

JOHN 14:4-14
DO YOU KNOW THE WAY?

Please turn in your Bibles this morning to John chapter 14 as we continue our in-depth study of the Gospel of John.

Here we are, just some 12 to 15 hours until Jesus will be crucified and what is He doing? How is He preparing Himself for what is coming?

What is interesting here is that He is not looking out for Himself, but He is instilling in His men the things that they will need to know as they will be caring on the ministry when He departs!

And this, you might say, is His farewell address to His men. We see Joshua give his farewell address to the nation of Israel. They had conquered the land of Canaan and Joshua knows that his time is short. And to encourage them to continue on walking with the Lord, not to give up, he gives them these words.

This is part of what Joshua said in Joshua 24:13-15, **“I have given you a land for which you did not labor, and cities which you did not build, and you dwell in them; you eat of the vineyards and olive groves which you did not plant.’ Now therefore, fear the Lord, serve Him in sincerity and in truth, and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the River and in Egypt. Serve the Lord! And if it seems evil to you to serve the Lord, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.”**

Joshua is challenging them to serve the Lord, follow the Lord, but look at where they were at. Joshua tells them to **“Put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the River and in Egypt.”**

And sometimes we read these verses and we don't think much about them. But Joshua is telling them to put away the foreign gods that they are worshiping and worship the Lord alone. They had not given up the gods that were worshiped in Egypt.

And yes, they said that they would serve the Lord, but we can read on in Judges that it did not take very long after the death of Joshua that they had moved away from God and worshiped the gods of the Canaanites!

Was there something wrong with what Joshua said to them that caused this?

No, not at all. The information was correct, they just did not apply that information to their lives. And thus, there were consequences to their disobedience and the book of Judges is a solemn reminder of what happens when the Lord is not on the throne of a persons or a nations heart. Everyone will do what is right in their own eyes and that is never a good thing!

Let me share a few words from George Washington's farewell address and you will see what I mean. He said,

With slight shades of difference, you have the same religion, manners, habits, and political principles. You have in a common cause fought and triumphed together; the independence and liberty you possess are the work of joint counsels, and joint efforts of common dangers, sufferings, and successes. . . .

Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, religion and morality are indispensable supports. In vain would that man claim the tribute of patriotism, who should labor to subvert these great pillars of human happiness, these firmest props of the duties of men and citizens.

- <https://bit.ly/3ciYJDg>

Here we are in 2022 and did we learn the lessons that George Washington was giving to us?

No, we did not!

We no longer have the same religious faith, manners, habits and political principles.

We no longer are working together for the common good of our nation.

We no longer have a supporting structure that will keep this nation going because we have moved away from the truths of God found in the Word of God and that has led to all kinds of immorality, violence.

And like the nation of Israel that Joshua talked to in his farewell address, we did not listen to men like George Washington and other Founding Fathers in regard to what this nation was built upon and that is Jesus Christ and His Word!

Did these men that Jesus was speaking to get it?

Well, yes and no!

What I mean by that is that they did not fully get it until after the death and resurrection of Jesus when the Holy Spirit not only indwelt them but empowered them for the work that they were to do.

Think about it, they turned the world upside down or I should say right side up in a very short period of time because they not only understood what Jesus was saying, but they were empowered to do the work by the Holy Spirit as I have said!

I have called this study – ***DO YOU KNOW THE WAY?***

And I like that because, you know me, I get lost a lot!

I am sure you have gotten lost once or twice in your life as well.

And I am sure that in our Christian lives, there are times that we may feel we have lost direction, we are not sure where to go. Maybe you feel that way right now. My prayer as we go through this study is that you would see that God is in control and as you follow Him, no matter how difficult it may be, how barren it may be, He is going to lead you to where you need to be!

Let me share this with you and you will see what I mean. We are told,

God knows where you are and has never left you, regardless of how you may feel or how uncertain you are of where you're going.

It reminds me of when our kids were small and we visited Disneyland for the first time. The park was so big and probably seemed enormous to our three children.

After wandering around for a few hours, we wanted to find our way back to Cinderella's castle near the entrance.

