



## **They Kept the Father's Word** **John 17:1-8**

*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 (John 17:6—KJV).*

*I have manifested Your name to the men whom You gave Me out of the world; they were Yours and You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word (John 17:6—NASB).*

*I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word (John 17:6—NRSV).*

When Jesus prayed aloud to His Father, He made certain that His prayer was recorded by John for the benefit of all who believed and would come to believe in Him. His prayer included a brief report on what He had done in the world according to His Father's will. He had revealed the character and nature of God to all who met Him, and especially to His disciples. Jesus said that the disciples He chose to spread the good news of salvation had belonged to the Father: these men had served and worshiped the true God up to the limits of their understanding, and His Father had given them to Jesus so He could teach them more about God and give them words from God that they could teach others. Jesus reported that these disciples had done what the Father had intended: "they have kept your word." They kept God's word by listening, learning, obeying, practicing, and remembering what Jesus taught them, and after Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to them, they remembered and taught even more from Him. Because of their loyalty to Jesus and obedience to God, Jesus reported that they did not belong to the world and as a result the world hated them. Despite the world's hatred and persecution, however, Jesus' disciples spread the teachings about and from Jesus to others, and over the last 2,000 years many more have come to believe that God the Father sent Jesus into the world to give eternal life to all who would believe in Him.

## Thinking Further

1. Why did Jesus come into the world?
2. Why did Jesus want the Father to glorify the Son?
3. Why did the Father give Jesus authority over all people?
4. What is eternal life?
5. How did Jesus glorify the Father? How can we, if we are His disciples, glorify the Father and Jesus?