

Subject: Disturbing Situations but Do Not Be Troubled

Text: John 14:1-4

INTRODUCTION

1. Perilous Times

Difficult days have been a reality as a result of sin (Gen. 3) which continues to be man's worst enemy because sin is a reproach (Prov. 14:34) . . . sin leads to a life of disaster. The cries, complaints and calamities continue on a daily basis but we have been warned about these situations in the Word of God, for example Matt. 24; 2 Timothy 3; etc.

These situations bring to focus the song: **Jesus is Coming Soon . . . Note the first verse:**

Troublesome times are here, filling men's hearts with fear
Freedom we all hold dear now is at stake
Humbling your hearts to God saves from the chastening rod
Seek the way pilgrims trod, Christians awake

In the first line the song notes: “. . . **filling men's hearts with fear**” (see also Luke 21:26). So many things could be noted that are relevant to this fact of troubling times but I can only briefly make mention of two . . . both are unfortunate and noted with a heart of love, great concern and compassion.

First: Suicide in the United States of America is the 12th leading cause of death. In 2020, 45, 979 Americans died by suicide; in that same year there was an estimated 1.20 million suicide attempts.

On average there are at least 130 to 132 suicides per day. In short, suicide is regarded as a major health issue in our country. It is also noted that men die by suicide 3.53 times more often than women.

Second: Another destructive factor is that gun violence has destroyed so many precious lives directly and indirectly. At the time of preparing this presentation (May 2022) we have had two brutal acts of massacre and similar heinous acts carried out every day. There are numerous accounts from the emotional trauma experienced by so many of which some may never recover. Fear has overtaken our children, parents, family members and others, as well as communities and the nation.

We could go on and on but the signs of the time are everywhere: **“Troublesome times are here filling men's hearts with fear.”** Distress can lead to adverse physical symptoms including, headache, upset stomach, elevated blood pressure, chest pain and problems with sleeping. We believe in healthy eating, however, too many have forgotten: “It's not what you eat but what eats you!”

We are all aware of the far reaching **adverse effects of stress which is regarded as a killer**. Undoubtedly, **stress** can lead to adverse physical ailments (*some have been noted above*), for example: headaches, upset stomach, high blood pressure, restless nights, diabetes, anxiety, depression, etc. Many have experienced these symptoms and a large percent seek medical help (*rightly so*) but the underlying factor is **stress**. It has been stated that seventy-five to ninety percent of all medical visits are **stress** related ailments and complaints. Survey has also shown that forty-three percent of all adults suffer adverse effects because of stress. **We should also keep in mind that stress can lead to distress, as well as depression and in some situations results in some major illnesses.** Oh! Beloved! If only we will sincerely cast all our cares upon God because He cares and will make a way for His subjects (1 Peter 5:7; Isa. 43:1-7, 16, 19-20, NB Vv. 14-21).

We will not, for a moment, overlook the hurts, hopelessness and humanitarian crises all over the world but we are not without hope! Indeed, there are so many troubled souls and so many resorting to seemingly workable solutions that do not help. Beloved, the challenges are real but it's not all darkness, desolation or desperation, absolutely not! **We have hope in Jesus Christ!!**

The song: What a Beautiful Name . . . Partial quote:

What a beautiful name it is
 What a beautiful name it is
 The name of Jesus Christ my King
 What a beautiful name it is
 Nothing compares to this
 What a beautiful name it is
 What a beautiful name it is
 The name of Jesus

2. Introduction to Today's Lesson

(a) Divisions for our Lesson

We will be discussing John 14:1-4, a well-known reference and one that fundamentally is based on **trust**. I have identified six main points for our discussion:

- (1) Command: Do Not Be Disturbed Stay Focused (v 1).
- (2) Confidence . . . God Has a Home for You (v 2a).
- (3) Change is Inevitable . . . Preparation to Be Made for You (v 2b).
- (4) Coming Again . . . The Return of Christ (v. 3a)
- (5) Community of the Future . . . In His Very Presence (v 3b).
- (6) Course (The Way) is Through Jesus Christ (v 4)

(b) Introduction to John 14:1-4

John 14 is a continuation of Christ's discourse with His disciples after supper in the Upper Room. It should be noted that John 13:31-17 has been referred to as "**Christ's Farewell Discourse**" or the "**Upper Room Discourse**" (some scholars use John 14-17; while others 13:31-16). This discourse was presented at the conclusion of the Last Supper, the night before Christ's crucifixion. **Many scholars refer to this discourse as the most beautiful, because it is so tender and full of much thoughts beneficial to produce comfort and assurance!**

Upon the conclusion of the Last Supper, several challenging and disturbing factors confronted the disciples:

- (1) Christ spoke of His betrayal by one within the group (John 13:18-30).
- (2) He also noted that Peter would deny Him (John 13:36-38).
- (3) A most disturbing factor was Christ's announcement of His imminent departure.
 - After three years of bonding and witnessing all that Christ did, He now speaks of leaving.
 - Even more disturbing was the fact that they (the disciples) would not be able to immediately be with Jesus when He leaves. This was not just some ordinary leader but their beloved teacher and He was leaving!

Sometimes we hastily (unfortunately so) respond to challenging situations before consulting God (*we should always consult with God, big or small issues; before, during and after*). For the disciples (John 13-14) the outlook was somewhat discouraging: there was Christ's departure; one of their own would turn against them and the stalwart leader among them (Peter) would cave-in and fail as a loyal disciple. Definitely, it seems as if the sand was shifting beneath their feet and total collapse would be realized.

