tempts me to despair  
And tells me of the guilt within  
Upward I look and see Him there  
Who made an end to all my sin  
Because the sinless Savior died  
My sinful soul is counted free  
For God the Just is satisfied  
To look on Him and pardon me  
To look on Him and pardon me
3. Behold Him there, the risen Lamb  
My perfect, spotless Righteousness  
The great unchangeable I Am  
The King of glory and of grace  
One with Himself, I cannot die  
My soul is purchased by His blood  
My life is hid with Christ on high  
With Christ my Savior and my God  
With Christ my Savior and my God

**Author:** Charitie Lees Bancroft

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