

John 14:7 – 31

+ O + O + O +

~ We remained in the upper room with the Lord Jesus and the apostles in the last leg of our Spiritual Safari expedition through the entire Word of God, and we all should have learned something brand new in that report. For the apostles, that new information was that Jesus was going to prepare a place for them and then He would be coming back to get them. Thomas interrupted wanting to know how to get there now. So, the Lord made it more than clear to Thomas the He was the only way, the only truth and the only life. If you have somewhere you want to go in this life – Jesus is that way; and there is no other way. No man cometh unto the Father but by Him. As we suggested previously, this left the apostles utterly frightened that night....

7 If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also: and from henceforth ye know him, and have seen him.

8 Philip saith unto him, Lord, shew us the Father, and it sufficeth us.

~ Philip was a quiet individual who seldom spoke on the record. He was the polar opposite from the loquacious Simon Peter. Philip is a Greek name, and many think it is possible he was a Greek. Personally, I don't think that follows through in most mannerisms and means – but Philip is a very unusual man, to be sure. When the Greeks came saying they would see Jesus they came by Philip, you will recall. Every time we meet up with Philip, he is bringing someone to Jesus. He brought Nathanael to the Lord Jesus, which seems highly unlikely; Philip being so quiet and Nathan being the wise-cracking disciple. I've noticed that sometimes even husbands and wives are like that. Sometimes, one is very talkative, and one is very quiet. Apparently, Philip was a strait-laced man and Nathan was the stand-up comedian in the group.

What is YOUR desire in life, friends? Philip, judging by his statement in verse eight, declares the most sincere and honest ambition man can attain

John 14:7 – 31

+ O + O + O +

to. What is YOUR ultimate goal in this life? Do you want to get rich and retire down by the seaside? Do you desire to make a name for yourself that the world will recognize? Is the education of your children all important to you? Do you want to raise your children in the discipline and instruction of the Word of God? There's nothing inherently wrong with any of those ambitions; but will you be satisfied with seeing the Lord Jesus Christ as the only way to the Father as you pursue them?

I find myself, as a person, to be terribly misunderstood - about everything - all the time. So, I am going to make a statement at the risk of being grossly misunderstood – again. We worship God in Spirit and in Truth. I doubt we are ever going to see the Father. We will certainly see the Lord Jesus but notice verse twenty of this chapter. The important thing about salvation and Heaven is that we will behold Christ. That's the reason I stress the importance of coming to know Him better down here in Bible study. Mankind has absolutely lost his way in the futile search for scientific hope. Well, as Christians, we're usually busy saying we want to spend eternity with Christ; so, the most important thing we should do is get to know Him. If we are not in a Bible study, we cannot know Christ – it simply isn't otherwise....

9 Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father?

~ The Lord Jesus is the manifestation of God the Father in regard to power, character and love; and everything else. When we see Jesus, we have seen the Father. When we finally see Jesus in eternity, we will see all that we can ever see in God. Philip has an acute spiritual perception as well as a glorious ambition and desire to want to see God; and that is an unusual man, my friends. Moses prayed up on that mountain, "... oh, that I might see Him!" That should be the desire of every true man of God and every person who says they know the Lord; and of all who say they love Him, trust Him, and have been saved by Him....

10 Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works.

~ Words and works are two things Jesus speaks of extensively, because they are one in the same. The biggest problem a believer experiences in their life is getting their words and works aligned Biblically. In this case, one equals the other; and this reveals the disharmony seen in just about every Christian we meet. We make tremendous statements and give glorious testimonies; but, friends, NONE of us are perfect, and none of us live a perfect life, and that's why we said in chapter thirteen that we all need some time of confession in prayer every day.

Remember, Jesus said, "if I wash you not, you have no fellowship with Me." Many people are completely out of fellowship because, while they may be in the upper room with Jesus, they refuse to allow Him to wash their feet. Well, things are NOT alright until words and works correspond in our life. It just so happens that the words and works of the Lord Jesus agree. Jesus never appeals to His own mind or intellect – and He never appealed to His own will to decide a matter. Every time Jesus did something, He said He did it because it was the will of the Father; and when He spoke, He said the words the Father would have Him say. Well, the interruption from Philip didn't cause Jesus to digress quite as much as that of Thomas or Peter, because now Jesus goes from dizzying heights to a stratosphere of spiritual sensationalism – and it will be a long time before Jesus is interrupted again....

11 Believe me that I am in the Father, and the Father in me: or else believe me for the very works' sake.

12 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.

~ I am convinced that the apostles are now convinced of Who Jesus is – but they haven't fully processed what's happening. We have another "works"

John 14:7 – 31

+ O + O + O +

that are not the works spoken of a moment ago; the “works” in “greater works” in verse twelve is in italics which means it is not in the better manuscripts. This was put there when the King James Version was made in order to fill out a thought in English. When Jesus was here on earth, He was able to execute tremendous works – miracles – as we have seen. Because of Whom He was, we expect Him to do those things. Now, Christ is speaking to believers about greater works than those; and Jesus is only speaking to those who believe on Him. Jesus has been bringing men and women to Himself throughout this Gospel; however, the “greater works” He speaks of are this: even more are going to turn to Him as their Savior when we handle His Word properly, correctly and completely. Christ is still working today through frail human instrumentality. Quite frankly, I am amazed that anyone could read what I write and understand more about God the Father and turn to the Lord Jesus Christ. Perhaps I overestimate myself. THAT is what I can define as "greater works"....

