

Theme: Christians should pray for strength from God to be able to fulfill our call to be in the world but not of it.

I. Intro – General McClellan

- A. General McClellan - 2nd in class at West Point
- B. Thomas “Stonewall” Jackson was 17th of 59 in class
- C. McClellan was great at organizing & inspiring troops
- D. But many say he loved the Army too much!
- E. He did not want to send them into battle - their purpose!
- F. US Grant knew better - he relentlessly battled to victory
- G. As Christians we can be like McClellan - avoiding battle
- H. What is our call in this age? How do we fulfill it?

II. The World and Christians

- A. The world - a major theme in Jesus’ prayer (18 times)
 - 1. “World’ (cosmos) can refer to creation
And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began....
²⁴Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world. John 17:5, 24
 - 2. Often ‘world’ (cosmos) refers to evil, fallen order set against God & His people
 - a. The world does not know God

Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me. John 17:25

- b. Jesus and His followers are not of the world

I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world.... ¹⁶ They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. John 17:14, 16

I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word. John 17:6

- c. The world hates the followers of Jesus

I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world. John 17:14

- 3. There is a major difference between Christians & the world
 - a. The world does not know God - Christians do
 - b. Christians - like Jesus - are not of the world
 - c. The world hates Christians and makes war on them

B. Christians and the world in Jesus’ prayer

- 1. There is a basic antithesis & warfare between Christians and the world
- 2. A major temptation - avoid the battle
 - a. Simply capitulate and become like the world

- 1. But Christians are not of the world!

I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world.... ¹⁶ They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. John 17:14, 16

- 2. We can not think, love, and act like the world

- 3. To be a Christian is to be out of step with the world
- b. Never engage the world - like McClellan - live in a Christian ghetto

- 1. But Christians are to be in the world

¹¹ I will remain in the world no longer, but **they are still in the world**, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name — the name you gave me — so that they may be one as we are one. ¹⁵ **My prayer is not that you take them out of the world** but that you protect them from the evil one. John 17:11, 15

- 2. In fact, Jesus sends Christians into the world

As you sent me into the world, **I have sent them into the world**. John 17:18

- c. As God sent Jesus into this hostile world, so we are sent
- d. This means there is no avoiding the battle

III. Preparing for the Battle

A. We prepare for the battle in prayer

- 1. Jesus prays for believers rather than the world
I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours. John 17:9
 - a. Jesus prays for believers - not for world to change
 - b. The world will ALWAYS oppose us - this will not change
- 2. Jesus prays for us to be protected from Satan
¹¹ I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. **Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name** — the name you gave me — so that they may be one as we are one. ¹⁵ **My prayer is not that you take**

them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. John 17:11, 15

- a. Same prayer in the Lord's prayer
- b. Our ultimate adversary is Satan - He is the one luring us to be like the world
- c. Without prayer we will be easy targets in this war
- d. Protection & strength should be a major focus in our prayers for ourselves and others

B. We are equipped for battle by the Word of God

- 1. Notice how central God's Word is in Jesus' prayer
I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me and **they have obeyed your word...** ⁸ For **I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them**. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me... ¹⁴ **I have given them your word** and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world... ¹⁷ Sanctify them by the truth; **your word is truth**. John 17:6, 8, 14, 17
- 2. We are sanctified - set apart, in the world but not of it - by the Word of God
Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. John 17:17
 - a. Sanctification/holiness - being in the world but not of it
 - b. This is only possible as the Word of God shapes us
 - c. World works ceaselessly to warp our mind & heart
 - d. The only antidote for this is the Word of God

IV. Applying the Word

A. How are we engaged in this war?

1. There is no way to both obey Jesus & avoid this war
2. If we try to avoid the world - we are sitting out the war
3. If we try to be of the world - we are just POW's
4. Am I in the world - or trying to sit out the war?
5. Am I of the world - being shaped by it rather than God?
6. How am I living in a way that puts me totally out of step with this culture?

B. How are we preparing for the war?

1. If we realize this war rages, we must prepare!
2. Am I in the Word of God? Is it shaping me, or is the world?
3. Am I crying out to God for strength?
4. Are we preparing our kids for this war?
5. Notice how Jesus prayed for us - because we need it!
6. But be encouraged - Jesus prayed for you!
7. This war will be won by God - don't be POW or a deserter!
8. Cry out to Jesus for strength & protection - or you will become a POW or worse

Praying For Believers To Be Strengthened

John 17:6-19

June 30, 2013

Prayer

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴ The one who calls you is faithful and he will do it. 1 Thessalonians 5:23–24

6 “I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word. 7 Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you. 8 For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me. 9 I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours. 10 All I have is yours, and all you have is mine. And glory has come to me through them. 11 I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name — the name you gave me — so that they may be one as we are one. 12 While I was with them, I protected them and kept them safe by that name you gave me. None has been lost except the one doomed to destruction so that Scripture would be fulfilled.

13 “I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them. 14 I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world. 15 My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. 16 They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. 17 Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. 18 As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. 19 For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified. John 17:6–19