

JOHN 14:22-31
THE TEACHER!

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

We saw back in John chapter 13 that Jesus told His men that He was going away and where He was going, they could not come, at least not yet.

He was speaking of His death and resurrection and ultimately being taken up into Heaven.

Obviously this did not sit well with His men. They were troubled and thus, Jesus speaks words of comfort to them. He tells them in John 14:1-4, **“Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. 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. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also. And where I go you know, and the way you know.”**

These words were meant to comfort them. Yes, Jesus was going away but He is coming again and when He receives them up to be with Him, their spirit and their soul will inherit a new body that will never fade away.

The big question is, ***“How do we get there?”***

Yes, Jesus told them that they knew the way, but they were unsure and Philip asks Jesus to show them the way to the Father, that is all that they wanted.

And Jesus said to them, **“... ‘I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.’”** John 14:6.

Jesus is not a way or one of the many ways to the Father, to heaven. He is the **ONLY** way to the Father, to heaven!

But what were they going to do when Jesus departs from them? How were they going to be able to carry on?

Jesus encourages them by telling them that He is not going to leave them as orphans but when He departs the Father will send the Holy Spirit to them and it will be the Holy Spirit that will help them carry on the work that they were doing!

As we continue on here in John chapter 14 we will see that not only will the Holy Spirit help us in the work we are to do, to live as God wants us to live, but the Holy Spirit will be – **THE TEACHER!**

In other words, the Holy Spirit will teach us the truths of God found in the Word of God, He will lead us in the truth we need to live out our faith and expose the lies so we are not taken captive by them!

Look at the days we are living in when there is so much information out there for us to take in!

Let me show you a few things about the data that we have out there, because some is true, and some is not true, it is false.

In 2018, more than 2.5 quintillion bytes of data were created every day.

And this information I am going to share with you is from 2021!

We are told,

The amount of data in the world was estimated to be 44 zettabytes at the dawn of 2020.

[One zettabyte is approximately equal to one thousand exabytes or one billion terabytes. One terabyte (TB) can roughly store up to 4.5 million eBooks of 200 pages.]

By 2025, the amount of data generated each day is expected to reach 463 exabytes globally. [An exabyte is the equivalent of one quintillion bytes, one billion gigabytes or one million terabytes (TB).]

Google, Facebook, Microsoft, and Amazon store at least 1,200 petabytes of information. [The average 4k movie is 100GB of data. This would mean 1 petabyte of storage could hold 11,000 4k movies. With an average run time of 2 hours, it would take you over 2.5 years of nonstop binge watching to get through a petabyte's worth of 4k movies. If you took a petabyte's worth of 1GB flash drives and lined them up end to end, they would stretch over 92 football fields. One petabyte's worth of data is equal to taking over 4000 digital photos every day for the rest of your life.]

- <https://bit.ly/3BCwBF9>

And we are bombarded with information on a daily basis. But, again, if some is true and some is false, how do we know what we are to believe?

Even with Bible truths, there is a lot of misinformation out there. Listen carefully. We are told,

False teaching is a real threat to the church. False teaching is not a threat only in certain circumstances, or only in churches with certain governmental structures, or only in certain places and cultures in the world.

We must recognize it as a threat because the Bible continually warns us that it is a threat. Jesus warns us that false teachers will come from outside the community of believers, trying to hide their true intentions (Matt. 7:15-20).

Peter tells us that false teachers can also arise from within the community of believers, bringing doctrine that is destructive and poisonous (2 Peter 2:1).

The Apostle Paul continually warned the churches that he served that if false teachers in their midst were left unchecked, the results would be disastrous (Gal. 1:6-9; 2 Cor. 11:1-21; 1 Tim. 6:3-5).

Simply put, false teaching is not just a problem for other people and churches out there; it is a problem about which all believers must be vigilant and against which they must be on guard.

The Bible's testimony about false teaching should make it clear that we are not invulnerable to this threat.