In our pre-GPS world, I thought I knew the way but ended up taking us to Space Mountain instead.

The kids began to worry that we'd never find our way back. Then my son grabbed my hand and pulled me over to a giant map of the park - you know, the kind with the big arrow pointing "***You Are Here.***"

Suddenly it was easy to regain our perspective and see how we needed to proceed in order to get to our destination. We hadn't really been lost, of course; we just couldn't see where we were in relation to where we wanted to go.

The same is true for you. Whether you feel as if you're blazing a trail in the wilderness or maintaining a predictable plateau, God knows where you are and where you're going. He's right there with you and has big plans for where he wants to take you.

If you feel lost, stuck, or caught in a rut, consider this: When was the last time you stopped to ask him for directions?

- <https://bit.ly/3dHJ2WF>

Please understand that Jesus does not get mad when we ask Him for directions, when we ask Him questions. He wants to show us the way, but we must come to Him and allow His Word opened up to us by His Spirit to guide us.

And then, the other aspect of getting to where you need to be, besides knowing how to get there, you must take those steps of faith, you must be obedient to what the Lord is showing you!

This morning, in our study – ***DO YOU KNOW THE WAY?*** we will be looking at the following points,

QUESTIONS – JOHN 14:4-5

ANSWERS – JOHN 14:6-7

SHOW US THE FATHER – JOHN 14:8

THE FATHER IS REVEALED – JOHN 14:9

HIS WORKS ARE THE EVIDENCE – JOHN 14:10-14

Keep in mind that we are just about 12 to 15 hours or so away from Jesus being crucified and this is what was on His heart, to comfort His men and to answer their questions.

With that as our introduction, let's begin reading in John chapter 14, beginning in verse 4 and let's see what the Lord has for us as we study His Word and look at this topic – ***DO YOU KNOW THE WAY?***

JOHN 14

VERSES 4-5

Remember back in John chapter 11 Jesus spoke of His death, that He was going to depart from them for a time.

He said to them, “**. . . ‘Where I am going you cannot follow Me now, but you shall follow Me afterward.’**” John 11:36.

I am sure this devastated His men. They loved Jesus, they had followed Him for some three years now and they were thinking the Kingdom is going to be established, and now this!

How can that be?

Where is He going?

Will we see Him again?

And Jesus is answering those questions here in John. He wants to calm their troubled hearts.

And He tells them, “**And where I go you know, and the way you know.**” John 14:4.

In other words, He is telling them, *“Calm down men. Don’t be afraid. I just got done telling you that I am going to the Father and you know that the only way to the Father is through Me.”*

Then, at least he was honest, Thomas says to Jesus, **“... ‘Lord, we do not know where You are going, and how can we know the way?’”** John 14:5.

And Jesus said, *“Are you kidding me? What’s a matter you? [a little Italian in there] How can you not know these things? What is up with you Thomas?”*

No, Jesus did not say that. We get impatient with people and frustrated with them that they don’t get things, but the Lord doesn’t. He is patient and He will work with us so we can grow in Him.

But think about all that is going on here. The cross is just hours away and Jesus has spent some three plus years with His men teaching them.

What is my point?

My point is this. They had all the information, but they couldn’t put it all together yet.

In fact, they would not put it all together until after the death and resurrection of Jesus, as I have said!

Talk about frustrating. I would have said to him, *“Thomas! What do you mean show you the way? You still don’t get it? You’re out buddy!”*

But not Jesus, He doesn’t put us down, He teaches us.

Spurgeon wrote, *“Thus we notice how they speak to him with a natural, easy familiarity; and he talks to them in full sympathy with their weakness, teaching them little by little as they are able to learn. They ask just such questions as a boy might ask of his father. Often they show their ignorance, but never do they seem timid in his presence, or ashamed to let him see how shallow and hard of understanding they are.”*

I am so glad that the Lord does not get tired of our questions, or not understanding things. He is patient with us and desires to teach us and I am so thankful for that.

How many of you, and you don't have to raise your hands because it is probably most if not all of us, have felt that we have blown it and God is mad at us, He is ready to tear up the adoption papers?

