

"34 A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. 35 By this shall all *men* know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.

36 Simon Peter said unto him, Lord, whither goest thou? Jesus answered him, Whither I go, thou canst not follow me now; but thou shalt follow me afterwards. 37 Peter said unto him, Lord, why cannot I follow thee now? I will lay down my life for thy sake. 38 Jesus answered him, Wilt thou lay down thy life for my sake? Verily, verily, I say unto thee, The cock shall not crow, till thou hast denied me thrice.

14:1 Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. 2 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. 3 And 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.

4 And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know. 5 Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way? 6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." (Joh 13:34-14:6 AV)

These words were spoken by the Lord Jesus shortly before His crucifixion and resurrection from the dead and His ascension into Heaven. They are among the most precious words spoken by Christ unto us and have been a great comfort and assurance to Christians ever since. They are based upon two basic principles of the Christian faith: the certainly of Life in a world to come, and the certainty that Jesus is the Son of God who alone can assure us of happiness in the world to come and not misery and eternal death.

After rebuking Peter for his rash assurance that he would go anywhere with Christ, Jesus began assuring His disciples that although He would soon go away it would be because He had work to do as the Mediator, to prepare a place in Heaven for them where there are many places for His people to be with God in happiness, but that they could not go until it was prepared for them. I would like to see three things today about this reading from God's word.

I. Jesus is the Way, the beginning of the Christian Life; II. Jesus is the Truth, the progress of the Christian Faith; III. Jesus is the Life, the End and Purpose of the Christian Faith

I. Jesus is the Way, the beginning of the Christian Life.

A. He is the only Way to God, for which we have been created. "I go to prepare a place...."

1. His is not building mansions; He said there are many already there.

2. He is doing a work with reference to the Heavenly Father.

3. God is holy and pure and He could never allow us to enter heaven, because of His perfect righteousness.

Joh 3:36 He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.

Ro 1:18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;

B. Something must turn away the anger of God against the sinner:

1. This was done by the blood of Christ: Romans 5: 6 For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. 7 For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. 8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. 9 Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him. 10 For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.
2. Beautifully figured in the blood of the Passover lamb in Egypt. When I see the blood, I will pass over you.

You cannot come to God except in the way that He provided. You must come through the blood, and believe that He died for you. Joh 3:36 He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.

- C. We begin this way and we travel this way all the days of our life. There is no other way to heaven, all other ways lead to hell. 1John 1: 6 If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth:7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin. 8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
- D. No Man Comes to the Father but by Me. Guilty sinners cannot be in His presence. Jesus died to take away our guilt. He was made a curse for us. Gal. 3:13
- E. Jesus is not the wayshower; He is the way. He doesn't say “Go that way”; He says, “Come unto Me, and I will give you rest.”

II. Jesus is the Truth.

- A. God cannot lie. Not only must He be reconciled to sinners; sinners must be reconciled to God. This is also the work of Jesus Christ.
 1. He now has work to do before God; He also has work to do toward men.
 2. 2Cor. 5:10; 18-21
 - a. God reconciled the world to Himself, by not imputing their sins. They were counted to Christ and Christ bore them on the Cross.
 - b. He was made sin, so that we might be made righteous.
- B. So now, reconciled, He begins a good work in us; a work planned before the world was.
 1. Ephesians 2:8-10 Created unto good works. This work is by the Holy Spirit that is given to those who believe.
 2. It begins in faith toward God and love toward the people of God. A “new” commandment. “New” because they are new men. They are the beginning of a new kind of mankind; in the image of Christ; not the image of Adam.
- C. God requires Truth in the inner man: Ps 51:6 Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden part thou shalt make me to know wisdom. Jesus teaches me, by His Spirit:
 1. The truth about myself: I am a sinner in rebellion against God.
 2. The truth about God: that I cannot ever come before Him in my sins. Joh 8:21 Then said Jesus again unto them, I go my way, and ye shall seek me, and shall die in your

sins: whither I go, ye cannot come. 24 I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he [the Savior], ye shall die in your sins.

III. Jesus if the End and Purpose of the Christian Life.

- A. We are to do all in His Name: Col 3:17 And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.
- B. We are to live by faith in Christ: Ga 2:20 I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.
- C. We are to offer up ourselves to Christ who loved us and died for us: Romans 12:1,2.
 - 1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.
 - 2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.
- D. Paul: "For me to live is Christ; and to die is gain" To be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord.
- E. No sufferings of the present time are worthy to be compared with the glory that shall be revealed in us, in the presence of God forever and ever.
- F. Jesus: "I will come again, and receive you unto myself, that where I am there you may be also."
- G. Matthew 25:34 "Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world...."
- H. Mt 25:46 And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.

Application: Hebrews 12:1, 2

- 1. There are a cloud of witnesses, and we better pay attention to them. We have looked at just a few of them today.
- 2. Lay aside the sin that weights you down, so you can run the race; to follow Jesus, the way. To follow Jesus is not to imitate Him [impossible] but to listen to Him and be His disciple.
- 3. Keep your eye on Jesus, the author and finisher [The Way the Truth the Life] of our faith.
- 4. He is in Heaven and when He has put down all His enemies, He will return.
 - 16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:
 - 17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

Amen and Amen. May God bless you.