

WESTERN WISDOM BIBLE STUDY

Crowning Works of the Ministry

The Initiate Prayer for the Illumined

CHAPTER XVII of John's Gospel contains the words of the Master's last prayer upon Earth. At this time He had with Him only the innermost group of the Disciples who had received the holy teachings embodied in the ceremonial of the Last Supper, and the final teachings contained in Chapters XIV, XV, and XVI of John's Gospel. He concludes this work with prayer for these few who have remained faithful. "I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me; for they are thine" (John 17.9). This last communion closes with a prayer unto the Father in which Christ consigns them to His care and in which He reaches the heights of communion, of at-one-ment: "The Father and I are one." In the beginning of His ministry He taught them how to pray the universal prayer. His parting instruction pertains to that height of communion wherein the exalted spirit is one with the divine; it is the prayer of the illumined one, the Initiate. It is no longer the prayer of petition, offering, or demand, but a wordless, soulful ecstasy which sounds forth in a chant of praise and adoration. It intones a similar keynote to the rhapsody of Paul when proclaiming that "In him we live, and move, and have our being."

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 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.

I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do.—*John 17:1-4.*

The above has reference to the Master's esoteric mission and to His becoming the Planetary Spirit of the Earth.

Also, it tells of His bringing the new religion to all the world and opening the way of Initiation into the Christian Mysteries for whosoever wills to come.

And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was.

Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world.—*John 17:5,24.*

In these verses the Christ refers to his aeonic evolution which began before the creation of the Earth. He belongs to the archangelic life wave.

I have manifested thy name unto the men which thou gavest me out of the world: Thine they were, and thou gavest them me; and they kept thy word.

Now they have known that all things whatsoever thou hast given me are of thee.

For I have given unto them the words which thou gavest me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came out from thee, and they have believed that thou didst send me.—*John 17: 6-8.*

Through first-hand knowledge the esoteric group had learned something of the truth of His work and mission. Throughout this beautiful prayer the Christ is instructing the Disciples how to surround themselves with an aura of protection.

I pray not that thou shouldst take them out of the world, but that thou shouldst keep them from the evil.

They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.

Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.—*John 17:15-17.*

Christ sent His Disciples forth to demonstrate His teachings, for in them His precepts had become living powers; this is true discipleship. "As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world." (John 17:18).

Christ came to point the way to first-hand knowledge not only to His immediate Disciples, but to all the world . . . Whosoever knocketh, to him it shall be opened. (Continued)