When we are tempted to think we are beyond such threats because we have it all together, we will do well to remember the Apostle Paul's warning to the Corinthian church, which thought it was beyond the errors that had sprung up during the days of Old Testament Israel: "Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall" (1 Cor. 10:12).

If doctrinal aberrations can spring up in churches that were nurtured with the teachings of the Apostles, what makes us think we are immune?

Paul had to warn the Galatians about false teaching on the central doctrine of the faith - how man is justified before God - when the generation of disciples that were taught directly by Jesus was still walking the earth. How, then, can we afford to be complacent?

To be a Christian means to believe that what God says in His Word is true, even if everyone around you disagrees. . . .

Perhaps the most "innocent" way that false teaching can come into the church is when someone attempts to find a new and innovative way to understand the Bible.

Let me say this. I truly believe that we should not be deceived.

I realize that many would not agree with me on that but hear me out.

We have the Word of God that is opened up to us by the Spirit of God who is – ***THE TEACHER!***

What ends up happening with false teaching is that the person involved always finds a teacher that has something new, something that no one has heard before and the person listens to the teacher instead of the Word of God. We need to listen to ***THE TEACHER – THE HOLY SPIRIT!***

Because of that we have Christians who are anxious, worried about all that is going on in the world and they have lost their focus. They are focused on some man instead of the Lord Jesus Christ!

And yet, the Bible tells us that our peace is found in Jesus and thus, as we are focused upon Him, we can have that peace that surpasses all human understanding, and we can rest in Him!

I have broken our study down into four main points and they are as follows,

GOD’S HOME – JOHN 14:22-23

OBEDIENCE – JOHN 14:24-25

THE TEACHER – JOHN 14:26

HIS PEACE – JOHN 14:27-31

With that as our introduction, let’s begin reading in John chapter 14, beginning in verse 22 as we study God’s Word, and we look at the topic – ***THE TEACHER!***

JOHN 14**VERSES 22-23**

Here we see this section open up with a question by Judas and we are specifically told that this is not Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed Jesus.

When you had a name like that, you truly did not want to be identified with this betrayer!

So who is this Judas, who is also called Thaddeus?

Thaddeus was one of the original twelve disciples chosen by Jesus Christ. [He] is somewhat of a mystery apostle.

For one, Thaddeus is hardly mentioned in the Bible. To complicate matters, Scripture refers to Thaddeus by a few different names.

Jerome, a fourth-century Bible scholar, dubbed Thaddeus “Trinomious,” which means “the man with three names.”

In both the Gospels of Matthew and Mark, the apostle is listed as Thaddeus (Matthew 10:3; Mark 3:18).

In the King James Version of Matthew 10:3, he is called “Lebbaeus, whose surname was Thaddaeus.”

Luke, however, replaces the name *Thaddeus* with “Judas son of James” in both Luke 6:16 and Acts 1:13.

And when the apostle John mentions Thaddeus, he calls him “Judas (not Iscariot)” (John 14:22).

What I want you to take away from this is that Judas was one of the twelve and the question that he asks is very interesting.

Listen again to what he said. “... **‘Lord, how is it that You will manifest Yourself to us, and not to the world?’**” John 14:22.

Again, this is a great question. You see, the idea of manifest is to reveal, to make plain. It wasn’t immediately apparent how in His departure Jesus could reveal Himself to His disciples and not to the world at large. He did show Himself in His earthly ministry to everyone, but now that has changed.

He has revealed Himself to His church and left the church in the world to be a witness of God’s love.

And our Lord is patiently waiting, still giving lost sinners an opportunity to repent and be saved (2 Peter 3:1-10). The Holy Spirit is drawing people to Jesus.

And one day, and I believe soon, He will return (Rev 1:7) and the world will behold Him.

And Jesus answers this question by saying to His men, “... **‘If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word, and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.’**” John 4:23.

Now as some read this, they see it as a requirement for salvation. That you must keep God’s Word and if you do you will make it in.

Please understand that is not what Jesus is saying here. He is not speaking of our salvation but what is manifested in a life that is surrendered to God.