Please understand, that as a Christian, you are a child of God, and He loves you and that love will never end. He will never get tired of you. Sometimes we get tired of ourselves, but not God. His love for us is so amazing and we need to remember that because the Devil loves to beat us up and we tend to listen to him instead of the Lord!

Remember what Paul wrote in Romans 8:31-39, **“What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written: ‘For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.’ Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.**

For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The great thing about Romans chapter 8 is that it opens up with *no condemnation*.

Remember what Paul wrote in Romans 8:1, **“There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.”**

And here at the end of this chapter Paul closes with *no separation* or that we can never be separated from the love of God which is found in Jesus!

In regard to this, Newell wrote, *“Our weak hearts, prone to legalism and unbelief, receive these words with great difficulty: God is for us . . . They have failed Him; but He is for them. They are ignorant; but He is for them. They have not yet brought forth much fruit; but He is for them.”*

May we remember that! In Christ Jesus there is *NO CONDEMNATION* and in Christ Jesus there is *NO SEPARATION* from His love!

So, can anything or anyone separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus?

Of course not, which again should give to each of us a security of our salvation!

Spurgeon put it this way in regard to the love of God as the great men and women of faith had.

He said: *“They did not speak of Christ’s love as though it were a myth to be respected, a tradition to be revered; they viewed it as a blessed reality, and they cast their whole confidence upon it, being persuaded that it would bear them up as upon eagles’ wings, and carry them all their days; resting assured that it would be to them a foundation of rock, against which the waves might beat, and the winds blow, but their soul’s habitation would stand securely if founded upon it.”*

May we not forget that! If God is for us – who can be against us?

Absolutely no one!

There is not one thing in the entire universe that is going to take us from our Lord and Savior! Why?

Because His love will not let go!

But how do I know that Jesus is not mad at His men?

Yes, they had questions for Jesus, and Thomas does here, but how can I be so sure that Jesus is not mad at them or specifically Thomas?

It is really simple. Just listen to how Jesus answers Thomas and really the rest of the men who were listening.

Thomas had – ***QUESTIONS!***

Now we will see that Jesus has – ***ANSWERS!***

VERSES 6-7

If you were to go around and ask the average person ***“How do you get into heaven?”*** I think most people would say, ***“You have to be a good person, not perfect, but good!”***

The problem with that is being good does not get you into heaven, you must be perfect as God is perfect, without any sin at all!

That means the only other option for man is to come to Christ who has paid in full the penalty for our sin and has given to us His righteousness.

Where do we see that in the Bible?

Paul put it like this in II Corinthians 5:21, **“For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”**

That is the only righteousness that God will accept, perfect righteousness.

Now some would say that this is a very narrow-minded attitude to have, that Jesus is the only way. Ray Stedman picks up on this and he speaks about how what Jesus said here in John is very narrow minded to some.

This is what he wrote,

Many bristle with indignation at those words.

When I quoted this verse [John 14:6] in a Bible study once, a woman said, *“That’s terribly narrow-minded.”*

I said, *“Yes, it is, but that is the way truth is. I find the phone company to be terribly narrow minded too. If you want to call someone up you must dial the exact numbers, in the exact order given; they will not allow any deviation. The IRS is terribly narrow-minded. They require you to state your income exactly. They don’t accept a wild guess on your part.”*

“But I think you must interpret a verse like that,” she said.

“How would you interpret it?” I asked her.

She said she didn’t really know how.

I said, *“Well, if it is true, if Jesus means what he says that there is only one way to God, that those that try to come another way will not end up with the God who exists, but with some god of their own invention, and, if there is only one way, how could he ever have said it any plainer than he does here, ‘No one comes to the Father but by me’?”*

- <https://bit.ly/3w8o4H0>

Exactly. There is no other way to interpret this. I think the words of Jesus are pretty clear here and very controversial because He is saying that He is the only way, He is the only truth and He is the only life and if you want to get to the Father, you must come through Him!

But listen to what some are saying. I will give you one example and that is from what Tony Campolo, an Emergent Church leader has to say, and you see if it matches what Jesus is saying.