The reality of the situation is, Christ could have given far more details, for example: the divisiveness among them (Luke 22:24-30); He could have given the details of His arrest, trial, the scourging, crucifixion and death. He could have pointed out that they (the disciples) would all abandon Him (Mark 14:50); there are other related facts that He could have shared but He only gave them sufficient information of what was to come which would make or break their faith.

The scene in the Upper Room needs to be looked at with clarity and understanding; if we can just imagine ourselves there we should be able to absorb the impact of Christ's response to their troubled situation (John 13:31-14). It was a special time and obviously the disciples were overcome by anxiety, evidently, they were stressed, deeply concerned, somewhat disoriented, disturbed and discouraged; however, you may state their condition but for the

disciples it was a sudden change and uncertain situation. The disciples needed to experience a deep awareness of peace; they desired encouragement and the assurance of victory. The great news: the solution to their concerns was right there in their midst (Col. 1:27).

These verses (John 14:1-4) are all about **trust**. A thought that I have shared on a regular basis is: ***“God didn’t promise you smooth sailing but He guarantees safe landing!”*** Beloved, **trust** and **faith** are inseparable, no matter the situation, we must continue to wholeheartedly **trust God**: Psa. 37:3; Prov. 3:5, 6; etc. **No matter what the circumstance is, Jesus Christ is still the Way Maker . . . He is our only sure hope!!**

1 Peter 1:3-4 NIV

“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In His great mercy He has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you.”

The disciples were troubled (John 14:1); the Church is **“a called-out community in a hostile world”** (John 15:18-25), and indeed the world’s hostility results in tribulation (John 16:33) and like the disciples we are assured of consolation and deliverance! Jesus told His disciples that deliverance would be realized through six things as noted in our main outline. Beloved! We are not forsaken, not forgotten!!

Josh. 1:9 Amp. Bible

“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous! Do not be terrified or dismayed (intimidated), for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.”

A. Command: Do Not Be Disturbed, Stay Focused! John 14:1

Deliverance from troubled hearts come by: *Trusting God wholeheartedly.*

1. Christ’s Response to the Disciples Anxiety (John 14:1a)

“Let not your heart be troubled . . .” (14:1a NKJV)

- (a) The disciples were overcome by anxiety mainly because of Christ’s imminent departure (Note John 16:6, 22). To them it seemed as if the dark clouds were gathering with the possibility of defeat threatening them.
- (b) How Christ became aware of what had overcome His disciples?
 - (1) We are aware of the fact that Jesus was (is) able to know the thoughts and intentions within man (example see Matt. 9:4; Mark 2:8; Luke 5:22; John 2:25; etc.); but in this situation there was also external evidence of their troubled hearts.
 - (2) Obviously, Christ became aware of the disciples’ apprehension by what was observing their countenance or their expressions (example John 13:22).

- “Then the disciples looked at one another, perplexed about whom He spoke” (John 13:22 NIV).
 - They looked one upon another with anxiety and concern, and Christ looked upon them all and observed it.
- (3) Beloved, in Christ we have someone who knows **all** our hurts and how we are afflicted. He knows not only how we are afflicted, but how we stand affected under the afflictions. He is fully aware of **all** troubles and those among His people who are in danger of being overwhelmed with adversity that surround him.
- (c) The disciples were greatly troubled! While Christ could have given them more detailed information of what was to come, they were overcome by what they knew. Earlier, we noted some things that they contemplated . . . note also:
- (1) They focused on the unkindness that Christ would receive (John 13:18-26, 37-38).
 - (2) As noted before, the greatest struggle that overcame them was the fact of Christ’s departure.
 - (3) They saw themselves left alone to meet persecutions and trials.
 - (4) They were without wealth, without friends and without honors (earthly).
- (d) When we think of how Christ was battered and barbarously abused, we cannot but mourn and move with deep regret, although we have seen the glorious results of Christ’s sacrificial commitment; the disciples could look no further than what they were seeing.
- (1) They saw themselves shamefully disappointed for they expected Christ to deliver Israel and establish His kingdom in secular power and glory (example Acts 1:6).
 - (2) They saw themselves sadly deserted and exposed. They knew their limitations and saw a ruined future if their Master left them.
- (e) **“Let not your heart be troubled”** (John 14:1a)
- (1) Some believe that this statement referred to Peter because of his imminent denial of Christ (John 13:38). But the greater reference points to all the disciples through whom Jesus intended to lay the foundation of the Church.
 - (2) It was a natural feeling that the disciples were so moved with anxiety, especially that they were still in the learning and developing process. Beloved, we do have our challenges but as with the disciples, Christ’s words are words of comfort, consolation and assurance! Our hope is built on Jesus Christ and His infinite love, faithfulness, etc.
 - (3) Jesus knew by experience the anguish of a troubled spirit (John 11:33; 12:27; 13:21), therefore He could say with all authority and sympathetic understanding, **“Let not your heart be troubled”** (John 14:1).
- (f) **Christ’s Farewell Discourse** (*Briefly Noted*)
- (1) We made mention that this is also referred to as **“The Upper Room Discourse”** (John 13:31-17).
 - (2) Barnes notes:

“It is the consolatory part of religion, where Christ brings to bear on the mind full of anxiety, and perplexity, and care, the tender and inimitably (supreme, matchless, etc. insert mine) beautiful truths of this gospel – truths fitted to ally every fear, silence every murmur, and give every needed consolation to the soul.”

