

CLARENCE SEXTON



OUR PRAYING SAVIOUR



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OUR PRAYING SAVIOUR

A Series on Prayer from John 17

CLARENCE SEXTON

FIRST EDITION

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FEBRUARY 2024



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SUNDAY SCHOOL AND
BIBLE TEACHING SERIES

OUR PRAYING SAVIOUR

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Crown Christian Publications

Powell, Tennessee · 37849

FAITHfortheFAMILY.com

ISBN: 978-158981-813-2

Design and layout by Ryan Keiter, Evelyn Sexton, Matt Sexton, and Sarah Sullivan

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Printed in the United States of America

Dedication

This book is dedicated to my wife of more than fifty-six years, Evelyn Sexton. The seventeenth chapter of John is one of her favorite chapters in the Bible.

My wife has devoted her life to the Lord and to making me happy. I owe her a great debt. She has been faithful to me as a wife, and by God's grace, I have been faithful to her as a husband. I look forward to being with her forever in heaven.

Foreword

He being dead yet speaketh.” Hebrews 11:4

Dr. Clarence Sexton often said it was his heart’s desire to die with a hundred unfulfilled dreams in his heart. During his ministry, God allowed him to publish over a hundred books and booklets.

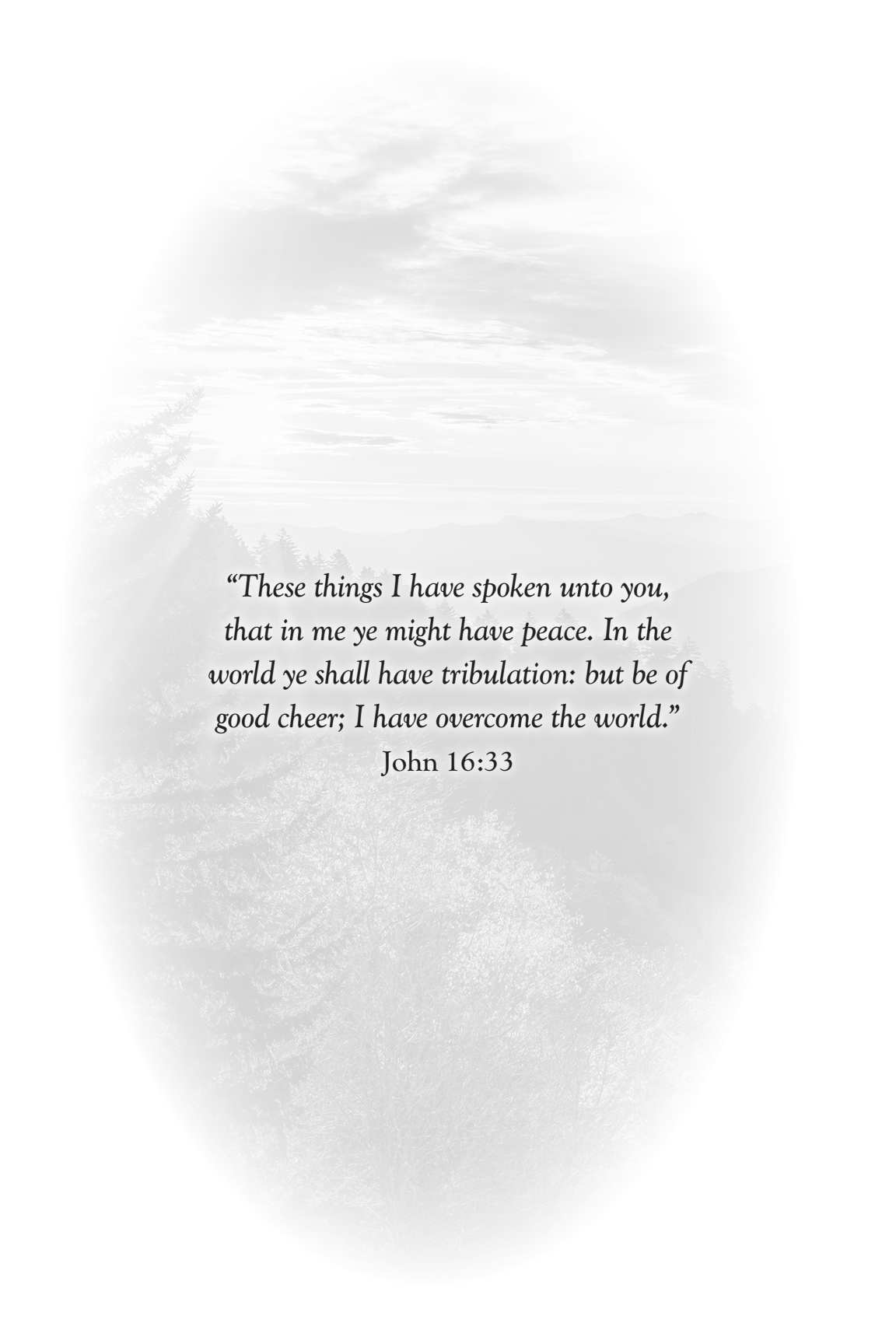
In addition to these published works, he prepared many other manuscripts that have yet to be printed. As he taught us, we desire to continue in the heritage of this servant of the Lord.