And let me say this. When you come to passages that speak of us persevering or we may lose our salvation, you need to dig deeper.

Remember the covenant that God made with Abraham in Genesis chapter 15 regarding the land that God was giving to him and the children of Israel.

In this covenant we see God tell Abraham to take some animals and cut them in two and spread them apart. And in these covenants or contracts both parties would walk through them signifying that this was a bilateral covenant, and it was binding.

But here we see God walk through alone, Abraham was sleeping or just getting up. And what that tells me is that this was a unilateral covenant or a covenant that God had made with Abraham and his descendants, and it was based upon the faithfulness of God and not the faithfulness of Abraham or his descendants. That is why the land is theirs, the Jews and it does not belong to anyone else!

Now we come to the New Testament, and we see this New Covenant that God has made with us.

And as Jesus gave up His Spirit He said, *“My work is finished, now if you can work hard, do good, you will make it in. But if you don’t, if you don’t persevere to the end, you won’t make it in. Good luck!”*

No, He did not say that!

What did Jesus say?

He said in John 19:30, **“It is finished!”**

You see, after He paid in full the penalty for our sins He cried out *TETELESTAI* in the Greek, or **“It is finished.”**

The work of redemption was completed, the price had been paid!

Many miss the point of this word, tetelestai.

Tenney tells us, *“The verb telew (teleo, ‘to finish’) was used in first and second centuries in the sense of ‘fulfilling’ or ‘paying’ a debt and often appeared in receipts. Jesus’ statement ‘It is finished’ (tetelestai, tetelestai) could be interpreted as ‘Paid in full.’”*

Exactly, our debt for our sin was paid in full by Jesus. There is nothing we can do to add to that, it is a completed work.

Please understand that the New Covenant is a unilateral covenant, and it is based upon the faithfulness of God and not upon our faithfulness.

If our salvation was based upon our faithfulness, we would never make it.

And if it was based upon that, then we would have something to boast about. We don’t!

In fact, if it was based upon our faithfulness, how faithful do we need to be? How can we be assured of our salvation because we may blow it at the end.

Again, this is not a bilateral covenant but a unilateral covenant that God has begun, and He has finished.

That is why Paul can say in Philippians 1:6, **“being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ.”**

Let’s think about this for a minute.

Who has begun that good work in you?

God has as the Holy Spirit was drawing you to Christ!

Who is going to finish that good work that was started in you?

The Holy Spirit will finish the work that He has started in you!

What about me, what about what I need to do? What work do I need to do to make sure that I am saved, that I make it to the end?

Jesus tells us that in John 6:29, “... **‘This is the work of God that you believe in Him whom He sent.’**” Believe and not work.

And for many, that is the big question, “*What do I need to do to get into heaven?*”

That is a question that many ask, that many seek and what we see is that religion gives us the works we have to do.

Look at the millions of gods the Hindus embrace.

The Buddhists have their eight steps to Nirvana.

Islam has its five pillars of faith.

Roman Catholicism has sacraments and Purgatory!

Even in Judaism they had the Law to keep.

It is a works relationship and yet, how much works, what kind of works will get me in and for that matter, what works will keep me out?

No one knows and thus, just work a little harder and maybe you will get in!

There is no hope in that.

What works do we need to do? “**‘This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent.’**”

In other words, if you believe in God the Father you will believe in the Son. And this belief is not just acknowledging who Jesus is, it is living in obedience to what He has said.

Works don’t save us but they identify who we are serving!

We are told in Ephesians 2:8-9, “**‘For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.’**”

In Titus 3:5 we are told, **“not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit.”**

And in Romans 6:23, from The Living Bible, we read **“For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”**

The work has been completed for us by Jesus on the cross of Calvary, we just must receive that grace gift into our lives by faith!

It is as Paul said in Colossians 2:13-15, **“And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses, having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.”**

You see, God will dwell with those who not only love Him and His Word, but are also obedient to Him, our obedience shows our love for Him!