13 And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

14 If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it.

~ Here are two thoroughly misunderstood, woefully misapplied and recklessly wielded passages in the Bible. Most people pick out this part of the Bible and run with it like a dog with a bone. They read something in here that just isn't there. Later, they say, “.... well, I prayed about these things, but God didn't answer my prayers.” See, the problem is they NEVER – EVER quote the next verse here....

15 If ye love me, keep my commandments.

~ Verse fifteen is inseparable from the whole package and it means the Father is to be glorified in the Son. A prayer that glorifies His Son is the prayer that God will answer. To pray in Christ means to stand in His place and be fully identified with Him and to ask of the Father because we are joined to His Son. We plead the merits of the Lord Jesus Christ in asking for the things that the Father will grant. You and I have no standing before God

whatsoever outside of the Lord Jesus! God doesn't hear my prayer because I'm Andrew Hunt and God doesn't hear YOUR prayers because you are whoever you are, either. God only hears our prayers when they are in the name of Christ.

Sadly, claiming the Name of Jesus has become a mindless tag line on the end of the prayers of some people. They feel as if they invoke Jesus Name, then they can ask for anything at any time for any reason and He will be obligated to grant said request. These are the ones who are constantly insisting God do things for them. Well, it sounds great, but they miss something very important: when we present things in His merits, according to His will, it means those things must be for His glory, or they will not be recognized, my friends. You can just write all of that down. When we pray – we are praying for HIM – not our selfish ends.

Having our prayers answered is dependent upon obedience, too. If we love God we will keep His commandments. How are you doing in that area, my Christian friends? Are you keeping His commands because you love Him? You must come in the name of Christ – there is no other way. The minute you begin to run with the things of the world, you are running away from God. If you are praying for things of the world, then you are praying against all things God has for your life; therefore, expect the answer to be no. If God allows it, you'll regret it. Some people "claim" healing – so when a loved one dies, they lose all faith and hope in God. Make a careful consideration of these things in your prayer life today....

16 And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;

17 Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.

~ The unique fact of the age in which we live is the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit was in the world before Pentecost, but believers were indwelt and sealed by the Spirit of God on that day. This says God is not

John 14:7 – 31

+ O + O + O +

going to leave us as orphans; God says He is coming to us in the Person of the Holy Spirit....

18 I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.

19 Yet a little while, and the world seeth me no more; but ye see me: because I live, ye shall live also.

20 At that day ye shall know that I am in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you.

~ So, our safari gathers the most profound statement we find in the Gospel of John, in the Bible or in the world anywhere that man at any time or in any age has recorded. No philosopher, dead or alive, could have or can plum the depths of the meaning of this expression in verse twenty. Any six-year-old child could define any and all of those mono-syllabic words, but let's do the math:

(ye in Me) = Salvation / (I in you) = Christian living

One is position and one is practice; and they must be in balance for a harmonious life to be realized. Is Christ alive and working in and through you today, friends? Paul said, "... Christ liveth in me; the life I now live in the flesh!" We do not love Christ if we are not willing to obey Him. It is perfect nonsense to think otherwise; but you cannot love Christ and continue in disobedience. This section of Scripture is to be read very carefully after much careful prayer for understanding, wisdom and judgment....

21 He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him.

22 Judas saith unto him, not Iscariot, Lord, how is it that thou wilt manifest thyself unto us, and not unto the world?

~ Let's try this Judas question this way, "... Lord, that's all great and wonderful, but have you forgotten we live in a real world here?" Well, Jesus will now go on to say He hasn't forgotten the world and He is, in fact, only thinking about the world in what He is doing. The only reason Jesus is telling us these things is so that we might take His message to the world and declare it unto them in the power of the Holy Spirit. This is the only way the message of Christ goes to the world, friends – through YOU. The things John wrote should bring peace to the hearts and minds of those who are fully yielded to the Lord Jesus....

23 Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.

24 He that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings: and the word which ye hear is not mine, but the Father's which sent me.

25 These things have I spoken unto you, being yet present with you.

26 But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

27 Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

28 Ye have heard how I said unto you, I go away, and come again unto you. If ye loved me, ye would rejoice, because I said, I go unto the Father: for my Father is greater than I.

29 And now I have told you before it come to pass, that, when it is come to pass, ye might believe.

30 Hereafter I will not talk much with you: for the prince of this world cometh, and hath nothing in me.

31 But that the world may know that I love the Father; and as the Father gave me commandment, even so I do. Arise, let us go hence ~

+ O + O + O +