

SOUTH GROVE FREE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH LONDON

The Lord's Day Morning

Date 18th September 2022

Preacher Rev Philip Knowles , Ps/Hymns 139v1-6 T Jesus name high over all, 73-New Britain 604 Auld lang syne

Read: John 14:1-6 Text: John 14:1-3 Title – The Father's House.

At the start of John 14, the hearts of the disciples were troubled for many reasons, but one in particular Christ's time with them on earth was coming to an end.

During their three years with Christ, the disciples enjoyed blessed times, they witnessed many miracles. They had the privilege of hearing His sermons

However, on various occasions during His earthly ministry, Christ had taught the disciples that He must suffer things and be crucified, and rise again.

It seemed His words had not registered on their minds at all.

It is interesting to notice, that Christ knew how each one felt and the sorrow they expressed.

Christ understood their feelings and knew their anxious thoughts for as the Great High Priest of His people, He sympathises with them, He is touched with the feelings of their infirmities. He cares and understands.

Therefore, it was needful for Christ to bring a word in season to His weary and troubled ones. As **Ps 147:3** states "***He healeth the broken in heart, and bindeth up their wounds.***"

Christ said ***let not your heart be troubled.***

The word ***troubled***, in ***verse 1*** means ***to be agitated, disturbed, distressed, to be shaken, stirred up and anxious.***

Whatever the trouble is, it is ***taking away calmness and making one restless.***

The Saviour's words are a command, an order to follow, to put into practise, because Christ is saying, let not your hearts be stirred up, disturbed, divided, anxious.

Don't all allow matters on earth to take your rest away, or to rob you of spiritual truth.

We would often say don't get yourself all wond up, worked up, don't let it get to you, eat at you.

This was the same for the disciples.

With this in mind, Christ spoke these marvellous words of comfort.

Having already noted their circumstances, concerns and cares, we learn from the way in which the Lord comforted their hearts, He alone calmed the storm within, and around, for only Christ can say peace be still.

He had them fix their minds on, spiritual, and eternal truth concerning His redemption, resurrection, representation, and return.

Christ spoke of **the Father's house, the eternal resting place, for God's people, a heavenly home.**

May I just say, those gathered here today, whether a believer in Christ or an unbeliever, the Lord knows your heart, what you are going through daily.

He knows every burden, distress, care, worry and tear.

I want to assure you, burdens are always lifted at Calvary, **for the comfort of believers and the salvation of sinners.**

Christ always brings the word we need in trouble, by directing our minds and hearts to, **His purpose of coming into this world to purchase redemption, the forgiveness and the deliverance from sin, guaranteeing that He will have with Him in heaven**

a company of sinners, saved by grace and gathered from all the nations of the earth.

Believer what a day that will be when face to face we shall behold the King and see His beauty.

I FIRST, THE PARTICULARS OF THE FATHER'S HOUSE.

When the Saviour said in **verse 1** that **in My Father's house are many mansions**, He was actually giving the particulars, details or description of His Father's house.

Notice, The Father's house is an Actual Place.

When Christ speaks of "**the Father's house**," in **verses 2-3**, He also used the word, **a place**, He is therefore referring to an actual place, a residence.

The Father's house, the everlasting dwelling place, is not a fairy tale, a myth, or an imagery place to make people feel better, or give a false hope.

Rather there is a heaven to gain, an eternal Kingdom to enter and enjoy.

There are various terms used in the Scripture, all of which remind us that the Father's house is an actual place.

The Father's house is called **a country**, **Heb 11:16** – "**They desire a better country, that is an heavenly.**"

It is also called **a city**, **Heb 11:10** – "**He looked for a city which hath foundations whose builder and maker is God.**" Earthly cities will eventually come to ruin but the heavenly city stands forever.

Heaven is also called **an everlasting kingdom**, **2 Pet 1:11** – "**the everlasting kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ.**"

It is the realm of the King of kings.

It is also called **paradise**. On the Cross of Calvary Christ said to the thief who repented, **Luke 23:43** ***“Today shalt thou be with me in paradise.”***

(In **2 Cor 12:2** the Fathers house, Paradise is called ***“the third heaven.”***)

It is also interesting to note, in **John 2:16**, Christ used the word **house** when speaking of the temple in the city of Jerusalem.

He said in **John 2:16** ***“make not my Father’s house an house of merchandise.”***

However, in **John 14**, He uses the same word **house** in reference to a heavenly house, and that is significant.

The Father’s house in eternity, or the temple in Jerusalem, ***was the centre of worship to God upon the blood of the sacrificial animal.***

The whole scene was an object lesson to teach Spiritual truth.

The temple was the place where the sacrificial animal was brought and its blood shed.

The chosen animal was offered up to God as a substitute for the people, to teach symbolically the only way sinful man could be brought out of sin and into fellowship with God.

Keep in mind, the sacrificial animal or its blood never took sin away, but the Temple sacrifices, were a pattern, a symbol, for the people by faith to think upon the promised messiah, who would come, to the cross of Calvary and willingly lay own His life as the sinners substitute, in taking the sinners place, and paying the debt of sin by His own precious blood in worship accepted by God.

The point is in using the word **house** to describe worship to God on earth or heaven,

Christ was teaching, just as on earth we worship God through faith in Christ's blood, so in the heavenly Father's House, an actual place, faith will give way to sight.

God the Father will be worshipped eternally and perfectly on the ground of redemption, the payment of sin by Jesus Christ, the Lamb upon His throne.

Believer soon the time will come when the roll is called up yonder and we will be there, we will exchange the temporal for the permanent, the earthy for the heavenly. Our worship will be unhindered, and unending.

Unsaved one if you don't turn from sin, and confess Christ as Saviour, you will hear those words ***I never knew you, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:***

The Fathers' house is an Abiding Place.

