

## ***Our Future Rests Securely in Christ***

John 14:1-11

As our Lord looked at his disciples, He knew what was going on in their minds and hearts. He knew how disturbed and upset they were, and He knew what was causing it. He also knew the remedy for it, as well.

Our Lord knew that these men were afraid -- afraid of what was coming. They were afraid of death, afraid that they, with him, were going to be executed by the Jews.

They knew of the opposition which had developed against them in Jerusalem, the bitter hatred of the Pharisees, their determination to eliminate Jesus and all his disciples. They knew they were in danger, and so their hearts were deeply troubled as they gathered here with Christ.

But more than that physical danger to themselves, they were aware of Christ's words about leaving them. This had struck great anxiety and unrest into their hearts. They were afraid that even though they might survive, might escape death, they would have to go on living without Him, and that was unbearable to them. They could bear to die with him; they could not bear to live or die without him.

And we too, as God's people, suffer from similar afflictions as these disciples -- troubled hearts, fearful hearts, upset, disturbed, agitated hearts because of the present circumstances we experience now and the uncertain future that lies before us. We ask ourselves at times, "What is going on in our lives?"

In John 14:1-11 we read of rich and precious truth for God's people in times of great anxiety. These verses have been particularly dear to Christ's believing servants in every part of the world. Many are the sick rooms which they have lightened! Many are the dying hearts which they have cheered!

Although we live in a world filled with disappointments and trials, our future is bright because we have Jesus Christ as our Redeemer.

Therefore, the title of my message today is, **Our Future Rests Securely In Christ.** Our future must not rest in man, in our circumstances, or even in our feelings, but exclusively in the Lord. Let us see why our futures are so secure in Christ.

### **1. Because He is the only remedy for our troubled hearts.**

We read in verse 1, “Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.”

The disciples had been greatly distressed at what Jesus had said about leaving them. Perhaps they had indicated their distress to him in some manner by their fallen countenances or their sad expressions, and he proceeds now to administer to them such consolations as their circumstances had brought about.

The words of Christ in this chapter was delivered, doubtless, while they were sitting at the table partaking of the Last Supper (John 16:33). Before they were on their way to the Mount of Olives.

A Bible commentator writes, “There is nowhere to be found a discourse so beautiful, so tender, so full of weighty thoughts, and so adapted to produce comfort, as that which occurs in these three chapters (14, 16, 17) of John.”

Christ brings to bear on the minds of His disciples, who were full of anxiety, perplexity, and care, the tender and beautiful truths of His gracious gospel--truths fitted to subside every fear, silence every murmur, and give every needed consolation to the soul.

In the case of the disciples there was much to trouble them. They were about to part with their beloved, tender friend. They were to be left alone to meet persecutions and trials. They were without wealth, without friends, without honors.

And it is not improbable that they felt that his death would demolish all their hopes, for they had not yet fully learned the doctrine that the Messiah must suffer and die according to the Scriptures.

Christ told them that their consolation was to be found at this time in confidence in God and in him; and he suggested what he had so often told them and the Jews, that there was an indissoluble union between him and the Father. This union he takes occasion to explain to them more fully in John 13:7-12.

Heart-trouble is the most common thing in the world. No rank, or class, or condition is exempt from it. No bars, or bolts, or locks can keep it out. Partly from inward causes and partly from outward causes--partly from the body and partly from the mind--partly from what we love and partly from what we fear, the journey of life is full of trouble.

And even the best of Christians have many bitter cups to drink between grace and glory. Even the holiest saints find the world a valley of tears.

Therefore, faith in the Lord Jesus is the only sure medicine for troubled hearts. To believe more thoroughly, trust more entirely, rest more unreservedly, lay hold more firmly, lean back more completely--this is the prescription which our Master urges on the attention of all His disciples.

No doubt the members of that little band which sat round the table at the last supper, had believed already. They had proved the reality of their faith by giving up everything for Christ's sake. Yet what does their Lord say to them here? Once more He presses on them the old lesson, the lesson with which they first began--"Believe! Believe more! Believe on Me!"

Like Peter on the water, believers need to look more steadily at Jesus, and less at the waves and wind. Is it not written, "You will keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on You"? (Isaiah. 26:3.)

Our future rests only in Christ because He is the remedy for our troubled hearts.

## **2. Because He is the only way to heaven for us.**

We read the words in verses 2-4, "In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. 3And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also. 4And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know."

Christ is "the WAY," (not A way)--the way to heaven and peace with God. He is not only the guide, and teacher, and lawgiver, like Moses. He is Himself the door, the ladder, and the road, through whom we must draw near to God.

He has opened the way to the tree of life, which was closed when Adam and Eve fell, by the satisfaction He made for us on the cross. Through His blood we may draw near with boldness, and have access with confidence into God's presence.

Christ says in John 14:6, "I am the way, the truth, and the life; no man cometh unto the Father, but by me. "

It avails nothing that a man is clever, learned, highly gifted, friendly, charitable, kind-hearted, and zealous about some sort of religion. All this will not save his soul if he does not draw near to God by Christ's atonement, and make use of God's own Son as his Mediator and Savior.

This is because God is so holy that all men are guilty and debtors in His sight. Sin is so sinful that no mortal man can make satisfaction for it. There must be a mediator, a ransom-payer, a redeemer, between ourselves and God, or else we can never be saved.

There is only one door, one bridge, one ladder, between earth and heaven--the crucified Son of God. Whosoever will enter in by that door may be saved; but to him who refuses to use that door the Bible holds out, no hope at all. Without the shedding of blood (Christ's blood) there is no remission of sin.