2. **Consolation by Confiding in God and Christ** (John 14:1b)

“You believe in God, believe also in Me.” (John 14:1b NKJV)

(a) Definitely, our text is one that is strongly focused on **trust**. The Christian’s life is built on and continued by **trusting** God!

(1) **“You believe in God believe also in Me”** (14:1b) . . . this can be read: **“Believe on God and believe on Me.”**

- We have sufficient proof that the disciples believed in God and that they believed in Jesus.
- It is a call to *“Believe on God the Father and believe on God the Son”* . . . in essence, beloved, there is **ONE GOD** who manifests Himself in three personalities (**1 John 5:7**; Matt. 28:19; John 14:26; 15:26; 2 Cor. 13:14; 1 Peter 1:2).

(2) *“You believe in God believe also in Me. I am the revelation of God Himself. Believing in Me, that I am the Son of God, will deliver you from trouble.”*
(Preacher’s Outline & Sermon Bible)

(b) **Jesus told the disciples that their consolation was to be found by their confidence in God (The Father) and in Him (The Son); He made it specifically clear what He had often told them and the Jews that there was an indissoluble union between Him and the Father (John 10:30, 38; 14:10; 17:11, 22).**

(c) **“Believe in God . . . believe . . . in Me . . .”** there is an emphasis for the continuation of trusting God! It is imperative to keep on keeping on, always looking steadfastly on Jesus Christ!!

(1) We must continue to believe even in the midst of trouble, a prevailing negative condition; whatever it may be, we must press forward depending on God to see us through!

(2) Believing in God and His Son will deliver your troubled hearts!

Psa. 112:6-7 Amp. Bible

“He will never be shaken; The righteous will be remembered forever. He will not fear bad news; His heart is steadfast, trusting [confidently relying on and believing] in the LORD.”

(d) **Why is Faith Important** (*A few highlighted pointers without comments*):

- (1) Assures Success (2 Chron. 20:20).
- (2) Fundamentally Our Duty (John 6:28-29).
- (3) It is a Defensive Weapon (Eph. 6:16).
- (4) It is an Indispensable Ingredient (Heb. 11:6).
- (5) It is Essential in Prayer (James 1:5-6)
- (6) It should be United with Love (1 John 3:23)

I do recommend consulting the context in which these are used, if you desire a deeper understanding. This is applicable to similar listings in this or any other lessons.

B. Confidence, Instilled . . . God Has a Home for You John 14:2a

Deliverance from troubled hearts come by Taking hold of God's provisions.

1. Abiding Place for the People of God (John 14:2a)

"In My Father's house are many mansions" (John 14:2a NKJV).

(a) Jesus acknowledges God as His Father: ***"In My Father's . . ."***

(1) He knew the Father as any son knows his father.

- He came from and return to the Father (John 16:28).
- He was sent to do His Father's will (John 6:38).
- He was obedient to His Father's will (John 14:31).
- He was in the beginning with the Father (John 1:1).
- Etc.

(2) God acknowledges Christ His Son.

- Through the prophet Isaiah (Matt. 12:18; Isa. 42:1).
- When Christ was baptized by John the Baptist (Matt. 3:13-17, NB v. 17; Mark 1:11).
- When He was Transfigured on the mount (Matt. 7:1-9, NB v. 5; Mark 9:7; Luke 9:35).
- His priesthood acknowledged by God the Father (Heb. 5:5)

(3) Beloved, Christ acknowledged God the Father as His Father and likewise we also acknowledge Him as our Father! (*Time only for a few highlighted pointers*).

- He has adopted us in His family (Rom 8:15; Gal. 4:6).
- Irrespective of class, color or country, etc. we **ALL** pray to Him as ***"Our Father"*** (Matt. 6:9-13; Luke 11:2-4).
- He will not withhold that which is good for us (Psa. 84:11; Matt. 7:7-11).
- He chastises us for our benefit (Heb. 12:7-11).
- He is a compassionate and caring Father (Psa. 103:13; 1 Peter 5:7).
- Etc.

(b) Jesus spoke of the place where His Father dwells.

(1) Jesus knew the truth about it and knew it was for real.

- We have religious groups that promise things to their followers that will never be realized; for example, suicide bombers hoping to go to paradise that includes such tremendous bountiful and glorious things that these individuals have sacrificed their lives and uselessly destroy so many innocent people.
- So many facts about the Christian faith but note for example: we have a Savior, Jesus Christ, who gave His life to redeem a lost world bound by Satan and destined for eternal destruction! (Isa. 53:6; Rom. 5:1-12; etc.)

Christians are nurtured to love not only one another but even our persecutors (Matt. 5:10-12, 38-48; etc.). This is the very opposite of the standards of the world but, as Christians, we are imitators of Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior (Eph. 5:1; 1 Peter 2:21; etc.)