We will not hide them from their children, shewing to the generation to come the praises of the Lord, and his strength, and his wonderful works that he hath done. Psalm 78:4

*“Continuing in the heritage
of the servants of the Lord”*

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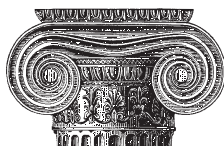


*“These things I have spoken unto you,
that in me ye might have peace. In the
world ye shall have tribulation: but be of
good cheer; I have overcome the world.”*

John 16:33

CHAPTER ONE

THE HOUR IS COME



When John Knox was dying in Scotland, he said to his wife, “Go read where I cast my first anchor.” He was referring to the seventeenth chapter of the Gospel according to John. He knew that he would get help from hearing the High Priestly Prayer of the Lord Jesus Christ like no help he could get anywhere on earth.

Please read John 17 daily as you go through this Bible study and ask the Lord to open your understanding. Without prayer, Scripture reading becomes mechanical. Prayer brings us near the Lord.

The Word of God says in John 17:1-26,

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

Our Praying Saviour

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

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 have 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.

I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me; for they are thine. And all mine are thine, and thine are mine; and I am glorified in them. And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are.

While I was with them in the world, I kept them in thy name: those that thou gavest me I have kept, and none of them is lost, but the son of perdition; that the scripture might be fulfilled. And now come I to thee; and these things I speak in the world, that they might have my joy fulfilled in themselves.

The Hour Is Come

I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest 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.

As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth. Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.

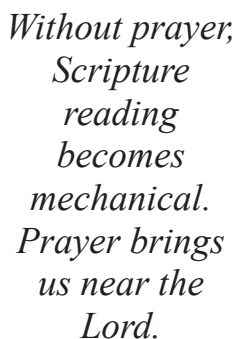
And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me. Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast 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.

O righteous Father, the world hath not known thee: but I have known thee, and these have known that thou hast sent me. And I have declared unto them thy name, and will declare it: that the love wherewith thou hast loved me may be in them, and I in them.

Our Praying Saviour

John 17 is the greatest prayer in all of the Bible. The High Priestly Prayer of the Lord Jesus Christ is the longest of His recorded prayers. Earlier in His ministry, the disciples came to the Lord Jesus and said, “*Lord, teach us to pray*” (Luke 11:1). Then in what is commonly referred to as “The Lord’s Prayer,” Jesus Christ taught His disciples how they could talk with God.

In Luke 11:2, Christ said, “*When ye pray, say, Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done,*” and so the prayer lesson continued.



*Without prayer,
Scripture
reading
becomes
mechanical.
Prayer brings
us near the
Lord.*

In John 17, we find something different. God the Son is speaking to God the Father. The Lord Jesus Christ became a man without ceasing to be God. He spoke to God the Father in an audible voice that His disciples might hear Him pray.

The Bible says in John 17:1, “*These words spake Jesus,*” in reference to the words He gave them in John 13, 14, 15, and 16. Please take the time to read the teachings of Jesus in these chapters especially as they apply to the work of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is in the world coequal, coexistent, and eternally existent with God the Father and God the Son.

Christ Has Overcome the World

In John 16:33, the last verse before Christ’s prayer begins, the Bible says,

These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.

The Hour Is Come

Let us give our attention to the word, “*world.*” As you read through this High Priestly Prayer, mark every time the Lord speaks of the world.

The word *world* is not always used for the same thing. Sometimes we are speaking of the created world, the planet on which we live. Sometimes we are speaking of the people who inhabit this planet, “*For God so loved the world*” (John 3:16). At other times we are referring to this world’s system which is both without and against God. The only victory we can have over this enemy is revealed to us in what the Lord Jesus says in John 16:33,

These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.