R.C. Ryle writes, "Let us beware, if we love life, of supposing that mere earnestness will take a man to heaven, though he knows nothing of Christ. The idea is a deadly and ruinous error. Sincerity will never wipe away our sins. It is not true that every man will be saved by his own religion, no matter what he believes, so long as he is diligent and sincere."

We must not pretend to be wiser than God. Christ has said, and Christ will stand to it, "No man comes unto the Father but by Me."

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There are many things about heaven that are mysterious to us here on earth. But we do know from the Bible that heaven is the future home of God's people. And here in John 14 Christ describes some aspects of the saints heavenly destination.



First, heaven is "a Father's house,"--the house of whom Jesus says, "I go to my Father, and your Father." It is, in a word, HOME--the home of Christ and Christians. This is a sweet and touching expression.

Home, as we all know, is the place where we are generally loved for our own sakes, and not for our gifts or possessions. The place where we are loved to the end, never forgotten, and always welcome. Believers are in a strange land, and at school, in this life. In the life to come they will be at home.

Heaven is a place of "MANSIONS"--of lasting, permanent, and eternal dwellings. Here in the body we are in temporary lodgings, tents, and tabernacles, and must submit to many changes. In heaven we shall be settled at last, and go out no more. "Here we have no continuing city." (Heb. 13:14.) Our house not made with hands shall never be taken down.

In our first paradise in Eden there was a way to go out but no way to go in again. But as for the heavenly paradise, there is a way to go in, but not way to go out. —Richard Baxter

Heaven is a place of "MANY mansions." There will be room for all believers and room for all sorts, for little saints as well as great ones, for the weakest believer as well as for the strongest. The feeblest child of God need not fear there will be no place for him. None will be shut out but impenitent sinners and obstinate unbelievers.

Heaven is a place where CHRIST HIMSELF SHALL BE PRESENT. He will not be content to dwell without His people--"Where I am, there you shall be also." We need not think that we shall be alone and neglected. Our Savior--our elder Brother--our Redeemer, who loved us and gave Himself for us, shall be in the midst of us forever. *What* we shall see, and *whom* we shall see in heaven, we cannot fully conceive yet, while we are in the body. But one thing is certain--we shall see Christ.

Let these things sink down into our minds. To the worldly and careless they may seem nothing at all. To all who feel in themselves the working of the Spirit of God they are full of unspeakable comfort. If we hope to be in heaven it is pleasant to know what heaven is like.

A Bible commentator writes, "One cheering word is this--"I go to PREPARE a place for you." Heaven is a prepared place for a prepared people--a place which we shall find Christ Himself has made ready for true Christians. He has prepared it by procuring a right for every sinner who believes to enter in. None can stop us, and say we have no business there.

He has prepared it by going before us as our Head and Representative, and taking possession of it for all the members of His mystical body. As our Forerunner He has marched in, leading captivity captive, and has planted His banner in the land of glory. He has prepared it by carrying our names with Him as our High Priest into the holy of holies, and making angels ready to receive us. Those who enter heaven will find they are neither unknown nor unexpected.

Another encouraging word is this--"I will come again and receive you unto myself." Christ will not wait for believers to come up to Him, but will come down to them, to raise them from their graves and escort them to their heavenly home. As Joseph came to meet Jacob, so will Jesus come to call His people together and guide them to their inheritance."

The second advent ought never to be forgotten. Great is the blessedness of looking back to Christ coming the first time to suffer for us, but no less great is the comfort of looking forward to Christ coming the second time, to raise and reward His saints.

Our future rests only in Christ because He is the only way to heaven for us.

### **3. Our future rests only in Christ because He and the Father are one.**

We read in verses 8-11, "Philip saith unto him, Lord, show us the Father, and it sufficeth us. 9Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Show us the Father?"

10Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works. 11Believe me that I am in the Father, and the Father in me: or else believe me for the very works' sake.”

Christ is saying, “We, the Father and I, are essentially one; and those who have seen me have seen him who sent me. What meaning can there be in these words if Jesus be not Divine, and one with the Father? No clearer statement of his Godhead could be given.

Four times over this mighty truth is put before us in words that cannot be mistaken. "If you had known Me, you would have known my Father." "He that has seen Me has seen the Father." "I am in the Father, and the Father in Me." "The Father that dwells in Me, He does the works."

Sayings like these are full of deep mystery. We have no *eyes* to see their meaning fully--no *line* to fathom it--no *language* to express it--no mind to take it in.

We must be content to believe when we cannot explain, and to admire and revere when we cannot interpret. Let it suffice us to know and hold that the Father is God and the Son is God, and yet that they are one in essence though two distinct Persons--one, and yet distinct. These are high things, and we cannot attain to a full comprehension of them.

Let us however take comfort in the simple truth, that Christ is very God of very God; equal with the Father in all things, and One with Him. He who loved us, and shed His blood for us on the cross, and bids us trust Him for pardon, is no mere man like ourselves. He is "God over all, blessed forever," and able to save to the uttermost the chief of sinners.

Though our sins be as scarlet, He can make them white as snow. He that casts his soul on Christ has an Almighty Friend--a Friend who is One with the Father, and very God.

Our future rests only in Christ because He and the Father are one.

In closing, our future rests only in Christ because He is the only remedy for our troubled hearts. He is the only way to heaven for us. He is in union with the Father. May we commit our future to the One who holds the future in the palm of his hands, Jesus Christ. Let us pray!