

John 14:1 – 6

+ O + O + O +

~ Our Spiritual Safari moves along again in the Spirit of God in this report to another of the highest mountain peaks in the government of God. We're leaping from one spiritual summit to another now. I feel beyond unworthy and wholly inadequate to even comment on the remainder of the Gospel of John, but particularly this section. Alright, in our last report, we heard Simon Peter make the statement that he was willing to lay down his life for Jesus. We also saw Jesus rebuff Peter and inform him of the three denials that would take place later that night. Well, the rooster crowed that morning, and Simon Peter had denied the Lord Jesus just as Jesus had said would happen.

We also examined this chapter break in our previous report, which is certainly unfortunate. The Lord Jesus is still speaking to Simon Peter here; and this chapter has spoken of the same great comfort to many people down through the ages – it may be the most familiar overall chapter in the Bible as it cushions the shock of life. I would say chapter fourteen is the overall single-most favorite chapter in the Bible; and it is a chapter that is given to a man in the time of an emergency and in the time of crises. This is given by the Lord Jesus to Simon Peter to bring Peter through that dark night of denial and back into a right relationship with Himself. This was comfort for Peter on this night after what he cannot believe he just heard Jesus say he would do....

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

~ This is another clear-cut declaration by the Lord Jesus that He is God in the flesh. Atheists ignorantly argue that Jesus never asserted His deity. Well, I can point out at least fifteen passages that support the Lord Jesus claiming His deity. There are more than that, and this is one. Jesus claim of deity was the number one reason the religious rulers hated Him. Healing on the Sabbath was number two. And there's more; if you merely say you believe in God it doesn't mean you are saved – it only means that you are

John 14:1 – 6

+ O + O + O +

not an atheist. When we talk about believing, we are not talking about believing in God – we are talking about accepting and trusting the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior from sins - and worshiping HIM as God...

2 In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

~ To establish what the “Father’s house” is, we need to understand it speaks of the entire vast universe - as distant and wide as your mind can comprehend. We reside on one of the smallest, minor rocks – the third from the sun – that exist in the known galaxies we can see. We are, literally, a spec of dust in space. If you were to get far enough away from earth, even the most powerful telescope wouldn’t be able to see you. We go outside at twilight, and we can look up into the starry night, but we only see a very small portion of existence. Further, we live in an ever-expanding universe; as Sir James Hopwood Jeans asserts in his book.

There was a time when man thought our immediate earth was all there was. They had neither clue nor concept of what even a star could consist of. Then, a solar system was discovered and the revolution of the planets tripping the light fantastic around the sun alongside us brought new industry. Well, even that is, actually, elementary physics. Then, we discovered a galactic system; and when we view the backside of the Milky Way, we see the other side. I understand many other places and spacey spaces have been spotted lately, but I don’t really care to keep up with it; I can certainly comprehend the term “... ever-expanding.” This is just one galactic system, and there may be hundreds of millions of billions of galactic systems out there.

Regarding calculations made currently by scientists regarding space, width and height that determine how far a ray of light can travel in one year and then multiplying that number by distance estimates; may I say this kindly? – it’s a whole lot further than you think it is. The galactic systems we view are not the ends or even the edges of the ends of space. We have Quasars, Zenith’s and all sorts of other television brand names in space; they are called those things because the scientists do not know what they are. I

John 14:1 - 6

+ 0 + 0 + 0 +

understand the telescopes out in the Mojave and all that; there's a much bigger one in England and Hawaii. So, the point is: we have found new space places in such abundance we don't even bother to name them anymore. We, actually, live in an infinite universe. That means we are dealing with an infinite God. I believe God is allowing man to paint himself into the corner with scientific inventions that will force man to ultimately acknowledge the power of God. Christ died alright – but He was resurrected, too. There is a Man in Heaven in control.

The Greek word in verse two for mansions is 'moni.' I don't care for the translation "mansions" - because it isn't succinct. The most accurate translation would be 'abiding places.' Christ is the One Who made those places, and He knew how many were out there. You don't; and neither do I. Even if we did know the number, we would never be able to intellectually comprehend such a figure. Something else to think about is this: God doesn't have any VACANCY signs hanging out for people. His bungalows in the Heavens are reserved and accounted for; even though there are many - likely infinite - abiding places.

Further, I doubt there are life forms that we could understand on other planets. Even if there are, we don't know about them, and WE are the ones spoken of in the Bible - and WE are the ones who are in rebellion against God, friends. I do, however, believe this vast universe is filled with God's created intelligences; and they are looking upon and interacting with our awareness. Earth is where things are experienced and seen as they are not seen anywhere else in the cosmos – as far as we know. God's created intelligences all know something about the wisdom of God. They also know about the power and even the Person of God. The thing that cold, empty outer space knows NOTHING about is His love. Until the second Person of the Godhead Trinity came down to earth and died on the cross, the world knew very little about the love of God. God only tells Israel He loves them a few times in the entire Bible. Only through Christ is God's love on display in this earth today.

Mankind likes to think he is a thing of value to this world and universe. Well, I am going to make a statement here that will be so shocking and

alarming that you might want to sit down. The human race is not even worth saving; and if God dusted the earth off and rid it of little man to start over right now, I think He would do Himself a huge favor, quite frankly. If He relieved Himself of us and the earth I don't think He would really miss it very much – but I could be wrong. I hope I am wrong in that statement. I know I wouldn't miss it very much. The question remains for all of us: how much is not very much?