- Christianity is the most potent source against every form of evil and guarantees abundant life and victory with eternity in the very presence of God!! (1 Thess. 4:13-18; etc.).
- (2) God's house is real and does exist, in the spiritual dimension it is called heaven! It is a house made without hands (2 Cor. 5:1).
- A brother was confronted by some naysayers who ridiculed Christianity and asked him where heaven is located.
 - Our brother gave a very simple answer: "Anywhere Jesus is will be heaven!"
 - We won't go in details, but beloved, note that Jesus spoke in the affirmative: "***In My Father's house are . . .***" (John 14:2) **Note also verses 3 and 4.**
 - Christ, hereby, refers to a "***Fathers house***" (v. 2), and His Father is our Father; since we are His children we have become joint heirs with Christ!! (see Rom. 8:16-17).
 - As noted before, Christ, in John 14:2a, clearly refers to heaven. That is where Jesus went after His death, resurrection and ascension to prepare a place for us!! (John 14:2a; Matt. 6:9; compare with Psa. 33:13-14; Isa. 63:15).
- (c) Adequate accommodations will be available for everyone!
- (1) Beloved, God has a home where there are many rooms and to which "***the household of God***" now on earth (Eph. 2:19) will be transferred; "***here we have no continuing city***" (Heb. 13:14).
- (2) The word ***mansion*** (John 14:2a) means ***abiding place***. It is referring to places; residence, rooms, dwelling, areas, spaces for living.
- Oh! Beloved! What a glorious hope! "***Such hope never disappoints or deludes or shames us . . .***" (Rom. 5:5a Amp. Bible).
 - While there are countless people who are homeless, whether such conditions were created through wars, poverty, etc. in contrast we have seen here that God has guaranteed a place for everyone who have committed themselves to Him!!

2. Assurance of Our Inheritance in God (John 14:2a)

"If it were not so, I would have told you" (John 14:2a NKJV).

- (a) "***If it were not so . . .***" or "I have not concealed the truth. All along you have been holding with great expectation the glorious hope of abiding with God in heaven. If such was baseless I would have straightforwardly told you, just as I have told you other things."

- (b) Note carefully the emphasis Jesus placed on the truth and reality of God's house and its mansions. Yes! Jesus was straightforward, He gave the facts as they were and yes, we have a home in heaven!!
- (1) One thing that is essential to inherit these mansions is belief in Jesus Christ (John 14:1) and of course our wholehearted commitment to Him!!
- (2) **Heb. 11:13-14 NKJV**
 "These all died **in faith**, not having receive the promises but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland."
- (c) See what assurance we have of the reality of happiness, the sincerity of happiness and the sincerity of the proposal to us . . . ***"If it were not so, I would have told you."***
- (1) The true disciple of Christ who has sacrificed his all to the glory of God, will be rewarded not only in this life but throughout eternity. In the life to come values of this life will be reversed; beloved, serving Jesus really pays (example see Matt. 19:27-30, also recorded in Mark 10:27-30).
- (2) Matthew Henry notes:
"Christ's good-will to us is a great encouragement to our hope in Him. He loves us too well, and means us too well, to disappoint the expectations of His own raising (raising: upbringing, caretaking . . . insert mine), or to leave those to be of all men most miserable who have been of Him most observant."
- (d) Beloved, sin is man's worst enemy and the foulest monster to enter the world which has been ruined by evil atrocities. Despite the awful state that prevails we must remember that this world is not our home, we are pilgrims passing through.

This World Is Not My Home

Verse 1

This world is not my home
 I'm a passing through
 My treasures are laid up
 Somewhere beyond the blue.

C. Change is Inevitable . . . Preparation to Be Made for You John 14:2b

Deliverance from troubled hearts come through *The Transcendent Creator's work.*

1. Paving the Way for Our Salvation (John 14:2b)

"I go to prepare . . ." (John 14:2b NKJV)

(a) Jesus Christ was, is and will always be "The Way Maker."

- (1) By **His going** ("*I go*" v. 2b) refers to His death and ascension to heaven.
- (2) The significance of this thought (v. 2b) shows the work that Christ was yet to perform in heaven, when He would secure the disciples (our) admission in heaven and the blessings of eternal life.

- (3) The work that He would do focuses mainly on intercession (Heb. 10:12, 13, 19-23; 7:25-27; 4:14-16).
- (b) Preparing the way back to God!
- (1) The wages of sin is death (Rom. 6:23), separation from God along with the awful consequences (Gen. 3, NB Vv. 14-21, 22-24). Jesus Christ paid the ultimate price to liberate us from the bondage of sin (Isa. 53:6, 12; Heb. 9:28; 2 Peter 2:24; etc.).
- Beloved, Jesus went to the cross to prepare redemption for us, even the forgiveness of sins! Our old account was definitely settled! We glorify His holy name!!
 - He didn't look back! He didn't cave in! **All the way! Yes, all the way to Calvary He went for me! Indeed, He died to set me free!!**
 - See Matt. 20:28; Eph. 1:7; 1 Tim. 2:5-6; 1 Peter 1:18-19; Rev. 5:9; etc.
- (2) The demons of hell must have rejoiced when Christ's body was laid in the tomb; but glory to His holy name, death could not hold Him down (Rev. 1:18).
- Through the resurrection of Christ, victory over death and new life and power for all believers was now secured (example 1 Cor. 15, NB Vv. 1-4, 12-22).
 - **Col. 2:12 Amp. Bible**
 "... having been buried with Him in baptism and raised with Him [to a new life] through [your] faith in the working of God [as displayed] when He raised Christ from the dead."
 - Rom. 6:4; 1 Cor. 6:14; 2 Cor. 13:4; Eph. 1:18-10; etc.
2. **Place for the Redeemed** (John 14:2b)
- "... a place for you." (John 14:2b NKJV)
- (a) What we continue to see in the latter part of this verse (14:2) has been noted earlier and in essence continues throughout the chapter; Christ's going away was to make provision for His beloved people and the continuation of His work.
- (b) It's important for believers to have confidence and contemplate on the fact that the primary purpose of Christ going away, although at first was deeply troubling for the disciples, was to prepare a place in heaven for His people (**Noted Before**).
- (1) To prepare access into the very presence of God for **all** believers.
- **Rom. 5:2 NKJV**
 "... through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God."
 - See also John 10:9; Eph. 3:12; Heb. 10:12; Rev. 3:8.
- (2) To take possession for us as our advocate or attorney.
- **1 John 2:1 NKJV**
 "My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous."