In Ephesians 3:17 Paul tells us, **“that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love.”**

The idea here with dwelling in our hearts is that Christ will settle down and feel at home in our lives!

Let me give you this example and I think you will see what I mean.

In Genesis chapters 18 and 19 we see the story of Sodom and Gomorrah.

In Genesis 18 we see the pre-incarnate Christ and two angels come into the tent of Abraham.

Why did He go into the tent of Abraham?

I believe the reason is simple, He felt at home there. He was welcomed into the tent of Abraham. And not only did Jesus enter his tent but had a meal with him and a private talk with Abraham.

Think about how comfortable you feel going into a home where you are welcomed. I saw that when I went to Russia. They welcomed me as family, and I could go in the kitchen and grab some coffee because I was welcomed by them.

Now think about how uncomfortable it would be to go into a home where you were not welcomed.

That is what we see in Genesis chapter 19. Here we see that Jesus did not go to visit Lot but sent two angels. I think the picture is that He did not feel at home there.

For us, we serve the Lord because we love the Lord. It is not out of obligation or restraint, but just love! And it is out of that love that we are obedient to Him.

I love my wife dearly and that love is not manifested by some laws I obey but it is seen in the things that I do and the things that I say.

That is how it should be with the Lord!

Now we understand that the Holy Spirit indwells us. We see that in John 14:17 where Jesus speaks of the Holy Spirit being “with” them drawing them to Christ and once they come to saving faith the Holy Spirit will dwell “in” them!

But what Jesus says here in John 14:23 seems to be saying that Jesus and God the Father also indwell us. Listen again to what Jesus said, “... ‘If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My father will love him, and We will come to Him and make Our home with him.’”

Now some feel that this is just speaking of the closeness of the Godhead. That since the Holy Spirit is in us, it is like Jesus and God the Father are in us.

I don't think that is what Jesus is saying here and I will show you why.

Again, we see the Holy Spirit in us as II Timothy 1:14 tells us, "**That good thing which was committed to you, keep by the Holy Spirit who dwells in us.**"

And in I Corinthians 3:16 we are told, "**Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?**"

I think all of us are in agreement on that one, that the Holy Spirit indwells believers!

But the Scriptures also tell us that Jesus indwells believers. Let me show you what I mean.

In II Corinthians 13:5 we are told, "**Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you? . . .**"

Paul tells us in Romans 8:10, "**And if [since] Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.**"

Also, in Galatians 2:20 Paul wrote, "**I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.**"

And lastly, in Ephesians 3:17 Paul wrote, "**that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you . . .**"

I think those Scriptures do point to the fact that Jesus lives in us as well.

Then what about God the Father, does He also live in us?

I think so. In I John 4:15 we are told, "**Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.**"

The Amplified Bible puts this verse like this, “**Anyone who confesses (acknowledges, owns) that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides (lives, makes His home) in him and he [abides, lives, makes his home] in God.**”

That seems to indicate that God the Father indwells believers as well.

As you look at what the Scriptures are saying, it would seem like the Triune God lives in believers or as Paul put it in Ephesians 3:19, “**to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.**”

I think Paul is speaking of being filled with the Triune God when he speaks of “**the fullness of God.**” All that He is has come to take up residence in each of us!

Now, as we have seen, this idea of believers being the Temple of God for God to dwell in or – ***GOD’S HOME***, we then move to obedience. And as I have said, obedience to what God has said is not a salvation issue but one of identification. Is there enough evidence in your life to find you guilty in regard to your faith in Christ!

VERSES 24-25

Again, Jesus is not speaking of how we are saved but how our relationship with the Lord will look like, how we live out our faith.

And what we see is Jesus using “**love**” as a synonym for a genuine relationship with Him. And it is seen in the things that we do!

On the other end of the spectrum is the person who may say that they are a Christian but when you look at their life, there is this lack of love that is manifested in not obeying the Lord!

The word “**love**” or “**loved**” is used some eight times in 10 verses here in John chapter 14, (verses 15-23).

You see, our obedience to the Lord and His Word is based upon love and if it is not, then we will be like the Ephesian church who did many good works but left their first love, Jesus!