We need to overcome the world. I do not know of any power like this world’s system empowered by Satan and all his helpers. This world is alluring people to follow its plans and reject God and God’s desire for our lives.

God warns us in I John 2:15, “*Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world.*” Why should such a thing have to be said to God’s people? Because this world’s system takes such a hold on us that we make their goals our goals, their aims our aims, and their desires our desires.

This world appeals to our eyes, and we want what they want. They appeal to the enemy we have within us, our pride, and we want to be what they are. This system is well organized and well instituted by the Devil and his powers. We begin to envy them, wanting to have what they have.

This world appeals to the lust of our flesh, and we want to satisfy our lust the same way the world satisfies their lusts. They

Our Praying Saviour

parade everything from toothpaste to automobiles with this lust. You cannot go out for a meal at a fast food restaurant without some lust being applied to the food. They tell us, “You can get everything you want if you go our way.”

This world’s system calls us to follow them and tries to ensnare our family and friends. We cannot escape this appeal without interrupting our lives in prayer, lifting our eyes toward heaven, and turning our souls toward the Lord. So many things in life weigh us down and clamor for our attention. Many of the people we know and love are good people, but they do not have the right goals. They have developed goals that the world approves, and not the goals that God approves.

How do we win this battle? How do you spend time with children, grandchildren, family, and friends, and not lose them to this world’s system? How can they escape being taken by the world? *“The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak”* (Matthew 26:41). Our praying Saviour shows us the way by teaching us to pray.

I have often said to married couples, “The best way to know your spouse’s heart is to listen to them pray.” Do you want to know God better? Here we have the very prayer our Lord poured out as He prepared to bleed and die for our sins!

Christ Lifted Up His Eyes to Heaven

“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” (John 17:1). In a physical motion witnessed by the disciples, our Lord moved His body, *“and lifted up his eyes to heaven.”* The disciples witnessed our Lord’s heavenly gaze, and then they heard Him pray.

“I want you, as far as you possibly can, to be constantly recognizing God’s overruling hand; God, in our death, taking us out of the world, and God, in our life, keeping us from evil and upholding us in our integrity. When you get thus near to God, and realize that God is ever present with you, you are in the right frame of mind for prayer.

You are also in the state and condition of heart which will give you courage in time of danger; you are, indeed, ready for anything and for everything, whatever may come to you, when God is thus consciously overshadowing your spirit. This much, I think, the prayer of our Lord plainly suggests.”

Charles Haddon Spurgeon

Our Praying Saviour

In Psalm 25:1, the Scripture says, *“Unto thee, O LORD, do I lift up my soul.”* In this world where we shall have tribulation, we must learn to lift up our souls as we speak with God. We are crowded by people and busy with all the activities of life. We must have a divine pause when we give our attention to the Lord and speak with Him.

The Bible says in Psalm 123:1, *“Unto thee lift I up mine eyes, O thou that dwellest in the heavens.”* With your body prostrate on the ground and your eyes closed, you can lift up your eyes to the Lord in your soul. God teaches us in His Word that we are to look heavenward, talk with Him, and pray.



*Nothing we
could ever do
would cause
God to stop
loving us.*

If we intently studied this subject from Scripture, every serious Christian would have to admit, “I have failed in the matter of prayer.” Christ has made a way for us to go to God. In the word, *“Father,”* He declares the ground on which He approaches God.

Abraham Lincoln’s son often played around the grounds of the White House. In those days, security was not as tight. A visitor came by to see the President. He happened to see a little boy out playing by the White House, and the little boy overheard the man trying to gain entrance. He walked up to him and said, “I can get you in to see him.” At first, he ignored the child.

Then someone said, “That’s the President’s son.”

The man went to the boy, and the little boy said again, “I can get you in to see him. He is my Daddy.” Sure enough, the little boy took the man by the hand and walked him right in to see the President.

The Hour Is Come

We can go to God. The Lord Jesus desires to take us into His presence. On His merit and by His precious blood, we can go into the presence of our Heavenly Father.

Christ prepared to suffer by praying. Our Lord Jesus said, “*Father, the hour is come.*” This was His hour of humiliation and suffering. It was the hour when He would bleed and die for our sins. Everything in God’s creation had been prepared for this one hour.

Christ Accomplished Our Salvation

In John 20:30-31, the Bible says,

And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.

The purpose of this Gospel Record is that “*ye might believe,*” and, “*that believing ye might have life through his name.*” The title *Christ* means, “He is the Messiah.” There is no way to have eternal life except in the Person of Jesus Christ. Read and meditate on this passage for your own soul’s benefit.