He wrote,

“I am saying that there is no salvation apart from Jesus; that’s my evangelical mindset. However, I am not convinced that Jesus only lives in Christians”

- Tony Campolo, (National Liberty Journal, 8/99)

“Jesus is the only Savior, but not everybody who is being saved by Him is aware that He is the one who is doing the saving”

- Tony Campolo, EP News Service, Oct. 4, 1985

“ . . . Isn’t God’s message to sinful humanity that He sees in each of us a divine nature of such worth that He sacrificed His own Son so that our divine potentialities might be realized? . . . The hymn writer who taught us to sing “Amazing Grace” was all too ready to call himself a “wretch” . . . Forgetting our divinity and over-identifying with our [Freudian] anal humanity . . . Erich Fromm, one of the most popular psychoanalysts of our time, recognized the diabolical social consequences that can come about when a person loses sight of his/her own divinity . . . ”

- Tony Campolo, “Partly Right” 1995

“going to heaven is like going to Philadelphia . . . There are many ways . . . It doesn’t make any difference how we go there. We all end up in the same place.”

- Tony Campolo, “Carpe Diem: Seize the Day”, 1994, pages 85-88

I wanted to read that to you before I responded to what he has said. I wanted you to think about some of the things he has said.

You are saved but you do not know that it is Jesus who saved you. How crazy.

We are gods, we have divinity in us. But then, if we are gods, why did Jesus need to come?

And he is saying that all roads lead to heaven, really?

How can you call yourself a Christian when you deny what Jesus is saying. If Jesus is not the only way to heaven, then Jesus is a liar and why are we following a liar? Folks, Jesus is not a liar, but the words of this man are nothing more than doctrines of demons.

Sorry, but if you are speaking of salvation being apart from Christ, that He is not the only way, then you are not saved!

And here's the thing, and it is pretty simple. What some call narrow mindedness, I just call the truth!

Think about a pilot and you are boarding a plane that he is going to fly.

And as you go in you see him say to his co-pilot, ***“You know John, this book and checklist is way to narrow minded. I am free, I am going to do what I want. I don't need no stinking book to tell me what I need to do. I am going to fly this plane the way that I want and not the way that the book tells me it needs to be flown!”***

How would you feel if you heard that?

I would run off the plane. There are reasons you follow the checklist and reasons for flying the plane the way it was intended to be flown. If you don't, you are headed for disaster!

The same is true here. Jesus is showing us the way to heaven, and we don't have to listen to Him, but if we don't, then disaster awaits us. You see, anyone who rejects Jesus will not go to heaven, will not see the Father!

We also see here in John 14:6 that Jesus begins with the sixth of the seven ***“I AM”*** statements that are found in the Gospel of John.

The phrase ***“I AM”*** is the name of God as first expressed in the book of Exodus 3:13-14. And it is a verb that means ***“the becoming One.”***

God has become to us what we need and the biggest thing we need is – ***SALVATION!***

So let's see the three points that Jesus makes here in John in regard to our salvation.

The first point that Jesus makes is that He is ***“the way”*** not ***“a way”*** or ***“one of the many ways.”***

You see, you can take Buddha out Buddhism.

You can take Confucius out of Confucianism.

You can take Mohammad out of Islam.

And in each one the religion would remain.

But you can't take Jesus out of Christianity because it is based upon Him. Jesus very clearly tells us that there is no other way to heaven except through Him; it is not a debatable issue!

People may say that I am being intolerant or narrow minded but if it is the truth then that does not apply. In fact, because it is the truth you don't want to water it down or ignore it or reject it!

Jesus said in Matthew 7:13, "**Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.**"

So if someone is leading you down the broad way, is that from God or the Devil?

Obviously, it is not from God, but it is from the Devil because our entrance into heaven is through the narrow gate, Jesus Christ because *HE IS THE WAY!*

Therefore, the broad way is the path of human achievement. And the narrow way is the path of divine accomplishment. Jesus paid in full the penalty for our sins, He saved us, we did not save ourselves!

