

**“Who is Jesus?”: Promise Keeper
John 14:14-24**

Introduction:

- He is still doing a work of comfort for the disciples because of their troubled spirits. Keep that in context. READ vv.1-13.
- In vv.1-13 Christ gives comfort by showing the disciples a glimpse of their future. Here it's as if Christ is giving them comfort by promises of preservation while still here, doing His will, and awaiting His return.
- What's central to this context is what's central to John's gospel: Belief leading to eternal life (**John 20:30-31**)
- In a way it is all about comfort through saving belief, and looking at that belief from several different angles.

Belief in the Promise-Keeper (vv.15-18)

- A) Belief is revealed in love (v.15a)
- B) Love is revealed in obedience (v.15b)
- C) Obedience is revealed in trust (vv.16-18)
 - a. He keeps His promises (v.16)
 - i. The Spirit
 - 1. Comforter: *parakalē*, lit. 'to call alongside', and hence 'to encourage', 'to exhort' – as a legal advocate
 - 2. Of Truth: Teacher / leader to all truth
 - ii. His Presence (v.16b)...Fully and finally after Pentecost (**Eph.1:13**)
 - iii. The World (v.17)
 - 1. Cannot receive Him
 - 2. Blind (desires empirical evidence) –
John 3:8, *“The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”*

- 3. Suppressed truth (**Rom.1:18**, *“For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth.”*)
 - 4. **Luke 12:8-12**, **“8** *“And I tell you, everyone who acknowledges me before men, the Son of Man also will acknowledge before the angels of God, 9 but the one who denies me before men will be denied before the angels of God. 10 And everyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but the one who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven. 11 And when they bring you before the synagogues and the rulers and the authorities, do not be anxious about how you should defend yourself or what you should say, 12 for the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say.”*
- b. He loves His own (v.18a)
 - i. Adoption (**John 1:12-13**, *“12 But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, 13 who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.”*)
 - ii. Orphans (**John 13:33** – same context)
 - iii. His presence is enough...He will return
 - 1. Not toys, houses or vacations
 - 2. Himself

Promise of the Promise-Keeper (vv.18-24)

- A) Fulfill Fatherly love (vv.18-20)
 - a. Now (more immediately, the resurrection – revealed only to followers, not the world)
 - b. Then (eventually, His return for His own)
 - c. John 14:6 – in totality our LIFE!
- B) Love will be possessed by the obedient (v.21a)

C) Love will possess the obedient (v.21b)

D) Manifest presence (vv.21c-23)

- a. His presence is His gift of His love
- b. His presence is only for those who obey the Word
 - i. Processing the Love of God
 - ii. Universalism rejected
 1. Judas' question
 2. Jesus' answer
 - a. Truth and consequences
 - b. **Spurgeon**, *"He did not tell him why he would manifest himself unto them, and not unto the world. I have often been asked this question myself; "You say God manifests himself to some, and not to others—can you tell me why?" Well, Jesus Christ did not, and I cannot be expected to do it, any more than he did. But I will ask you whether you have any objection to it. Is it not enough that he should do so? He has declared that has he "power over the clay, to make of the same lump one vessel unto honour and another unto dishonour;" and if any one finds fault he saith, "Who art thou, O man? Shall the thing formed say to him that formed it, why hast thou made me thus?" What man shall ask of his father, "Why hast thou begotten me?" "Am I not God, and can I not do what I will with my own?" "But," says the objector, "is it not unjust for God to manifest himself to one and not to the other?" God replies: "Dost thou charge me with injustice? In what respect? Do I owe thee anything? Bring the bill and I will pay it. Do I owe you grace? Then grace would not be grace; it would be a debt."*

c. What we have is one of the clearest articulations of the connection of God's election and man's free will. John 1:12-13; 3:8; 6:44 all speak of God's initiative in salvation (not to mention John 10). God causes us to come to Him. The evidence of that is our choosing to love Him through obedience and then His love is given freely. How else would we know if we are among His own? We cannot express enough the importance of obedience to the Word of Christ!

iii. **2 Cor.5:16-17**, *"6 From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. 17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come."*

c. His presence is home

E) Those who reject Him will not be in His presence

- a. Lack of Love
- b. Lack of Love marked by disobedience

F) His Word is True

- a. The Spirit will help you obey
- b. The Spirit will comfort you in your obedience
 - i. In Christ's absence
 - ii. Though hated by the world
 - iii. Through the certain word – **(A.W. Pink)** NO mistake this is last, for this is where we have the manifestation of Christ in our age until He returns. Even all that the Spirit would do, would be magnifying the Scriptures.
 - iv. Reminding you of His eternal presence

Conclusion

- A) **1 John 2:1-3**, *“2:1 My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. 2 He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world. 3 And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments.”*
- B) **1 John 3:19-24**, *“19 By this we shall know that we are of the truth and reassure our heart before him; 20 for whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and he knows everything. 21 Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; 22 and whatever we ask we receive from him, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him. 23 And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. 24 Whoever keeps his commandments abides in God, and God in him. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us.”*
- C) Christian, are you troubled? You have the resurrected Christ. You have the assurance of His return. You have the presence of the Holy Spirit as a guarantee. You have the complete, sure Word of God.

Lord's Supper

Matthew 26:26-29, *“26 Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, ‘Take, eat; this is my body.’ 27 And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, ‘Drink of it, all of you, 28 for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. 29 I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom.”*

1 Corinthians 11:27-29, *“27 Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord. 28 Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. 29 For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself.”*