- See also John 14:6; 17:9; Rom. 8:34; Heb. 7:24-25
- (3) To make provision for us as our Friend and Father.
 - **2 Cor. 2:9 NKJV**
 “But as it is written:
 Eye has not seen, nor ear heard,
 Nor have entered into the heart of man
 The things which God has prepared for those who love Him.”
 - God’s provision (*Noted without comments*):
 - It’s obtained by the grace of God (2 Cor. 9:8).
 - There will be a spiritual feast (Matt. 22:4).
 - It is a glorious inheritance (Matt. 25:34).
 - It is our heavenly home (John 14:2; Heb. 11:16).

D. Coming Again . . . The Return of Christ John 14:3a

Deliverance from troubled hearts come through the Triumphal return of Jesus Christ.

1. Return of the Fore-Runner (John 14:3a)

“And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again.” (14:3a NKJV)

- (a) The critics have done everything that they can do to make Christ’s return looks like a hoax but He says that He would return and we believe it!!
- (1) Note 2 Peter 3, NB Vv. 3-5, 8-11; as well as other references.
 - (2) Many have made predictions as to when Christ will return but the time of His second coming is unknown to man as well as the angels: Matt. 24:27-36, **NB v. 36**; Luke 12:20; 1 Thess. 5:2; Rev. 16:15.
 - (3) Conditions preceding Christ is coming has been clearly stated in Scriptures, but we still cannot use these signs to determine an actual date. Nevertheless, there are sufficient warnings given in the Word of God; for example, Matt 24, NB Vv. 7-28.
- (4) The refrain of Coming Again
 Coming again, coming again
 Maybe morning maybe noon
 Maybe evening and maybe soon
 Coming again coming again
 Oh what a wonderful day it will be
 Jesus is coming again
- (b) Despite the callousness, cruelty, corruption, etc. characterizing the world; the believers look beyond these situations because of Christ who is our blessed hope!!
- (1) It is a necessity for all believers to continue believing and reflecting on the fact that Christ definitely is coming again, in due time, for all believers to receive that blessed and glorious place He went to prepare for them.
 - (2) **Definitely, yes! Jesus Christ will come again!!** Beloved, the reality of Christ’s second coming, of which He has given us assurance, is an excellent preservative against troubled hearts (**James 5:7-12 NB v. 8**).

(c) ***“I will come again”*** Note the following quote from Life in the Spirit Study Bible:
“As surely as Christ went to heaven, so He will return from His Father’s presence and take His followers to be with Him in heaven, to the place prepared for them. This was the hope of NT Christians, and is the hope of all believers today. The ultimate purpose of the Lord’s return is that believers may be with Him forever.”

(d) Christ is our hope! Our eternal hope! Our glorious hope! Continue **trusting** in Him!!

(1) **Col. 1:27 NKJV**

“To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is **Christ in you the hope of glory.**”

(2) **Titus 2:13 Amp. Bible**

“Awaiting and looking for the [fulfillment, the realization of our] **blesed hope, even the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Christ Jesus (the Messiah, the Anointed One).**”

Read Titus 2:11-15)

(3) ***“I will come again”*** . . . noted before but this repetition is important: Christ returned to heaven and even so He will come again, upon His return, He is coming to take the believers with Him and so shall we ever be; this was His deep desire for His beloved people (example see John 17:24). This was the hope of the NT Christians and is the hope of ALL Christians!!

2. **Receiving the Bride . . . The Church!!** (John 14:3a)

“ . . . and receive you unto myself” (14:3a NKJV).

(a) The words ***“receive you unto Myself”*** refer to the **rapture**, that’s when all (living and deceased) believers ***shall be caught up . . . in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so shall we ever be with the Lord***” (1 Thess. 4:17; note verses 13-18).

(b) The believers will be received by the Lord Jesus Christ.

(1) As we discussed in another lesson, we possess body, soul and spirit (1 Thess. 5:23).

- **NOTE 2 Cor. 5:6-8** . . . as Christians we are ***always confident*** (v. 6) because we know that death will only bring a greater experience of the presence of Christ.
- Although, Christ is now with us (Matt. 28:20), while we are in the physical ***body*** (v. 6) it means that we are ***absent*** (v. 6) from Christ’s fuller presence.
- We are ***confident*** (v. 8) that when we leave this ***body*** (v. 8) we shall be ***present*** (v. 8) with Christ. **Note carefully:**
2 Cor. 5:8 NKJV
 “We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord.”