Paul said in I Timothy 2:4-6 regarding Jesus being the One "**who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.**"

Did you see that?

There is only One mediator between God and man and that is Jesus. It is not the Pope, it is not Mary, it is not anyone or anything else, only Jesus. You see - ***HE IS THE WAY – THE ONLY WAY!***

Next, we see Jesus say that He is **“the truth.”**

Again, some see this as being intolerant or narrow minded but that is not the issue. It is an issue of truth and error.

Who are you going to listen to?

Are you going to listen to Jesus, who is the truth, who will not lie, or to the Devil who speaks lies, it is his natural language?

And if you are not listening to Jesus then you are listening to the Devil.

Think about the world that God entered into. It was a world that was filled with the Devil’s lies and thus, God sent into the World His Son, Jesus who is the truth of God!

In John 1:4 and 1:9 we see that Jesus is spoken of as the true light. We are told, **“In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. . . . That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world.”**

So we don’t have to walk in the darkness of the Devil’s lies, we can walk in the light of Christ and be guided by Him, if we listen to Him!

Not only that, but in John 8:12 we are told, **“Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, ‘I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.’”**

There is no reason we should be walking in darkness because we have the light of Christ to guide us!

Not only that, but we have the Bible as God's truth to us.

Jesus said in John 8:32, "**And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.**"

What truth is Jesus speaking of?

He is speaking of the Word of God, the Bible. In John 17:17 Jesus said, "**Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.**"

So, as opposed to the lies of the Devil, we have the truth of God found in the Word of God opened up to us by the Spirit of God to lead us in the ways of God.

That was the prayer of David in Psalm 86:11, "**Teach me Your way, O Lord; I will walk in Your truth; Unite my heart to fear Your name.**"

May we listen to the Lord and then walk in His ways. May our heart be knit to His heart!

HE IS THE TRUTH – THE ONLY TRUTH!

And lastly, Jesus says that He is "**the life.**"

And here He is speaking of that abundant life that is only found in Him and that one day we will be with Him.

Yes, there is much hardship in this life, but it is this life that is leading us home.

John uses the Greek word *ZOE* for "**life**", and He is not speaking of physical life but spiritual life here.

Yes, Jesus is the founder or creator of all physical life, but He is also the fountain from which all spiritual life flows as well.

And to receive that eternal life with Him you must ask Him into your life. You must repent of your sins!

Dr. James M. Gray wrote a song years ago that said, *“Who could mind the journey, when the road leads home?”*

Amen to that! This is the worst it will get for us and when we go to be with Him, eternal joy, peace and so on!

HE IS THE LIFE, ABUNDANT LIFE!

So, if you don't know where to go, ***JESUS IS THE WAY!***

If you are confused, if you don't know what to think, ***JESUS IS THE TRUTH!***

And if you are feeling dead inside, if you don't think you can go on, ***JESUS IS THE LIFE!***

You see, there is no neutral ground here in what Jesus says. You can believe it or reject it, but it doesn't change the truth of what He has said!

Think of it like this, *“Without the way there is no going; without the truth there is no knowing; without the life there is no living. I am the way which thou must follow; the truth in which thou must believe; the life for which thou must hope.”* (a' Kempis, cited by Bruce)

Listen to the words of Jesus and not the words of men who are leading people away from God!

And it is Jesus who will bring us to God the Father and apart from Jesus, you will ***NEVER*** see God the Father except in judgment as you will be eternally separated from God.

Peter put it like this in I Peter 3:18, **“For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit.”**

How many times did Jesus suffer for our sins?

Only once as He hung on the cross of Calvary and bore the sins of the world and the wrath of God was poured out upon Him, the wrath of God that was for you and me!

Why did He do this?

To bring us to God the Father, to restore that relationship that was broken by sin.

The word “**bring**” was used “*of admission to an audience with the Great King.*”

(Blum).

That is what Jesus has done for us and thus, when we refuse to have fellowship with God, we are trashing the work that Jesus has done for us. You see, I couldn't save myself because I am a sinner, but Jesus was the perfect sacrifice and He paid in full the penalty for my sins, your sins in order that we can come before God and have fellowship with Him!