After Adam sinned, God came and pronounced judgment on the serpent and upon mankind. He promised in Genesis 3:15 that when Christ came, the serpent would bruise the Saviour’s heel, but the Saviour would bruise the serpent’s head. On Calvary, our Lord Jesus suffered humiliation to destroy the works of the Devil.

All through the Old Testament, we find this message, “The Messiah is coming!” In John 1:41, after spending the day with the Lord Jesus, Andrew found Peter his brother, and said, “*We have*

Our Praying Saviour

found the Messiah.” They had been dwelling on the teachings of John the Baptist and the promise of the coming Messiah.

In John 2, we find the first of seven references Jesus Christ makes to the hour when He would suffer humiliation for our sin. The setting of this passage is the first public miracle of Jesus Christ at the wedding in Cana of Galilee. The Word of God says in John 2:1-3,

And the third day there was a marriage in Cana of Galilee; and the mother of Jesus was there: And both Jesus was called, and his disciples, to the marriage. And when they wanted wine, the mother of Jesus saith unto him, They have no wine.

Notice the response of the Lord Jesus to His mother in verse four, *“Woman, what have I to do with thee? mine hour is not yet come.”* Give attention to this phrase, *“mine hour.”*

Mary was a devout woman, a chosen vessel through whom God brought forth His only begotten Son. In the language our Lord Jesus is using here, we understand that He is saying, *“This is not about a mother and a son. I am not at the point yet where I must yield My life into the hands of human beings to do with Me as they please.”* Jesus Christ was born to die, but at the marriage in Cana that time had not yet come. He says to His mother, *“Mine hour is not yet come.”*

In John 7:30, we find this expression recorded again for us, *“Then they sought to take him: but no man laid hands on him, because his hour was not yet come.”*

In John 8:20, the Bible says, *“These words spake Jesus in the treasury, as he taught in the temple: and no man laid hands on him; for his hour was not yet come.”*

In John 12:23, we find a change to this expression, *“And Jesus answered them, saying, The hour is come, that the Son of man*

The Hour Is Come

should be glorified.” Are you beginning to see the cross as God wants you to see it?

In John 12:27, the Lord Jesus says, *“Now is my soul troubled; and what shall I say? Father, save me from this hour: but for this cause came I unto this hour.”*

In John 16:32, as He nears the cross, the Lord says, *“Behold, the hour cometh, yea, is now come, that ye shall be scattered, every man to his own, and shall leave me alone: and yet I am not alone, because the Father is with me.”* These were His final words to His disciples before He went to bleed and die for our sins.



*Through prayer,
Christ found the
strength to face
the most awful
hour in human
history and
finish the work
He came to do.*

In Psalm 118:24, the Bible says, *“This is the day which the LORD hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.”* Traditionally, this is the last Psalm that would have been sung after the Passover meal. We have every reason to believe that after Jesus instituted the memorial supper with His disciples, He would have sung this Psalm.

As He walked out to bleed and die for our sins, He was singing, *“This is the day which the LORD hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.”* Then in prayer, He said, *“Father, the hour is come.”* All of human history has led up to this moment.

Christ came to be born of a virgin and live a sinless life so He could go to the cross to pay our sin debt. He was crucified in the heart and mind of God from the foundation of the world. As He prays in John 17, He has come to the very moment that had been promised before the world began when He would bleed and die for you and me.

Our Praying Saviour

The Holy Spirit gives this precious example of prayer in John 17:1, *“Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee.”* This is why He came. In that hour, He who knew no sin became sin for us. In that hour, our Saviour cried out, *“My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?”* (Matthew 27:46). Christ found the strength to face the most awful hour in human history and finish the work He came to do through prayer.

Every circumstance in your life has been appointed by God. He allows us to choose or refuse to trust Him. Only God knows what we will face in life. He desires to give us the strength to be victorious in Him who came forth alive from the grave forevermore. What we can learn from meditating on Christ’s prayer in His hour of suffering will prepare us to face the troubles of life and draw us nearer to the heart of our Saviour.

WE ARE LOVED WITH an EVERLASTING LOVE

In John 13:1, as our Lord Jesus prepared for this hour, the Bible says,

Now before the feast of the passover, when Jesus knew that his hour was come that he should depart out of this world unto the Father, having loved his own which were in the world, he loved them unto the end.

Nothing we could ever do would cause God to stop loving us.

In Jeremiah 31:3, the Bible says, *“The LORD hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love.”* In the most discouraging moments of life, remember you are loved with an everlasting love.