- See also Rom. 8:19-25.
 - Beloved, this is not the celebratory entrance and spectacular march of victory that will take place when Jesus returns.
- (2) As noted before, **“receive you unto Myself”** refers to the **“rapture” (The “caught-up”)**. As a reminder, the word “rapture” is not in the Bible but its teaching is found therein (**1 Thess. 4:16-18**; John 14:3; Matt 24:30-31).
- I can only briefly mention the term **“glorification”** . . . note two brief definitions:
 - *“It refers to the nature of believers after death and judgment ‘the final step in the application of redemption.’”* (Wikipedia)
 - *“. . . a glorified or more splendid form of something, the act of glorifying, **the state of being glorified, exalted to the glory of heaven.**”* (Dictionary.com).
 - Our Christian experience includes: justification, sanctification, (many omit but very important The Baptism in the Holy Spirit ... Acts 11:15-16; 19:1-6; etc.), and glorification. Indeed, one of these days we will live in a sin-free environment and be given our glorified bodies (1 Cor. 15:42-44; Phil. 3:20-21; 1 John 3:2; etc.). The great hymn, **“I Surrender All”** . . . Note a portion of the fifth verse: **“Oh the joy of full salvation, Glory, glory to His name.”** Oh, Beloved!! That day is coming when we shall live in the very presence of Christ (*Note my brief reference in our fifth main point as well as continued references throughout this lesson*).
- (c) **Glorious News Beloved!!** Christ’s return for His devoted followers will deliver them from future severe trial that definitely will come upon the earth (see Luke 21:36; note carefully 1 Thess. 1:10; 5:1-9; Rev. 3:10; etc.).
- (d) This glorious and eternal reunion is a comforting doctrine for all followers of Jesus Christ who will forever **“be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words.”** (1 Thess. 4:17b-18)
- (e) **“. . . and receive you unto Myself”** . . . Note a quote from P.O.S.B.
“Believers are to be glorified with the Father and Jesus. Such a glorious hope – meditating upon and grasping it – will carry a troubled soul through any trial of martyrdom. But note again: believing in God and His Son Jesus is the only way man can take part in His return. (1 Thess. 4:13-5:3; compare with John 5:28-29; Titus 2:12-13; 2 Peter 3:3-4, 8-16).”

E. Community of the Future – In His Very Presence! John 14:3b

Deliverance from troubled hearts comes through Timeless habitation with Jesus.

1. Fellowship with the King of Kings (John 14:3b).

“. . . that where I am there you may be also” (14:3Bnkjv).

- (a) The anticipation of heaven continues to be a central focus in our lesson and rightly so because of its reality. This emphasis has been documented in so many hymns and songs . . . at this time I can make only a partial quote of two:

- (1) A blessed well-known Hymn: **Sweet By and By** . . . by Sanford F. Bennett

Verse 1

There's a land that is fairer than day
 And by faith we can see it afar
 For the Father waits over the way
 To prepare us a dwelling place there

Refrain

*In the sweet by and by
 We shall meet on that beautiful shore
 In the sweet by and by
 We shall meet on that beautiful shore.*

- (2) A contemporary Praise Song by Brian Craig . . . **Home in Heaven**

I've got a home
 I've got a crown
 I've got a love
 Won't let me down

I've got a home
 I've got a prize
 He'll wipe away
 Tears from my eyes

In heaven, in heaven
 I've got a home in heaven

I've got a home
 Forever to stay
 I've been forgiven
 I'm on my way

- (b) “. . . **where I am there you may be also**” this is closely associated with facts that many other Scriptures declare, that the essence of heaven's happiness is being with Christ there: John 17:24; Phil. 1:23; 1 Thess. 4:17.

(1) Observe that Christ speaks of His presence in the present tense: “. . . **that where I am . . .**”; where I am to be shortly, where I am to be eternally.

(2) The conclusion noted in Christ's statement is: “**There you shall be shortly, there you shall be eternally, in the same place where I am, not there as spectators but to share in my glory.**” (Phil. 3:20-21; Col. 1:12; Heb.3:14; **1 Peter 5:1**; 2 Peter 1:4).

- (c) Beloved, Christ has gone ahead to make ready our home and such preparation will not be done in vain.

- (1) The mansions (John 14:2) will not be furnished and remain unoccupied. Jesus is the author and finisher of **all** areas of our lives.
 - (2) If He has prepared us a place, He will prepare us for it and in due time we shall occupy our inheritance.
 - (3) Christ's resurrection is the assurance of our resurrection (example see 1 Cor. 15:12-34, NB Vv. 12-22), even so His ascension, victory and glory happens to be the solid foundation on which we can be fully assured of our place with Him! ***Because He lives, I can face tomorrow!!***
- (d) ***"Troublesome times are here, filling men's hearts with fear."*** (also Luke 21:26-28). Trouble in homes, churches, institutions of education, communities, etc. and it seems as if these adverse situations are increasing! As it was in the days of Noah when God had to destroy the then world because of its appalling, pernicious and godlessness (Matt. 24:37; Luke 17:26; Gen. 6:1-13). However, beloved, deliverance from troubled hearts come through the reality of our timeless habitation with Jesus Christ!!
- (1) As we have seen throughout this lesson, the reason why Christ is returning to earth is to take His people to be with Him (John 14:3)!! ***"That where I am there you may be also"*** (John 14:3b NKJV).
 - (2) This is awe-inspiring! We shall be with Jesus!! We shall be with our precious Lord forever; we shall be with Him who redeemed us, who forgave **all** our sins and delivered us from Satan's bondage and eternal damnation!
 - (3) **What a day! What a glorious day that will be!!** Deliverance solely because of His love, mercy and grace! We shall be with Him, our wonderful, precious and adorable Lord, for eternity!!
- Phil. 3:20-21 NKJV**
 "For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all thing to Himself."
 (See also John 12:26; 17:24; 2 Cor. 5:8; Phil. 1:23; etc.).