The just God, perfect, without sin suffered for us to bring us to the Father, that is love!

So we see here that Jesus is **THE WAY, THE TRUTH**, and **THE LIFE** and you will not see the Father unless you go through Jesus!

You can accept that or reject that, but you can't say that Jesus never said it!

So we have seen that Jesus has **ANSWERED** their question but there is going to be another question – **SHOW US THE FATHER!**

Let's read on and see what that is all about.

VERSE 8

We started out with Thomas not knowing where Jesus was going, he did not know the way.

And Jesus told him that He is the way and there is no other way to get to the Father.

Now Philip jumps in and wants to see God the Father.

And this question is given because of what Jesus said in John 14:7, **“If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; and from now on you know Him and have seen Him.”**

Make no mistake about it, the Jews had a great love for God the Father, and you can just feel the passion, the love of Philipp for the Father. That is what his question is born out of, he wanted to see God the Father!

Now you would think that after some three plus years they would get it, but they still didn't!

And Jesus is still teaching them the basics of the faith!

As we read on here, we will see that – ***THE FATHER IS REVEALED!***

VERSE 9

Why did God become flesh and dwell amongst us?

Yes, to save us from our sins.

Yes, to bring us to God the Father.

Yes, to have us live with Him for eternity.

Yes, to keep us out of Hell.

And I am sure that there are more things we can add to this list but there is one that I want to focus on, and it is what we see here in John 14:9.

The other reason is born out of the fact that the people, especially the Jewish people, had lost touch in regard to what God the Father was all about. And thus, Jesus came to show the people what God the Father was really like.

John put it like this in I John 1:1-2, **“That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life - the *life was manifested*, and we have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us.”**

As you look at the life of Jesus you are seeing what God the Father is all about. He is representing God the Father, an exact representation!

In fact, the Greek word that John uses for **“manifested”** is *PHANERAO* and it means, ***“to cause to become visible, to make appear, to cause to be seen.”***

In other words, like Paul wrote in Colossians 1:15, **“He is the image of the invisible God . . .”**

Warren Wiersbe put it like this. He wrote,

God has revealed Himself in creation (Rom. 1:20), but creation alone could never tell us the story of God’s love. God has also revealed Himself much more fully in His Word, the Bible. But God’s final and most complete revelation is in His Son, Jesus Christ. Jesus said, ‘He that hath seen Me hath seen the Father’ (John 14:9).

- Warren Wiersbe, The Wiersbe Bible Commentary – NT, p. 960

Exactly.

That is what Jesus tells Philip, **“. . . He who has seen Me has seen the Father . . .”**

In other words, if you want to know what the Father is all about, look to Jesus, He is the perfect representation of the Father! To know Jesus is to know God the Father!

In fact, in Revelation 1:5 we are told that Jesus is “**the faithful witness**” of God the Father.

Also, in Hebrews 1:1-3 Paul tells us, “**God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; who being the brightness of His glory and the *express image of His person*, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high.**”

Paul tells us here in Hebrews that He is “**the express image of His person**” or that He is an exact likeness to God the Father. In other words, Jesus is God!

Look at how a few Bible versions translate this thought:

NEW KING JAMES VERSION - the express image of His person

NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION - the exact representation of His nature

AMERICAN STANDARD VERSION - the very image of his substance

TODAY’S ENGLISH VERSION - the exact likeness of God’s own being

COMPLETE JEWISH BIBLE - the very expression of God’s essence

As clear as that is I think the Greek makes it even clearer to us.

The Greek word for “**express image**” is ***CHARAKTER***, (khar-ak-tare’) and this word is used “***of an engraver, one who mints coins, a graving tool, a die, a stamp, a branding iron, a mark engraved, an impress, a stamp on coins and seals.***”

In other words, Jesus Christ is the exact imprint or image of God the Father in His essence or core, His attributes and His character.

The idea is of an exact likeness as made by a stamp. Jesus exactly represents God to us because Jesus is God!