As you can see, Jesus speaks very clearly on who are His and who are not, and it is all linked to obedience.

Again, Jesus is not speaking of perfection, because none of us would make it. But what is the desire of your heart, what is the passion of your life?

You see, whatever the desire of your heart is, whatever the passion of your heart is, will be manifested in your life.

Think about your relationship with your spouse. You can say that you love that person all you want, but if you verbally abuse them, hit them, cheat on them, your words are empty and there truly is no relationship.

But if you say you love your spouse and that love is manifested in how you care for them, how you treat them, then there is evidence showing that your love for your spouse is real and it is not just empty words!

Listen to what Jesus said in Matthew 7:21-27, **“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’ And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’ Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall.”**

Let me expound on this because it is important, and we don’t want to miss what Jesus is saying here or come to some unbiblical conclusions.

We see that just because you call Jesus’ **“LORD”** does not mean you are saved.

That is shocking to some, but I think Paul makes it perfectly clear in Titus 1:16 when he wrote, **“They profess to know God, but in works they deny Him, being abominable, disobedient, and disqualified for every good work.”**

And yes, these people did a lot of work for the Lord but there was a problem, they never had a relationship with Jesus.

It was head knowledge, and it never became part of their life. They went to church, they helped the poor, they did this, and they did that. But, in the end, Jesus said that He never knew them!

Something no one wants to hear in that day of judgment!

And when you think about it, their relationship with God was based on their good works.

Our relationship with God is based upon His grace! The payment for doing good works is death but the free gift of God, His grace, is eternal life with Him.

And keep in mind that is what this is related to as Jesus said, “**... in that day ...**” The coming day of judgment that everyone will face apart from Jesus Christ as Peter tells us, “**This is the ‘stone which was rejected by you builders, which has become the chief cornerstone.’ Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.**” Acts 4:11-12.

This is a hard one for many to swallow. People serving the Lord, doing work, even casting out demons, doing wonders, doing miracles, prophesying, and yet, Jesus says that He never knew them!

What happened?

How can this be?

How can they do the work of the Lord and yet not be saved?

Some believe that demons were doing these things through them, but I am not convinced that is what Jesus is saying here.

Let me just throw this out to you. Judas cast out demons, went out doing the work of the Lord, and yet he was not one of them, he betrayed the Lord.

Maybe that is what we see going on here. Religious people who don't have a relationship with the Lord.

You see, their actions give them away. Yes, they were serving the Lord, but they were living contrary to God's standards, doing their own thing. And Jesus expounds on this idea of obedience and disobedience, and we will deal with that in a minute.

Before I do let me share this with you. These words tell us what we say and what we do are important! These words were engraved on a Cathedral in Germany,

*Thus speaketh Christ our Lord to us.
 You call Me Master, and obey Me not.
 You call Me Light, and see Me not.
 You call Me the Way, and walk Me not
 You call Me Life, and live me not.
 You call me Wise, and follow Me not.
 You call Me Fair, and love Me not.
 You call Me Rich, and ask Me not.
 You call Me Eternal, and seek Me not.
 If I condemn thee, blame Me not.*

Exactly! If your words and deeds don't match up, then your faith is empty. That is what James spoke of in his letter!

In James 2:14-20 we are told, **“What does it profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him? If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, and one of you says to them, ‘Depart in peace, be warmed and filled,’ but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it profit? Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. But someone will say, ‘You have faith, and I have works.’ Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe - and tremble! But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead?”**

James is not saying that we are saved by our good works, but the good works that we do, the fruit that is born in our lives, is the evidence of our saving faith!

And for those who believe you can lose your salvation, I think Jesus makes it very clear, that you can't!

Listen again to what Jesus said, “... **‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’**” Matthew 7:23.

It is not that Jesus once knew these people and they walked away, He never knew them and thus, I don't see in the Scriptures that a true believer can lose His salvation, we are eternally secure!

Now Jesus is giving them an illustration to make His point. He talks about building a house upon sand and upon a rock and the difference between them.