2. Former Things Passed Away!! (Rev. 21-22)

Please note: I can at this time present only a few highlights from Rev. 22.

- (a) Introduction to Rev. 21-22:5
 - (1) The dominant theme of Rev. 6-20 is tribulation and death.
 - (2) In chapters 21 and 22 we have a new condition focusing on eternity and providing a description of the eternal blessedness of God's people in the renewed creation . . . with emphasis on the ***New Jerusalem***, the eternal habitation of the saved (Heb. 11:10; 12:22-24).
- (b) **An outline of Rev. 22.** These are the points that I have identified:
 - (1) Passing Away of the Present Universe (Vv. 1-2) (See also Isa. 65:17; 66:22).
 - (2) Promise of the New Experience of God's Presence (v. 3).
 - (3) Pain and Sorrow Disbanded (Dissolved) (Vv. 4-5).

- (4) Pure Living Water Flows (v. 6) (See also Ezek. 47:1-12; John 7:37-39).
 - (5) Perseverance in Contrast with Perversion and Weakness (Vv. 7-8).
 - (6) People of God, the Church – The Bride of Christ (v. 9).
 - (7) Picturesque Presentation of the Believers' Home (Vv. 10-12).
 - (8) Presence of God Abides, Encompasses and Governs (Vv. 22-25)
- (c) In essence, beloved, we are saying better days are coming!!

(1) **1 Peter 1:3-5 NKJV**

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a lively hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.”

- (2) See also Rom. 8:7, 18; 2 Cor. 4:17-18; Col. 3:4; Titus 2:13; 1 Peter 5:1, 4

F. Course (The Way) is Through Jesus Christ John 14:4

Deliverance from troubled hearts come through tactically planned and established way.

1. Where I Go (14:4)

“And where I go you know” (14:4a NKJV)

- (a) **NOTE:** A quick recap in order to shed a little light on verse 4.

- (1) Peter had asked the question, **“Lord where are You going?”** (John 13:36), Jesus’ answer had described Peter’s weakness (13:36) and his denial (13:38). His answer also included some great and glorious promises (John 14:1-4).
- (2) What we observe at this point is a concluding statement that was directed to all the disciples, our blessed Lord answered emphatically, **“And where I go you know, and the way you know”** (John 14:4).

- (b) **“Where I go you know”** . . . it is not a secret thing; not a mystery with its meaning hidden from you but a fact that is among you, made known to you!

- (1) There is no need for you to **ascend to heaven**, nor **go down into the deep** because **the word is near you** (Rom. 10:6-8).
- (2) Christ often told them that He was to die, and rise and ascend to heaven, that they should not be unaware of the facts (Matt. 16:21; Luke 9:22; 18:31-33).
- (3) **“Where I go you know”**: He was going back to the Father from whom He had come.
 - **John 13:3 NKJV**
“Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come from God and was going to God, . . .”
 - See also John 14:2; 16:5, 10, 17.

2. Way That Leads Home! (John 14:4b)

“. . . and the way you know” (14:4b NKJV).

- (a) **“The way you know” (NKJV)** . . . Note the following translations John 14:4:

- (1) **Amp. Bible:** “And [to the place] where I am going, you know the way.”
- (2) **ESV:** “And you know the way to where I am going.”
- (3) **NIV:** “You know the way to the place where I am going.”
- (b) **The way:** That is the way that leads to the dwelling-place to which Christ was going.
- (1) It was the way that they were to **habitually travel on**, which requires obedience to its precepts and to literally imitate Christ’s example and **daily follow Him** (Eph. 5:1, see NKJV or other translations).
- (2) The way to this glorious life is **in/through Jesus Christ** and such has been made clear in this chapter (John 14) as well as other references (John 14:6; Acts 4:12; Heb. 10:20).
- (c) The disciples knew the facts of that which was regarded as home and they knew the way to become beneficiaries, despite their limitations . . . **hope is in Jesus Christ!!**
- (1) God is willing to make the best of His people’s knowledge, although they are weak and defective in regards to what they were taught.
- (2) God knows the good in His people, more than they do know themselves; He is certain that they have the necessary knowledge, faith and love, even though there are limitations in regards to what they possess.
- (d) The way to get to the place where Christ was going (John 14:3-4) is through Jesus Christ!!
- (1) This experience of serving God wholeheartedly calls for **gaining through loss!!** Just as the song says: ***Let me lose myself and find it Lord in Thee.***
Note the following, briefly stated without comments:
- Christ Himself had to experience all the humiliation, hurt, etc. of the cross (Isa. 53; 2 Cor. 5:21; 1 Peter 2:23-25; 3:18).
 - The way through Christ is the way of the cross (Matt. 16:24-27; Mark 8:34-38; **Luke 9:23-27, NB v. 23**).
 - The cross means death of the old self and new life in Christ (Rom. 6:6; 8:36; 2 Cor. 4:11; **Gal. 2:20**; Col. 2:20; 2 Tim. 2:11).
 - To reject the way of the cross is to reject Christ who is the **ONLY WAY** to eternal life (**Luke 14:25-33, NB Vv. 26-27**; John 3:36).
- (2) Too many believe that the Church of the True and Living God is just another means of entertainment or that it (the Church) functions like a social club! I can but just make reference to the Hymn that say: **“The Way of the Cross Leads Home.”**
- (e) Beloved, challenges and difficult situations will be experienced (John 16:33) but we are assured of victory; sometimes it seems that there is no way out but even then we must remain steadfast and unmovable (1 Cor. 15:58); victory will be realized through Jesus Christ!! **He was, is and will always be THE WAY MAKER!!** (Rom. 8 28-39, NB v. 27).
- (1) **Ex. 14:16 Amp. Bible**

“Lift up your rod and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, and the Israelites shall go on dry ground through the midst of the sea.”

