

A Prayer for the Ages

John 17*

At the end of Jesus' instructions to His disciples He encouraged them to "take courage" because "I have overcome the world" (John 16:33). No matter what events occurred later that evening, this prayer makes it clear that Jesus was and is the Overcomer. He was not a "victim"; He was and is the Victor! The word *world* is used nineteen times in this prayer, so it is easy to see the connection between the prayer and John 16:33.

Jesus' prayer is organized in three basic sections. In verses 1–5 we find Him praying for Himself; in verses 6–19 He prays for His disciples; and in verses 20–26 Jesus prays for His church. As we read John 17 and try to understand what is important to Jesus, what are the burdens on His heart? Four things stand out above all others.

That Jesus might be glorified (1-5)

That Christians might be unified (6-12)

That His church might be sanctified (13-19)

That the world might be evangelized (20-26)¹

*These notes are prayerfully prepared to aid, not replace, your personal study of God's word.

¹ Outline adapted from; David Jeremiah, *Prayer: The Great Adventure* (Sisters, OR: Multnomah Publishers, 1997), 199.