Think about this. How many today have built their faith upon some man-made system or some works theology and when the judgment comes, they will be lost!

Sand gets washed away; it is not stable.

But, if you build your house upon a rock, the storms may come but the house will stand because it is built upon a stable foundation!

And I think we all understand that Jesus is that Rock we build our faith upon.

You see, when our faith is built upon Christ, when the storms of life come crashing down upon us, we won't get washed away because our foundation is sure.

And the key is not only hearing God's Word, but living it, applying it to your life, being obedient to it. To me, it speaks of a person who was changed from the inside out, God's Word cut to his heart and what God did on the inside, overflowed into his actions, it speaks of a person who is saved!

We are also seeing, in the church, faith built upon experiences and that is dangerous. Experiences change but Jesus never does. And that is the key, build your faith upon Jesus Christ and you will not be moved.

And please understand that approaching God through works will never happen. In fact, the Bible tells us that all our righteousness, all the good things we do are like filthy rags before Him. (Isaiah 64:6)

So what we see here in John is Jesus calling us to – ***OBEDIENCE!***

Now there is so much we have to learn, so many things that it seems impossible for us to understand.

How can we accomplish this?

That is our next point – ***THE TEACHER!***

VERSE 26

Who was going to help these men after Jesus was gone?

Who was going to teach these men after Jesus was gone?

You see, Jesus taught His men all He could, they could take no more. In fact, much of what He taught they just did not get.

So now what is going to happen to them and to us?

The Holy Spirit is the One who has come to teach them and us all we need to know, and that teaching continues on until we go to be with the Lord!

Think about this for a minute.

When you read the Gospels; Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, how did they remember everything that Jesus said?

Jesus tells us, **“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.”** John 14:26.

In other words, these men remembered because Jesus promised them the Holy Spirit would bring to their remembrance everything He had said and taught. And, as we can see and read, the Holy Spirit did just that!

I don't think we put too much importance on what happened.

All that Jesus taught them, said to them, the Holy Spirit brought those words of Jesus back to them perfectly and infallibly so they could write them down in their gospels without error!

That is not just remarkable, that is a miracle!

That is what Paul told Timothy in II Timothy 3:16-17, "**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.**"

The words that were written down for us in the Scriptures were breathed from the mouth of God and for those that don't think it is important, that the Bible is not relevant, Paul tells us it is.

He said that it is profitable to tell us what is right! It is profitable to tell us what is wrong! It is profitable to tell us how to get right when we have gone astray or off course. And it is profitable for us in showing us how we are to continue to walk!

And in the end, the Word of God will make us complete, and it will equip us for service!

This means that the work of the Spirit would be a work of *continuation*.

His teaching would continue what Jesus already taught. The Spirit does not wipe clear the previous teaching of Jesus and begin again.

Morris put it like this, “*The Spirit will not dispense with the teachings of Jesus. The teaching to be recalled is His.*”

Absolutely!

And let me share this with you because God’s Word, opened up to us by His Spirit is vital in our walk with the Lord.

In Psalm 119:160 we are told, “**The entirety of Your word is truth, And every one of Your righteous judgments endures forever.**”

Think about that for a minute. God’s Word, all of it, from Genesis through Revelation is perfect!

And because of that, because we can trust it, we can confidently live by “**Every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.**” (Matthew 4:4)

And what God did by His Spirit back then, He is still working today, teaching us the things of God found in the Word of God so that we may grow in our walk with God!

The Holy Spirit is – ***THE TEACHER!***

Before we get to the last point, I want to share this with you because I see this as a growing trend in Christianity – fear, hopelessness, wanting to not continue on another day!

Let me share this with you and then we will look at our last point. This is from Jan Markell’s newsletter – *Understanding the Times*. She wrote,

I recently received the following e-mail from Karen that sums up the way many are feeling today. She writes, “Would you please present a radio show to encourage your listeners who are discouraged and made doubtful by rampant evil and the delayed rapture of the church?”