Paul put it like this in Colossians 2:9, “**For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily.**”

If you want to know what the Godhead is all about, not just God the Father, then look to Jesus!

You see, no one has seen God the Father except for Jesus. And thus, even though we can't see God the Father now, we know what He is like because Jesus is an exact representation of Him!

And please understand, we are not talking about three Gods, but One God manifested in three distinct persons!

Jesus is going to continue expounding on this, that if you have seen Jesus, you have seen the Father!

But now He is going to show that – ***HIS WORKS ARE THE EVIDENCE!***

VERSES 10-14

Jesus starts out speaking to Philip here in John 14:10. And the way the Greek is written here, the Lord expected a “***Yes***” answer from Philip.

That Philip believed that Jesus was in the Father and the Father in Him.

In saying that, Philip should have realized that the Words of Jesus and the works of Jesus came from the Father and revealed the Father!

And that is something that we see in the Gospel of John. That Jesus lived and spoke in constant dependence upon God the Father, and He did nothing apart from His authority and guidance.

Let me show you what I mean.

In John 5:19 we are told, “**Then Jesus answered and said to them, ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner.’**”

Also, in John 8:28 we read, “**Then Jesus said to them, ‘When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am He, and that I do nothing of Myself; but as My Father taught Me, I speak these things.’**”

So, we not only have the Words of Jesus that show that He is God, sent from the Father, but we also have the works that He did, the miracles testify of who He is and who has sent Him, the Father!

That is what Clarke tells us, “We are not only *one in nature, but one also in operation*. The works which I have done bear witness of the infinite perfection of my nature. Such miracles as I have wrought could only be performed by unlimited power.”

Here in John 14:11, the idea with this word, “**believe**” is to go on believing or let your faith grow. That is what the Lord is doing with His men, there in the upper room as He is sharing with them the things that they will need to carry on the work when He is gone. That their faith would grow!

And that is what the Lord is doing with us or desires to see in us. He wants our faith to grow!

Now here in John 14:12 there seems to be much confusion by what Jesus said. Listen once again. He said, **“Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father.”**

Here is the confusion or let me put it to you in a question. *“What does Jesus mean when He says that we will do greater works than Him?”*

Think about all that Jesus did. And just with one miracle He did, He raised the dead, how can you do greater than that?

He is not speaking about doing greater works in magnitude, what can be more sensational than raising the dead?

Then what is He speaking of?

Let me share a few things with you regarding what others feel this is speaking of and then I will share with you what I think Jesus is saying here.

Morris wrote, *“What Jesus means we may see in the narratives of the Acts. There are a few miracles of healing, but the emphasis is on the mighty works of conversion. On the day of Pentecost alone more believers were added to the little band of believers than throughout Christ’s entire earthly life. There we see a literal fulfillment of ‘greater works than these shall he do.’”*

That is true and it may fit. But it may be a little too narrow in regard to what Jesus meant.

William Barclay considered the difficulty of taking this to mean that Jesus intended His followers to do more miracles and more impressive miracles than He Himself did: *“Though it could be said that the early Church did the things which Jesus did, it certainly could not be said that it did greater things than he did.”*

That is true, the early church and Christians today are not doing greater miracles than Jesus did, greater in magnitude!

But there are some who believe that Jesus meant that individual believers can and should do more spectacular works than Jesus did in the years of His earthly ministry.

I have not seen any proof of those that believe this, doing greater miracles than Jesus, like being greater than walking on water, calming storms with a word, multiplying food for thousands, raising people from the dead (more than the three recorded in Jesus' work).

Then what does Jesus mean here?

I believe what Jesus is saying is that the works we do will be greater in scope.

You see, in His earthly ministry Jesus was limited to being at one place at one time. But now as He works in all believers He can work throughout the world and thus, we will do greater in scope than He did in His earthly ministry.

And we see this played out for us in the book of Acts.

Remember what Jesus said in Acts 1:8, **“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”**

The work we do is a result of the Holy Spirit empowering us and since believers are all over the world, there is that greater scope!

You see, as we read on here in John chapters 14 and 15, we will see that when Jesus ascended to heaven, He is going to send the Holy Spirit!