Christ states that in the Father's house are "***many mansions.***"

The word for "***mansions***" means ***abiding or dwelling place.*** The idea is ***to dwell, taking up permanent residency, abiding.***

Christ is stating to His people, I have an abiding place for you to dwell with me forever.

You see, on earth the Lord's people are as ***Psalm 39:12*** puts it ***strangers, pilgrims and sojourners.***

The idea of the word ***stranger*** means ***a foreigner,*** one who is a long way from home.

The word ***sojourner,*** speaks ***of one passing through, on a journey to reach a more permanent destination.***

Scripture shows that the saints of God on earth have always longed for the heavenly abiding place.

This is clearly the view in **Heb 11:13** “**strangers & pilgrims on the earth.**” **Verse 14** shows, these strangers and pilgrims and not settled on earth, and are looking for something entirely permanent to dwell, an abiding place.

That's why we, they seek – “**a country...**” the word literally means **a fatherland**, an abiding place, a permanent residence.

what a reminder to God's people, **the final destination is already prepared for Christ's people**, to die is gain.

believer we are just passing through, as this world is not our final home.

There is much walking and labour on this journey, times of joy, sorrow sickness and weariness, but we look for that dwelling place of eternal rest. No more heart breaks or heart aches.

It will be worth it all when we see Jesus.

(Have you ever made a dinner reservation, you call the number, and you book your table for a particular time, maybe its weeks or days down the line, but your name is document. The table is yours, just waiting for you to enter the place, sit down and enjoy the meal.)

Believer your heavenly home, is secured right now, your name is written in the lamb's book of life. Your name is engraved on His hands.

You're just waiting until the day you arrive and enjoy your Saviour's presence and feast the Kings table.

The Father's house is an Abundant Place.

Christ also states that in the Father's house there are "many mansions."

The word many means abundance, a fulness.

In other words, we will never full grasp with our limited mind the infinite, unlimited space of the Father's house, with all the redeemed of all ages.

Oh yes, right from Adam in the past, to believers in the present, and future, all will be there.

The term, Many mansions or many abodes, is the resting place for all the elect of God from North, South, East and West, dwelling in unity and harmony.

The Father's house will accommodate the people who are the fruit of Christ's death.

At His return, Christ will collect His full harvest, His reward, His inheritance and gather all His redeemed.

Not one will be missing on that great day when He comes for them, "that where I am, there ye may be also."

All who have put their trust in the finished work of Jesus Christ on Calvary, will dwell with Him in the Father house.

Faith must rest in Christ alone, not in Christ plus a backup, or helper, such as baptism, church membership, Lord's table, traditions, dead saints, creeds idols, or many religions.

It is faith alone in Christ alone for entrance into the Father house.

II SECOND, THE PREPARATION FOR THE FATHER'S HOUSE

Christ says “***I go to prepare a place for you.***” There is a certain preparation concerning the Father’s house that Christ Himself has undertaken on behalf of His people.

Notice again He said, “***I go to prepare a place for you.***” There is the thought of Christ as the forerunner of His people, going before them in His death, resurrection, and ascension.

How did Christ prepare a place for His people, where was He going to prepare such a place. It was at the cross of Calvary.

Christ was going to Calvary to suffer the punishment of sin and die to pay the penalty of sin, to purchase and prepare a heavenly home so that sinners would be able to have an entrance to Father’s house for eternal rest.

All Christ accomplished on the Cross was in order that His people would be saved and enter into their eternal abiding or dwelling place.

While suffering on the Cross, in **Luke 23:43**, Christ promised a dying thief who had repented of sin, a place in paradise and that he would be there that very day after his death. “***And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom. ⁴³ And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, Today shalt thou be with me in paradise.***”

I’m not sure if it has ever crossed your mind, **but Christ died before the thief died.**

We read of this detail in **John 19:32-33**, when Christ and the two men ether side are dying by Crucifixion, “***then came the soldiers, and brake the legs of the first, and of the other which was crucified with him.³³ But when they came to Jesus, and saw that he was dead already, they brake not his legs.***”

Christ died before the thief, clearly providing an illustration of the truth that by His own death and entrance into heaven He has prepared the way for His people. He has gone before them.

In fact in **verse 6** “**Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.**”

all are in reference to the Fathers house, you miss Christ you miss everlasting life, and rest.

Refuse His only way, only truth and only life, you refuse a heavenly and eternal home.

Neglect the only way to God and you guarantee your everlasting punishment, you seal your destruction.

But Hallelujah, there is a foundation filled with blood drawn from Christ veins and sinners plunged beneath His blood lose all their guilty stains, I do believe, there's power in Jesus blood to wash sin away.

Christ is the only way back the God, the entrance into heaven. He is able to save from uncleanness and sin all who come unto Him by faith.

III THIRD, THE PEOPLE IN THE FATHER'S HOUSE

It has been often and well said, the Fathers house or heaven is a prepared place for a prepared people.

The moment a believer dies, the soul of that believer will immediately enter heaven the Father's house, but the body will

be laid in the grave until Jesus Christ returns in all His glory, then both will be reunited and transformed.

It is clear in this passage Jesus Christ promises, His return to earth, to gather His loved ones home, “***I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.***” He will “receive” His people and they shall be forever with the Lord.

Matthew 25 refers to the time Christ the King will return, **v31** “***When the Son of man shall come in His glory,***”

Christ is not coming to be crowned King, He is coming as King. “***And He shall set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left. 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:***”

All whose faith rests in Christ alone, are prepared to enter the Father house.

They have all they need because Christ is all they need. All has been provided because Christ is their provision.

Their robes are spotless and white because Christ is Holy.

No wonder Christ can say let not your hearts be troubled! What a comfort, Hallelujah what a Saviour.