She continues, “The book *‘The Late-Great Planet Earth’* was published decades ago. Keeping the faith becomes more challenging every day; we believers have pain in our necks from looking up. And for what? Will the Savior ever rescue us from this scary world gone Kafkaesque and looking like a Dali painting?”

There are over 365 verses in the Bible that tell us not to worry, not to be anxious, not to be fearful and not to fret over evil men. But on many days, believers are so inundated with horrific headlines and predicted scenarios of doom and gloom that staying calm and praising the Lord are difficult, even knowing that the Bible says the last days will be perilous.

Even though some reading this have been Bible students for fifty or sixty years or more, we never expected to see a time when the spirit of the Antichrist would be so prolific. We never thought we would see America decline and no longer be a superpower. We never thought the likes of George Soros, Klaus Schwab, Bill Gates, Yuval Noah Harari, Barack Obama and the Chinese Communist Party would be the puppet masters running America.

Plus legions more wicked men and women scheming in dark, smoke-filled rooms.

We are reluctant observers of the fundamental transformation of America that Barack Obama promised in 2008. We just didn’t believe him. And it’s why I keep urging all believers to have an eternal perspective and to hold on loosely to this groaning planet. Once final day events are set in motion, as they obviously are, there is no going back to normal.

- Jan Markell’s Understanding the Times, OLIVE TREE MINISTRIES, Fall 2022

Let me ask you this. As you heard what that woman wrote, what was she missing?

She was missing – ***PEACE!***

And that is our next point – ***HIS PEACE!***

VERSES 27-31

Once again we see Jesus trying to comfort their troubled hearts. And I love what he tells them. Jesus speaks of giving them His peace, which is far different from the peace that the world tries to give.

The world's peace is an absence of war, trouble, which is very rarely seen.

Thus, what the world gives to help us find peace are the numbing of our lives through drugs and alcohol.

Let's face it, to find an absence of trouble or adversity in this world is very difficult and it doesn't last.

Thus, "***Numb me so I don't feel any more pain, any more hurt***" and they think this is peace. It is not!

And for the Christian, the cry is, "***Lord, please come and get us out of here. I can't take this any longer!***"

But in saying that, you are missing the peace that Jesus has for you!

You see, the peace that Jesus gives to us is a peace through the storms as we rest in Him.

The problem is, we don't want to obey His Words and we still want His peace.

Thomas a' Kempis said, "***All men desire peace, but very few desire those things that make for peace.***" The cure for troubled hearts is the peace that Jesus has for us!

Barclay gives to us the contrasting views of peace from Jesus and from the World.

He wrote, "***In the Bible the word for peace, shalom, never means simply the absence of trouble. It means everything which makes for our highest good. The peace which the world offers us is the peace of escape, the peace which comes from the avoidance of trouble and from refusing to face things.***"

You see, the peace that Jesus gives to us surpasses all understanding (Philippians 4:6-7).

But before you can enjoy that peace *OF* God you must make peace *WITH* God and that will only happen as you repent of your sins and ask Jesus to be Lord and Savior of your life! (Romans 5:1)

And this is so important for us today as Christians. The peace of God or as Morgan put it, *“He carefully described the peace as ‘My peace.’ His peace was a heart untroubled and unfearful in spite of all the suffering and conflict ahead of Him.”*

Remember what Peter said in I Peter 5:7, **“casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.”**

Listen to how The Amplified Bible puts this verse and see how it fits in this world we are living in with all the anxiety, fear, hopelessness. Peter said, **“Casting the whole of your care [all your anxieties, all your worries, all your concerns, once and for all] on Him, for He cares for you affectionately and cares about you watchfully. [Ps 55:22.]”**

Again, as I read that newsletter from Jan Markell, I was saddened by what I read in that this poor woman was not prepared for what is ahead. I don't think it is going to get better, I know it will not get better because God has warned us. And thus, let not your heart be troubled! Let the peace of God fill your life and that peace will be manifested in the things that you do and the things that you say in spite of all that trouble that is out there!