The Hour Is Come

When my sons were becoming young men, I knew that they would face temptations that they had never faced before. I knew that there would be times when they would be discouraged because of their failures.

More than once in times of sincere conversation, I said to them, “When you get to the end of something and you are discouraged and your heart is heavy, I want you to remember that I love you and I pray for you. But if you cannot remember that your daddy loves you and prays for you, remember that God loves you, and He is praying for you.”



*If you are one of
God's children,
He will not
allow you to
live victoriously
on this earth
without
exercising faith
in Him.*

WE HAVE a MEDIATOR BETWEEN GOD and MAN

We do not have to go through a man to get to God. We go through Christ and Christ alone. The Bible says in Job 9:1, “Then Job answered and said, I know it is so of a truth: but how should man be just with God?”

Years ago, one of my grandchildren told me, “I don’t know that I can be a good Christian boy anymore.” He tried to live his life in a way that pleased God, his parents, and me, but in a very tender moment, he recognized that he was a sinner and said, “I’ve got a mark on me. How can I get it clean?”

“If we had nothing but John 17 we would surely have more than enough to sustain us, because here our Lord has given us an insight into our whole position, and into everything that is of importance and of value to us while we are in this world of time. We can do nothing better, therefore, than to look at this prayer, and to consider what He has to say.”

Martyn Lloyd-Jones

The Hour Is Come

The Bible says in Job 9:32-33,

For he is not a man, as I am, that I should answer him, and we should come together in judgment. Neither is there any daysman betwixt us, that might lay his hand upon us both.

The Lord Jesus Christ came to this earth and became a man without ceasing to be God. He puts one hand on us, and one hand on God the Father, and He brings us together. He is the great mediator.

The Bible says in I Timothy 2:5, “*For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.*” When we get to heaven, we will see the man Christ Jesus. As we look on the prints in His hands and feet, we will be forever reminded that He became a man and suffered for us. The billows of God’s wrath rolled on the Son of God because He became sin for us, He “*who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him*” (II Corinthians 5:21).

WE HAVE BEEN MADE a PRECIOUS GIFT FROM GOD the FATHER to GOD the SON

The moment we are saved, God the Father presents us to God the Son as a gift.

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.

John 17:1-2

Our Praying Saviour

Notice the little word “given” in verse two. This wonderful covenant that we have entered into is not a covenant between God and man; it is a covenant between God the Father and God the Son. All who come to God by faith in the Son, the Father will give Him.



*Every
circumstance
in your life has
been appointed
by God.*

In John 17:6, Jesus Christ mentions twice that we have been given by God the Father to God the Son. Notice this precious promise in John 17:9, “*I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me; for they are thine.*” In verses eleven and twelve, our Lord refers to the saved

of all the ages as, “*those whom thou hast given me,*” and, “*those that thou gavest me.*” The Word of God says in John 17:24,

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.

Seven times in the High Priestly Prayer, our Lord Jesus Christ revealed that along with our salvation, we have been made a precious gift from God the Father to God the Son. We see the greatness of God in this new covenant. It cannot be broken because it is sealed in the precious blood of Jesus Christ.

When Peter attempted to protect the Lord Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane, the Lord rebuked him in John 18:11, saying, “*Put up thy sword into the sheath: the cup which my Father hath given me, shall I not drink it?*”

You and I have been made a present to the Lord Jesus by God the Father. He gave Himself for us, and in so doing, He made a way for the Heavenly Father to give us to Him. You

The Hour Is Come

belong to Jesus Christ! He belongs to you! This is all because He was willing to go to that hour. He set His face like a flint toward Jerusalem to bleed and die for our sins.

I want to be faithful in the hours God gives me to please and glorify Him. Though we fail Him, our Saviour did not fail us. When His hour came, Jesus Christ bled and died, was buried, and rose from the dead. Then Christ “*sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high*” (Hebrews 1:3). In Hebrews 7:25, the Word of God says, “*He ever liveth to make intercession*” for us.