This truth demonstrates God's love. He can exhibit His justice, judgment and righteousness without revealing love at all – and He still remains a sovereign God, friends. We need to thank Him that He loves us; because that is the most amazing thing we can think of as human beings. Let's also remember He died for us when we were in a state of total depravity and debauchery and rebellion against Him. We belong to a fallen and disturbingly wretched race; if you doubt that, then just look around at the condition of the world right now. How can a nation that reached the heights that America reached fall so far down so frighteningly fast? I'll tell you how: there is something radically wrong with the human family. That just happens to be the recurring message God has given throughout our so-called safari.

Now, when Jesus says to us 'if it were not so, I would have told you' – that means we are going to have to decide if we trust God or don't trust God. The Lord Jesus puts His entire reputation on the line with this. So, think about all of those places in the universe, and then think about God making a special place for those who are His own in it. The astrologer has his telescope out attempting to peep in the window of Heaven – or maybe they can only see the wall that keeps them out. I wish I knew what they were seeing that was so interesting to them. I am just not impressed. Well, either way, Jesus has gone to prepare a place for us who are His children....

3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.

~ As far as I can tell, this is the first promise God makes in the Bible concerning His children being taken to another place He has prepared; but

John 14:1 - 6

+ O + O + O +

it's not the last. That Heavenly plan was first revealed to the early church. Paul talks about the archangel ascending from Heaven and the shout of a voice. That all speaks of Christ returning for the church. The hope of the Old Testament was an earthly Kingdom abode wherein they dwelt in peace and righteousness – never a place other than earth. God told Abraham He was going to give Abraham the land IN ISRAEL. That is the purpose and plan of God for this earth.

The expression, “the Kingdom of Heaven” literally means the reign of God over this earth. Theologians have kicked this around from every aspect imaginable and it's likely that every single theologian alive has written a book about the Kingdom of Heaven. As a result, there is utter confusion about the Kingdom of Heaven - not to mention many other subjects in the Bible. Well, you will do well to understand all of this properly, correctly and completely, because God is moving without hesitation, without compromise, and in a very definite manner towards His earthly purpose of placing His Son upon the throne. That is what the Kingdom of Heaven is all about, and it is an earthly purpose, you may be absolutely sure....

4 And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know.

~ This statement by the Lord Jesus is an attempt to lift these men to the absolute heights of spiritual thought and cognizance. The shadow of the cross looms large now, and sin is pressing in on them in the upper room demanding its pound of flesh. The Lord Jesus now attempts to bring them from the here and now to the hereafter with Him in this moment. These men have every opportunity to go from the earthly to the Heavenly; except we see Thomas sitting in this group with his doubts. They all had doubts. Every time we see Thomas, he is asking a question or raising some sort of doubt. Well, Jesus will make an exclamation point out of the question mark that is Thomas before this is all over with....

5 Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way?

~ I'm not knocking Thomas because, frankly, I'm relieved he was there that day and asked this question – because it is my question, too. It's a good question – it is a fair and legitimate question - and I would hope I would have been sharp enough to ask it in this appropriate way and at the appropriate time. If that question had not been asked, we would not have this next verse – and I'm sure glad we have verse six here, too....

6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

~ “The” way in Greek is both an article and an adjective; and means much more than "one of many" that are sure. No, friends, it means Jesus is Personally The Only Way there is to come to God. Our church will never bring us to God. Ceremony and ritual can never bring us into the presence of God. Only the Lord Jesus Christ can bring us into the presence of the Father; either we have Christ, or we don't have Christ. We either trust Him or we don't. When Jesus says He is the truth it does NOT mean He is telling the truth – although He did tell the truth – but it specifies Jesus as the bureau of standard and the touchstone for all things correct, just, right and truthful. When Jesus says He is the life, He does not mean He was merely alive – although He was alive, also; He means He is the source and the origin of everything that has life. From the lowest vegetable plant form to the highest spiritual plane that man can achieve – all things draw their life from God.

When Jesus says, ‘no man cometh unto the Father but by Me’ He makes a dead-end street of every cult, ism, religion, sect, theory, philosophy and organizational form of worship of anything. The only way to ever see our Father is to go through the Lord Jesus Christ, friends. No man can ever come to the Father but by Him. I realize that is some very narrow-minded thinking; and many people do not like the Bible's teachings because it is filled with strict absolute dogmatism. This passage falls into that category categorically. Well, one of the marked characteristics of truth is that it is dogmatic - and never changes.

Of course, not all dogmatism is true; and I realize the amount of ignorance that abounds. See, two plus two equals four is as dogmatic as we can get; but it always totals four. Some of the geniuses of contemporary thinking have tried to disprove that particular mathematical theory; but I can tell you one thing: I will die believing two plus two equal four. My bank uses that calculus, so it works for me. The bank is rather dogmatic about the totals of my four, too, by the way. If you ask for directions but the person hesitates and looks around – well, no one wants directions from that person; but the man that authoritatively directs you where you are asking the way to command a trust that can usually be sensed as genuine or not by a discerning person.

Many men and women have turned to the Lord Jesus Christ over the last two thousand plus years. Many of them have turned to God on the basis of the statement in verse six. Those people have discovered that it happens to be accurate, and that it takes us to straight to Heaven. The truths we have looked at in this report on safari are extreme and dogmatic. I think you would agree, and I don't think you would have them any other way? If you don't like them, then try it your own way but – remember – The Son of God said you aren't going to get to Heaven except through Him. Why not do things the right way just to make sure? Do you have Christ as your Savior today? Do you REALLY trust Him with the everyday affairs in your life? Christ alone can and will save you to the uttermost. All He asks of you is that you come to Him. You either trust Him and you are saved, or you don't trust Him, and you are still dead in your trespasses and sins – there is no middle ground. It's that simple; it's that clear and it's just that dogmatic, also ~

+ O + O + O +