

The unbeliever, looking with sin dimmed eyes into a poorly lighted world, might well despair. But the believer, instructed in the Word of God, and illumined by the Holy Spirit, should be able to read what comes, as it comes, and still experience happy days and restful nights.

I. That They May Be “Kept”

“I pray not that thou shouldst take them out of the world, but that thou shouldst keep them from the evil one” (v. 15).

1. The prayer of Jesus emphasizes what must have been to the disciples HOPELESSNESS.
2. The prayer of Jesus carried a note of ASSURANCE more powerful than their fears.

II. That They May Be “Sanctified”

“Sanctify them through thy truth” (v. 17).

1. To “Sanctify” MEANS to make holy; to purify or free from sin; to separate; to set apart for divine use.

┆ *“who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people . . .” (Titus 2:14).*

┆ *“As he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy . . .” (1 Peter 1:15).*

┆ *“I beseech you . . . that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world . . .” (Rom. 12:1, 2).*

2. To be “sanctified” implies BELONGING to the church = membership.

┆ *“that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world” (Philippians 2:15)*

III. That They May Be “United”

“That they may be one, even as we are one” (v. 22).

1. This unity is the unity of a common DEVOTION.

┆ *“Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity” (Ps. 133:1).*

2. This unity is the unity of a common MOTIVATION.

┆ *“they were **all** with one accord in one place” (Acts 2:1)*

┆ *“they were **all** filled with the Holy Spirit” (Acts 2:4)*

IV. That They May Be “Perfected”

“That they may be made perfect” (v. 23).

1. Jesus WAS dealing with a group of imperfect people.

┆ *“Be ye perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect” (Matt. 5:48)*

2. Jesus is STILL dealing with an imperfect people.

┆ ¹¹ *“It was He who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, ¹² to prepare God’s people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up ¹³ until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature [perfect] . . .” (Ephesians 4:11-13)*