Now why was Jesus trying to comfort their hearts?

Their hearts were troubled because Jesus spoke of His death, His departure! And how could they rejoice in the departure of Jesus?

Because of what He did they can live and so can we! Before glory there was death and without it, we would still be dead in our trespasses and sins.

Perspective is everything. God is with us; He will see us through no matter what happens in our country. I don't worry about this life; I am concerned for the lost. This is the best it will get for them and apart from Christ, they will spend eternity apart from Him in the Lake of Fire.

So I want to keep my eyes upon Jesus, be filled with His peace and comfort in spite of what is happening, and be a witness to the lost of the love that Jesus has for them!

Now what does Jesus mean in John 14:28 when He says, "**For My Father is greater than I**"?

Some would say that Jesus is lesser than God the Father, as the Jehovah Witnesses do, He was a created being.

That is not what Jesus is speaking of, not at all. Jesus is not speaking in essence or being because over and over again we have seen John show us that Jesus is God, equal to the Father.

What does He mean then? He is saying that when He became flesh, He emptied Himself of some of His Godly attributes and freely submitted Himself to the Father. It didn't make Him a lesser God, but He freely submitted to the Father.

Paul, in Philippians 2:5-11 put it this way, "**Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.**"

Now He has been received up in glory with the Father once again!

As you look at John 14:29 Jesus speaks of telling them beforehand all that was going to happen. Thus, we might ask ourselves, *“What is the purpose of prophecy?”*

And Jesus answers that for us as He said that **“you may believe.”**

It is as Isaiah 44:6-8 tells us, **“Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel, And his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: ‘I am the First and I am the Last; Besides Me there is no God. And who can proclaim as I do? Then let him declare it and set it in order for Me, Since I appointed the ancient people. And the things that are coming and shall come, Let them show these to them. Do not fear, nor be afraid; Have I not told you from that time, and declared it? You are My witnesses. Is there a God besides Me? Indeed there is no other Rock; I know not one.’”**

Thus, our hearts should not be troubled over the days we are living in because God has told us what these days would be like. And in knowing what God has said, we should be witnesses to the world, we should declare these things to the unsaved so that they may come to that saving faith!

Now when you look at all that is shortly going to take place as they are going to arrest Jesus and crucify Him, you might come to the conclusion that Satan is in control. That is not true. Jesus freely went to the cross and in reality; Satan was just a pawn in God’s plan to redeem man! The same is true today. God is in control, not Satan, and everything is going according to His plans and purposes!

Just like with rebellious man, God will use what they will do for His plans and purposes. They are accountable for their actions but by their actions, God’s promises will not be done away with!

Now, when Jesus says that Satan “**has nothing in Me**” the idea here is that Satan could make no claim on Jesus. He could not charge Him with any sin, which would have disqualified Him from being our Savior! He can make many claims upon our lives, but not upon Jesus, He was without sin!

And now the meal is finished. The discussion and instruction around the table or triclinium is over and they are going to be heading through the Temple and out the eastern gate to the Garden of Gethsemane.

Mark 14:26 tells us, “**And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.**”

Now as they came to the Temple area, they saw the beautiful golden branched vine and I believe it is out of that we see Jesus give them instructions regarding the vine and its branches that we read about in John chapter 15, and we will look at that next time.

As I close this morning let me leave you with these words from Paul about the peace of God that is at our disposal if we are willing to allow the Holy Spirit to comfort our hearts with the Word of God.

Paul wrote in Philippians 4:6-7, and this is from The Amplified Bible, “**Do not fret or have any anxiety about anything, but in every circumstance and in everything, by prayer and petition (definite requests), with thanksgiving, continue to make your wants known to God. And God’s peace [shall be yours, that tranquil state of a soul assured of its salvation through Christ, and so fearing nothing from God and being content with its earthly lot of whatever sort that is, that peace] which transcends all understanding shall garrison and mount guard over your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.**”

THE TEACHER CALMS OUR FEARS AND COMFORTS OUR HEARTS!