It was because Jesus went to the Father that the Holy Spirit came upon His people, enabling them to do these greater works.

Alford put it like this, *“The reason why you shall do these greater works is, on account of the all-powerful Spirit of grace and supplication which My going to the Father shall bring down upon the Church.”*

Again, greater in scope not magnitude. More people will be touched by God because there are Christians all over the world and the Holy Spirit is working through them.

Yes, as you look at the works of Jesus – ***HIS WORKS ARE THE EVIDENCE*** of who He is and that He is from God the Father!

Now there are so many today that take the next two verses of John out of context. Listen again to what Jesus said in John 14:12-13, **“And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything in My name, I will do it.”**

And many come to the conclusion that you can ask Jesus for anything, and He will give it to you, at least that is what they think Jesus is saying here. He is not saying that!

Isn't it amazing how our flesh nature gets in the way of what God is saying so often! This is not a blank check for us to get anything and everything we want.

The health, wealth teaching, the prosperity gospel teaching does that very thing with these verses. You know what I mean. Name it and claim it. Blab it and grab it.

In fact, just put the tag, *“In the name of Jesus”* on your prayer and God is duty bound to give it to you! No, He is not!

Back on September 18, 2006, Time magazine had as their cover story the following:

DOES GOD WANT YOU TO BE RICH?

How sad that a secular magazine called out this false teaching and much of the church is silent to it or they are buying into it!

But isn't that what Jesus is saying here?

Absolutely not!

First of all, where was this teaching given?

It was given in the upper room, on the night of Passover to the disciples of Jesus who would be carrying on the work after He was gone.

Keep in mind that they were looking for the Kingdom Age, they were looking for positions in the Kingdom and Jesus is trying to get them to look at the here and now, the work that was to be done because before the Kingdom Age comes, the Gospel needs to go forward.

And here's the thing. When we ask the Father in the name of Jesus we are asking as His representative, as if He were asking. And what is the key to all our prayers? That the Father would be glorified not that we would obtain toys!

It is as John tells us in I John 5:14-15, **“Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.”**

How many times do we see people on television asking for all kinds of material things, outrageous things and people keep giving these guys and gals money to purchase them. Not of God, but truly of the world.

You see, according to His will so the Father will be glorified! May we remember that as we pray.

Our prayers are to be in harmony with His character and His personality. You see, the Name speaks of nature.

Thus, as one writer said, ***“To ask ‘in His name’ or do anything ‘in His name’ argues a unity of mind with His, a unity of aim and of motive.”*** (Trench)

I hope that is clear.

As I close this morning, let me ask you a few questions.

DO YOU KNOW THE WAY TO HEAVEN?

Jesus said, ***“I AM THE WAY, THE TRUTH, AND THE LIFE. NO ONE COMES TO THE FATHER EXCEPT THROUGH ME!”***

But what about God the Father, ***SHOW US THE FATHER!***

And in Jesus ***THE FATHER IS REVEALED!***

How can we be sure? Because ***HIS WORKS ARE THE EVIDENCE!***

Let me leave you with this warning. We are told,

I live in a small, rural community. There are lots of cattle ranches around here, and every once in a while, a cow wanders off and gets lost . . .

Ask a rancher how a cow gets lost, and chances are he will reply, “Well, the cow starts nibbling on a tuft of green grass, and when it finishes, it looks ahead to the next tuft of green grass and starts nibbling on that one, and then it nibbles on a tuft of grass right next to a hole in the fence. It then sees another tuft of green grass on the other side of the fence, so it nibbles on that one and then goes on to the next tuft. The next thing you know, the cow has nibbled itself into being lost.”

Americans are in the process of nibbling their way to lostness. . . . We keep moving from one tuft of activity to another, never noticing how far we have gone from home or how far away from the truth we have managed to end up.

- Mike Yaconelli, *The Wittenburg Door*

May we not wander from Jesus, for ***HE IS THE WAY, THE TRUTH, AND THE LIFE. NO ONE COMES TO THE FATHER EXCEPT THROUGH HIM!***