*You belong to
Jesus Christ!
He belongs to
you! This is all
because He was
willing to go to
that hour.*

“And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified.” Acts 20:32

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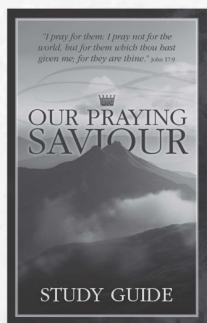
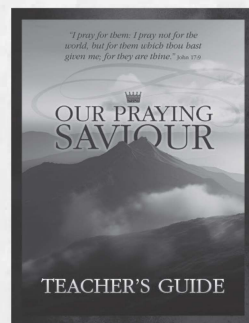
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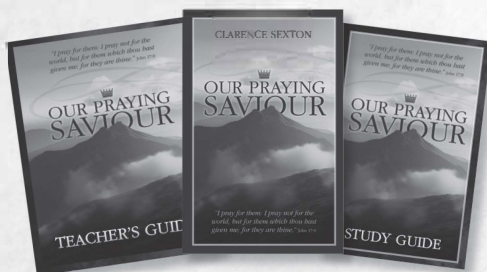
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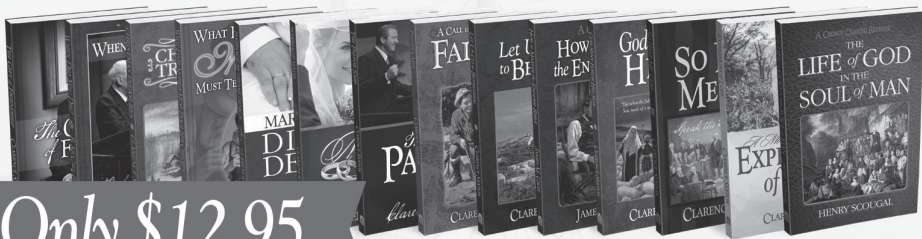
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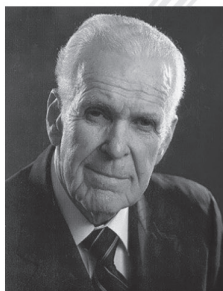
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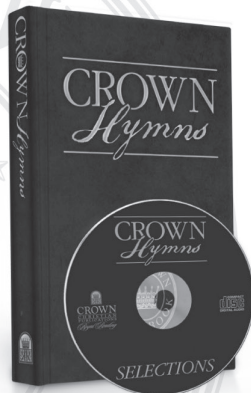
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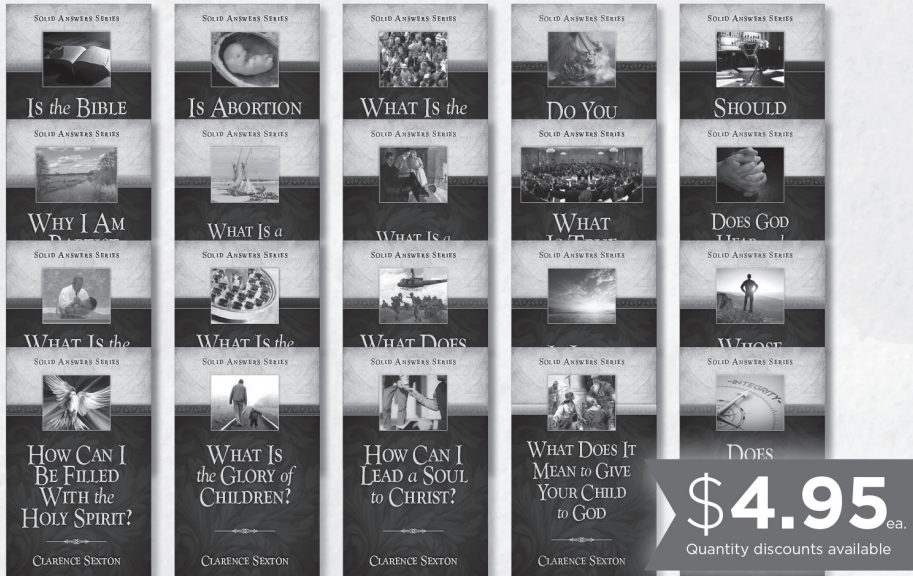
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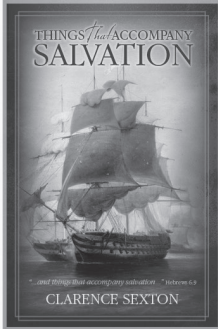


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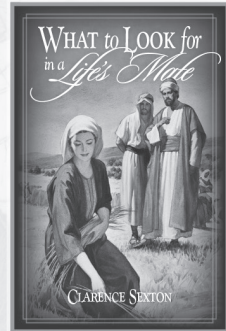
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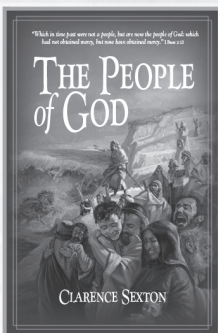
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