(2) See also John 3:17; Prov. 15:19; Isa. 42:16; 43:14-21, NB v. 16; etc.

Way Maker . . . Partial Quote

You are moving in our midst

I worship You

I worship You

... ..

You are here working in this place

I worship You

I worship You

... ..

You are

Way Maker, Miracle worker, promise keeper

Light in the darkness, my God

That is who You are

... ..

Even when I don't see it, You're working

Even when I don't see it, You're working

You never stop, You never stop working

You never stop, You never stop working

John 14:1 Amp. Bible

“Do NOT let your hearts be troubled (distress, agitated). You believe in and adhere to and trust in and rely on God; believe in and adhere to and trust in and rely also in Me.”

I will close with a partial quote of There is Jesus sung by The McKameys:

On that hill just outside of town a man hung there bleeding

dying for the souls of men to captives bring freedom

Three days later His tomb was empty

He conquered death and the grave

Yes and in the middle of it all there was Jesus

So no matter what you're facing. No matter where you've been

In hard times or in good times keep your eyes on Him

but in the heat of battle or by pleasant mountain streams

He'll be right there in the. That's where He's always been

So be strong and take courage when you think you've think you're gonna fall
'cause right in the middle of it all there is Jesus
There is Jesus. There is Jesus

DO NOT JUST READ THE BIBLE STUDY AND OBEY IT

2 Tim. 2:15 NKJV

“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”

2 Tim. 3:16-17 NKJV

“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete. thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

John 14:1-4 Review Questions

1. In what way does the first verse, in particular the first line of the song, **Jesus is Coming Soon**, relevant to the existing conditions of the world?

2. What are some adverse physical ailments that may possibly be the result from **stress**?

3. (a) Which of Christ's discourse is recorded commencing John 13:3 and at what chapter it concludes? (b) When was it presented and how is it classified by most scholars?

4. (a) Answer True or False (b) Explain your answer.
The disciples were overcome by anxiety because Christ gave them a comprehensive account of what was to take place leading up to His crucifixion.

5. What is noted as the outstanding factor that was (is) necessary by each believer as expressed in John 14:1-4 and why is it so important?

6. How Christ did become aware of the disciples' apprehension (John 13:1-4) . . . give reference?

7. Complete the following:

Jesus who knew by (a) _____ the (b) _____ of a troubled (c) _____ (John 11:33; 12:27; 13:21), therefore He could say with all (d) _____ and (e) _____ understanding, **"Let not your (f) _____ be (g) _____"** (John 14:1).

8. Complete by choosing the correct answer (A quote from POSB base on John 14:1b).

"You believe in God, believe also in Me." _____
 _____ . *Believing in Me, that I am the Son of God will deliver you from troubled."*

- (a) I am different from the Father above.
- (b) I am the Son but not divine.
- (c) I am a stranger to the Father
- (d) I am the revelation of God Himself.

9. Match the statements on the left with their correct reference on the right (*Base on Why is Faith Important*).

STATEMENTS	CORRECT REFERENCE	Jumbled References
Assures Success		Heb. 11:6
Fundamentally Our Duty		1 John 3:23
It is a Defensive Weapon		James 1:5-6

It is an Indispensable Ingredient		John 6:28-29
It is Essential in Prayer		Eph. 6:16
It should be United with Love		2 Chron. 20:20

10. Match the statements on the left with their correct reference of the right (Base on **Jesus knew the Father as any son knows his father**)

STATEMENTS	CORRECT REFERENCE	JUMBLED REFERENCES
He came from and return to the Father		John 1:1
He was sent to do His Father's will		John 14:31
He was obedient to His Father's will		John 6:38
He was in the beginning with the Father		John 16:28

11. (a) Answer True or False. (b) Explain your answer with references.
Christians should not acknowledge God as their Father, such is not Biblical.

12. (a) Explain the significance of **"I go . . ."** (John 14:2b). (b) What constituted the work that Christ had to do, as noted in John 14, give reference?

16. Briefly explain **“glorification.”** *This was not discussed in our lesson but was briefly referred to.*

17. Complete the following:

“... where I am you may be also” this is closely a (a) _____ with what many other (b) _____ declare, that the (c) _____ of heaven’s (d) _____ is (e) _____ with (f) _____ there: John 17:24; Phil. 1:23; 1 Thess. 4:17.

18. Note the themes discussed in (a) Rev. chapters 6-20 and (b) Rev.21-22.

19. What are some important facts noted in Christ’s words: **“Where I go you know . . .”** (John 14:4a)?

20. Briefly explain the phrase: **“The way of the cross leads home.”**
