

THE PRAYER OF OVERDETERMINATION

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From John 17. THE PRAYER OF OVERDETERMINATION, PART #1

#1. Definition: Overdetermination is any condition wherein there is more force, power or causation present than is necessary to achieve the desired outcomes.

#2. THE THRESHOLD MOMENT (v. 1-5) "The hour has come" (v. 1), Jesus said in His prayer. The Lord's threshold moment was upon Him. Human destiny, our destiny, is parsed by that threshold moment! On one side of the threshold, our destiny is incalculable ruin. On the other side, there is human, personal salvation. Jesus' behavior at the threshold would overdetermine everything! " This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent" (v. 3.)

#3. The Savior believed that resurrection was overdetermined. The power of God was not the problem. It's the flesh!

#4. Important: We all have our personal threshold moments. At those thresholds, each of us will show faith or faithlessness. We shall either cross the threshold in faith, unrivaled conviction and with trust in that which we cannot see, or faith will collapse at the threshold .

#5. The Lord's timeline -- and each of us has one of those -- was always contracting back upon the will of God. Jesus instructs us that it is the revealed will of God that governs our thought, speech and behavior at the threshold moment!" -- having accomplished the work which You have given Me to do"(v. 4.)

From John 17. THE PRAYER OF OVERDETERMINATION, PART 3

#1. TWO ASSIGNATIONS: First, we are not of this world; and second, we are targets of what we could call "dark reality" (v. 13-19.)

#2. The "joy" (v. 13) about which the Lord spoke is clearly not a mental state subject to material nor sociological conditions. This joy must be a field of perception. Jesus' temporal experience was bordered by a much greater reality.

#3. These men had set the Word of God loose into the world. The problem: These men believed it (v. 14)! Biblical belief had earned them a spiritual assignation: They, too, "are not of the world" (v. 14, 16.) To have faith, to believe in revelation had changed everything. This is an approbation, or approval, from God. This is how God sees us, and precisely how He wants us to live. This spiritual assignation should be defended and treasured.

#4. The world hated them for what they believed because their belief represented a demanding eternal reality.

#5. The "evil one" (v. 15) put the second assignment: They were the target of the dark reality -- "keep them from the evil one"(v. 15.) If you are living by Scripture in the world, you will be "hated" by the world and attacked by dark reality. There is an evil reality.

#6. The answer: "The truth" (v. 17.) Obedience to "Your word" garners the believer the status of sanctification. The commanding place of Scripture in one's life turns one into a vessel of God (v. 19.)

From John 17. THE PRAYER OF OVERDETERMINATION, Verses 13-19: ADDENDUM, PART 4

#1. POLARIZATION constitutes the complete reversal of something.

#2. Jesus refers the reader to the fact of and the practice of, polarization by these words: "I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world" (v. 14.) The people of biblical faith and those of the world are on opposite poles.

#3. This is a revealed fact; it must be respected and observed. Ancient Israel willfully abandoned many times the required practice of polarization (Acts 7:51-53.)

#4. At any time in history, disobedience to the Word of God, rationalization of scriptural teaching, and/or the culturalization of revealed meaning always marks the retreat from polarization.

#5. Today and on many issues, it appears that some believers functioning on rationalism -- not Scripture -- have excused themselves from the necessary practice of polarity from the world.

#6. Satan, the dark reality (v. 15), is especially sensitive to those whose faith in God and in the Word of God forge the sharp point of polarization.

#7. All disobedience to The Word, all failures of faith, all apostasy, are signals of the retreat from polarization. Polarization is a stipulated (required) practice that flows from the true nature of revelation. "Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth" (v. 17.)

The life of Christ was the personal formation of polarity: "For their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they themselves also may be sanctified in truth" (v. 19.)

From John 17. THE PRAYER OF OVERDETERMINATION, PART 5

#1. From verses 20-23: PERFECTED UNITY: A NON-NATURAL DYNAMIC

Jesus assures the believer that that there exists an indissoluble relation between God and His Son: "I in them and You in Me, that they may be perfected in unity, so that the world may know that You sent Me, and loved them, even as You have loved Me" (v. 23.) "Perfected unity" is not a human dynamic. Furthermore, there is to be an indissoluble relation between Jesus and the believer.

This illuminates the movement of contraction. The believer contracts back upon God just as does Jesus. How? God is in the Word, and the Word was in the Son, and now the word is in us. Our response is to contract back upon the Word in thought , speech and behavior. Therefore, time does not and cannot leverage the Word. It is the Word that leverages time and the human mind.

#2. From verses 24-26: BREAKING CIVILIZATION BOUNDARIES

Every believer is here for one purpose: That is to be an extension, an agent of another world. "O righteous Father, although the world has not known You, yet I have known You; and these have known that You sent Me; and I have made Your name known to them, and will make it known, so that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them" (v. 25,26.) Breaking civilization boundaries begins with revealed knowledge and its projection into "the world !

Revealed knowledge has purpose. It is to break human temporal boundaries . It thereby enlarges all reality. Breaking is most unwelcomed by "the world." Breaking social, cultural and language boundaries is serious business! We need to know what we are doing!