

## Peter's Overconfidence

**John 13:38** *Jesus answered, "Will you lay down your life for Me? Truly, truly, I say to you, a rooster will not crow until you deny Me three times."*<sup>1</sup>

It is not yet time for Peter to die. Peter will live for several more decades. Still, Peter will follow Jesus to death eventually. Church history tells us that Peter was put to death for his faith under the tyranny of Emperor Nero (67 A.D.).<sup>2</sup>

"We hear daily from the mouth of Christ all that is fitted for usefulness in life, and all that is necessary to be known, and, when we come to practice, we are as much astonished as apprentices to whom not a word had ever been spoken." – John Calvin<sup>2</sup>

## Concerning Heaven

**John 14:2** *"In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you."*<sup>1</sup>

The kind of accommodation Jesus promised is something like a royal suite, not a room, not a monk's cell, not a broom closet.<sup>4</sup>

## The Only Way

**John 14:6** *Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me."*<sup>1</sup>

Here we read perhaps the boldest declaration of the exclusivity of Christ ever spoken. There are no alternatives for redemption other than Jesus; only He can reconcile us to the Father.<sup>2</sup>

"But if I didn't say what I believed, I would be guilty of nothing less than treason to the King of kings. So, I said: 'Yes, ma'am. I do believe that Jesus is the only way to God.' ... 'But I hope you understand why I believe Jesus is the only way. It is because Jesus said that He was the only way, and if I deny that, I deny Him.'" – R. C. Sproul<sup>4</sup>

There's probably no greater point of pressure in our society than that very point. Many tell us that we must deny the uniqueness of Christ. There is nothing more repugnant to the relativists of this age, than claims of exclusivity given to Christ.<sup>4</sup>

Our Lord's statement, "No man cometh unto the Father but by me," wipes away any other proposed way to heaven – good works, religious ceremonies, costly gifts, etc. There is only one way, and that way is Jesus Christ.<sup>3</sup>

**John 13:36 – 14:31**

## Praying in Jesus' Name

**John 14:13-14** *"Whatever you ask in My name, that will I do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do it."*<sup>1</sup>

These statements must be understood in the context of all that our Lord teaches concerning prayer. He never gave his people a blank check with the promise, "Anything you ask for I will do." The assumption behind these words is: "I will do for you anything you ask that is within the parameters of what is legitimate, according to My teaching."<sup>4</sup>

## The Coming of Jesus

**John 14:18** *"I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you."*<sup>1</sup>

Many commentators believe that when Jesus promised not to leave His disciples as orphans, He was referring to his post resurrection appearances to the disciples. After His resurrection, He did not appear to the world but only to His followers.<sup>2</sup>

## The Paraclete

**John 14:16** *"I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever;"*<sup>1</sup>

The Holy Spirit is called the Helper (Greek: *parakletos*; English: *paraclete*). In the root of this word are the ideas of advising, exhorting, comforting, strengthening, interceding, and encouraging.<sup>1</sup>

It's true that the Holy Spirit is a paraclete, but Jesus did not call Him *the* Paraclete. He called the Spirit "another Paraclete", and for there to be another Paraclete, there must be a prior Paraclete. So, who is *the* Paraclete?<sup>4</sup>

**1 John 2:1-2** *My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world."*<sup>1</sup>

## The Holy Spirit

Protestants and Roman Catholics agree on the doctrine of the Trinity. The Western version of the Niceno-Constantinopolitan Creed states that the Holy Spirit "proceeds from the Father *and the Son*."<sup>2</sup>

While we do not know exactly what it means that the Spirit proceeds from the Father and the Son, we confess this in order to preserve the biblical truth. There is much about God we confess but that we cannot understand fully, but we strive for precision in our confession in order to help people think rightly about God.<sup>2</sup>

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**John 14:26** *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 that I said to you.*<sup>1</sup>

We confess that the Father is unbegotten and that the Son is eternally begotten of the Father (John 1:1-18). The Father sends the Holy Spirit in the name of the Son (14:26). To send in the name of a person is to send on behalf of that person. This would mean that the Son agrees in the sending of the Spirit, that the Spirit is His ambassador.<sup>2</sup>

Some chief works associated with the Holy Spirit:<sup>2</sup>

- To empower us for ministry
- To sanctify us or make us holy
- To equip us with the ability to make beautiful things (Ex. 35:30-35)

“Practically speaking, probably the most important thing to know about the Holy Spirit is that He is at work in making us holy. If you are discouraged this day regarding your sanctification, know that if you are in Christ, the Spirit is working in you. Stay in the Word of God and in Christian fellowship, attending regular corporate worship in your local church, and you will grow in holiness.” – Robert Rothwell<sup>2</sup>

**John 16:7** *“But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you.”*<sup>1</sup>

#### Before it Came to Pass

**John 13:19** *“From now on I am telling you before it comes to pass, so that when it does occur, you may believe that I am He.”*<sup>1</sup>

**John 14:29** *“Now I have told you before it happens, so that when it happens, you may believe.”*<sup>1</sup>

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#### Chapter 14<sup>5</sup> Of Saving Faith

2. By this faith, a Christian believeth to be true whatsoever is revealed in the Word, for the authority of God himself speaking therein;<sup>e</sup> and acteth differently upon that which each particular passage thereof containeth; yielding obedience to the commands,<sup>f</sup> trembling at the threatenings,<sup>g</sup> and embracing the promises of God for this life, and that which is to come.<sup>h</sup> But the principal acts of saving faith are accepting, receiving, and resting upon Christ alone for justification, sanctification, and eternal life, by virtue of the covenant of grace.<sup>i</sup>

<sup>f</sup> **John 14:15** *“If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.”*<sup>1</sup>

#### Obedience

“Little faith will take your soul to heaven, but great faith will bring heaven to your soul.” – Charles Spurgeon<sup>3</sup>

**John 14:21** *“He who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me; and he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and will disclose Myself to him.”*<sup>1</sup>

If we love God and obey Him, He will manifest his love to us in a deeper way each day.<sup>3</sup>

#### Peace from Jesus

**John 14:27** *“Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful.”*<sup>1</sup>

Courage is one of the most important Christian virtues – not rooted in ourselves, but in our understanding that the Lord is with us. Cowardliness is not the mere presence of fear but the refusal to act because of that fear. Courage means doing what we know we need to do even when we are filled with fear.<sup>2</sup>

Peace is a state of wholeness rooted in our being in right relation to God.<sup>2</sup>

Paul says that “through our Lord Jesus Christ” we have peace with God because we have been justified by faith (Rom. 5:1).<sup>2</sup>

Difficulties will afflict, but not crush us (2 Cor. 4:8-10).<sup>2</sup>

“O sinner, you are in the most perilous situation any human being could ever be. You are at war with God, estranged from Him. It is a war you cannot win. I urge you as strongly as I can to flee to the cross that you might have peace with God; that your name might be in this last will and testament. Christ gave Himself on your behalf and took upon Himself the just wrath of the Father against you. If you trust Jesus for this substitutionary work, you will have the unspeakable inheritance of peace with God.”<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> *New American Standard Bible*, Charles Caldwell Ryrie *study Bible*, 1995

<sup>2</sup> *Tabletalk* magazine, Robert Rothwell, August 2018 pp. 36-51

<sup>3</sup> *Be Transformed*, Warren W. Wiersbe, 1986, pp. 33-45

<sup>4</sup> *John (St. Andrew's Expository Commentary)*, R. C. Sproul, 2009, pp. 255-282

<sup>5</sup> *The Westminster Confession of Faith*, 1646