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sacrifice which He was now about to offer on earth.

He was to purchase it with His own death. Christ prayed then as a praiser, now offering the sacrifice. It was a prayer that was a specimen of His intercession which He ever lives to make for us within the veil.

We are impressed here with the fervent desire of Jesus in this prayer, for He lifted His eyes to the heavens, as before in chapter 11:41 He catches our attention with this scantifying gesture, which is significant of the uplifting of the soul to God in prayer.

So John reminds us that lifting of the eyes is a natural act in prayer, especially when one has confidence in God. For God is conceived of as dwelling in heaven, and the eyes of a trusting Son turned toward the Father. John as an old man recalls the greatest days of his life by the aid of the Holy Spirit in giving unto us this truth. For we remember that Jesus had the habit of prayer, Mark 1:35, Matthew 11:25, John 11:41.

JESUS PRAYS FOR HIMSELF

John 17:1-5

Introduction

We continue our series of messages from the book of John. As we close out the discourse in the upper room, which was covered in chapters 14, 15, and 16 in twenty messages. Tonight we begin a new phase out of the life of Jesus as we come to see the circumstances of this prayer which Jesus made.

Chapter 17 is the prayer of Jesus and is divided up into three sections verse 1-5, Jesus prays for himself, verse 6-19, Jesus prays for the twelve disciples. Verse 20-26, Jesus prays for all believers. We have three sections to his prayer.

The prayer which John records now was offered in the presence of the hearing of the disciples, with whom Jesus had been conversing. There is no sufficient reason for questioning the accuracy of this record, because this is the subline ending of his personal work for the eleven. By way of teaching and encouraging we cannot imagine a better ending than that which would be more likely to be remembered by these beloved disciples. It