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OUR LORD'S PRAYER – JOHN 17

LESSON 17 VS. 15-16

In John 17, Jesus' prayer to the Father for His disciples continues in verses 15-16, ***"I pray not that Thou shouldst take them out of the world, but that Thou shouldst keep them from the evil (of it.) 15 They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world."***

The word "world" in verse 15 is the Greek word "kosmos." Here it refers to the physical creation, or physical arrangement of the earth. Jesus was about to be literally taken "out of the world" to return back to heaven where He had come from. Jesus said He was not asking that they be taken off the earth to ascend to heaven with Him then.

In verse 16 he says, ***"They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world."*** The word is still "kosmos," but used in a very different sense. He is speaking here of the "world system" which is dominated by sin. That is why verse 15 ends with ***"that Thou shouldst keep them from the evil (of it because) they are not OF the (evil) world (system) even as I am not of (it)."*** It is the same as how we use it today when we speak of "worldly ways" or "things of the world."

Jesus was all about "the kingdom of heaven" as seen in His preaching. The "kingdom of the world" was Satan's kingdom, and Jesus was declaring that these disciples were not of that world any more than He was of it because the Father had given them (v. 6) to Him.

It says also in vs. 15(b), ***"that Thou (father) shouldst keep them from the evil (of the world,"*** so as not to be influenced to sin. He asks for Father to shield them from falling into the sin of the world. Jesus' shed blood releases us from sin. By Jesus' request (John 14:16), for another Comforter) Father sent Holy Spirit to us that we would be empowered to overcome sin and all its attractions, to be our Comforter, Guide, Anointer, Counselor, and our Help in time of trouble and temptation. That is how Father (by Holy Spirit) does indeed ***"keep them (us) from the evil."***

God's provision to us is complete, nothing lacking or missing. It is "Shalom."