



**Sunday, September 21,**

**2025**

**Services @8:30 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.**

**Sunday School Classes for ALL:**

**9:50 a.m.–10:35 a.m.**

**YOU**  
**ASKED FOR IT**

Pastor David  
Rawley  
brings the  
message

**“The  
World”**

**@Otterbein Church**

**of the United Brethren in Christ**

**146 LEITERSBURG STREET**

**GREENCASTLE, PA 17225-1346**

Why does Jesus say he “is not praying for the world”? (*John 17:9*)

**John 17:6-9**

I have revealed you to those you gave me out of the world. They were yours. They have obeyed... they accepted... they know... they believed. I pray for them.

I am not praying for the world but for those you have given me, for they are yours.

**WORLD** is used with two different meanings throughout this prayer.

1) creation, **human population**  
i.e. whole world

2) **unbelievers** (non-Christians) as  
contrasted with believers  
i.e. evil world.

This phrase is connected with a request (vs.11) to “protect them” and is therefore quite **specific** to this **sentence**/thought. In the request for his disciples, he is not including unbelievers (the world).

In vs. 21, Jesus DOES actually pray for “the world,” not that the world would be protected but that the world “may believe.”



*17:2* You have granted him [me]  
authority over all people that he might  
give eternal life **to all those you have  
given him.**

Does this phrase indicate/teach that we are predestined to heaven or hell prior to birth?



John Calvin etc. > **YES**. Destiny is  
predetermined.

**Total Depravity**... corruption from the fall is so complete that we cannot even chose to believe.

**Unconditional Election...** Salvation is not a result of repentance, faith, or even God's own foreknowledge. We are simply chosen. Period. No argument. No explanation from God.

**Limited Atonement...** Christ's death was only intended and effective for the elect.

**Irresistible Grace...** the elect are powerless to resist God's calling unto salvation.

**Perseverance of the Saints...** no elect person can possibly lose salvation because they did not cause it or choose it. Nothing can ever interfere with God's choice.

God's will is **SOVEREIGN**



Jacob Arminius etc. > **NO**. The destiny of no person is determined prior to birth.

- The English word **predestined** [appearing in only two New Testament passages] does not mean **predetermined**, but foreknown, planned, foreseen, prepared for.
- Man's will is **FREE**.

**1 Peter 1:2** To God's elect... who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God.

**Ephesians 1:11** We were chosen, predestined according to the plan who works out everything to conform to his purpose.

**Romans 8:29** For those whom God foreknew, he predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son.

God cannot help but know all things!  
It is his nature (*Isaiah 41:22-23*)

God KNOWS reality before it is real, all events before they happen, and all people before they exist. J.M. Hirshman.

**Got Questions?**

God is omniscient. But it is disingenuous to say that God's knowing something is equivalent to his causing it.

In John's gospel, the world is described as **controlled** by Satan and **resistant** to its Creator and Savior.

John 17... Jesus' prayer regarding his  
leaving and those he left behind:



- a) are not “of” the world”
- b) will be hated “by” the world
- c) will not be taken “out of” the world
- d) are sent “into” the world
- e) need protection “from” the world
- f) can be sustained by the fullness  
of Christ’s joy “within” the world.

The world may **reject** our faith, yet it **needs** our witness. We must assume the strange posture of **reaching** down while **looking** up! Somehow, we must **hate** worldliness while we **love** the world.