

“LET NOT YOUR HEART BE TROUBLED”

In His last days on earth, Jesus spoke of His departure into heaven, and having to leave the apostles behind, after their having been together so closely for some 3 years. He made the statement, “Let not your heart be troubled.” Let’s look at the entire context of John 14:1-6. Now let’s notice **why** any loyal disciple should not be troubled, no matter what problems and difficulties come to surface in this life. Being Christians does not exempt us from problems in any age. Probably every family and every Christian will be faced with some difficulties in the brief time we have to live in the flesh. In this text, Jesus speaks of Faith in God and His Son, the Existence of heaven, the Assurance of heaven, His Second coming, and the Way to heaven for His disciples. Let’s examine them one by one.

First, FAITH IN GOD. Jesus said, “Ye believe in God.” The primary reason for not being troubled is faith in God. Evidence of God’s existence abounds everywhere. Psalms 19 sets forth 3 things that remind us of God and His wisdom. First, the heavenly bodies speak of His wisdom and power, as David said “the heavens” declare the glory of God, verses 1-6. Second, David said “the law of the Lord” is beneficial, verses 7-8. Third, David said “the fear of the Lord” is created as a result of what God reveals to us, verses 9-12. Later, Solomon pointed out that we are to “fear God and keep His commandments, for this is the whole duty of man”, as God will bring every work into judgment, whether they be good or bad (Eccl. 12:13-14).

The late brother A. W. Dicus penned the words for the song, “Lord I Believe”, which was popular in the Sacred Selections hymnal through the years. The first stanza reads, *“When we behold the wonders of creation, The flowers that bloom, the rain drops as they fall; The spacious skies and life’s perpetuation, We cannot doubt that God controlled it all.”* The second stanza reads, *“No finite mind, by mortal calculation, Could frame the Truths revealed in His Word; In every trace of nature’s operation. Thy voice, O God, in mis-try can be heard.”* The third stanza reads, *“When we perceive the state of alienation, In which the soul, from Thee O God, was lost; We must believe, by heaven’s ordination, Our Lord redeemed and paid the bitter cost.”* The fourth stanza reads, *“Some days are filled with joy and expectation, Some days are dark, with cares we are beset; In hours of joy or hours of tribulation, Be with us Lord, lest we, lest we forget.”* Then, the chorus, *“Lord I believe, yes I believe, I can not doubt, or be deceived. The eye that sees each sparrow fall, His unseen hand is in it all.”*

Skeptics and atheists come and go, but after they go, it is but a moment when they will come to **know for a fact** that God exists, as they wake up in eternity. One of the most noted atheists of the 20th century was Dr. Antony Flew, England’s voice of atheism for many years. After the discovery of DNA, he came to see that the “design” of everything in the universe **proves** that there **has** to be a Designer, so he renounced his atheism and wrote a book entitled, “There Is A God.” One is foolish indeed to **not** believe in God. David said such a one is a fool (Psa. 14:1). Paul writes that we must believe in God we cannot please Him, to whom we should come (Heb. 11:6).

We must also believe in God’s Son, Jesus Christ. He said, “Ye believe in God, believe also in me.” (John 14:1). Without faith, one will die in his sins (John 8:24). Baptism is of no value unless one first believes (Mark 16:16). The queen’s treasure was told that if he believed, he could then be baptized. He confessed that faith and was baptized (Acts 8:35-39).

Second, EXISTENCE OF HEAVEN. “In my Father’s house are many mansions” (John 14:2). Jesus spoke of “many mansions” **in** the Father’s house, alluding to the reality of heaven where He was going, giving “hope” to those who want it—a better place than where trouble and heartaches everywhere abound. Jesus came from heaven, and could testify of a place prepared for saints (John 6:38). Jesus existed in heaven as the WORD of God, prior to His coming to earth, to give this word about God and heaven. His sacrifice made salvation and heaven available to man. Our hymn, “Above the Bright Blue”, tells us that there **is** a beautiful place called heaven, which is presently hidden from our view here, but will be revealed in due time.

Third, ASSURANCE OF HEAVEN. “...if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.” (John 14:2). Jesus’ **WORD** would be a reminder to them that heaven was available to them, as He had never lied to them in the past, and told them time and again about God and heaven. He reminded them to pray, “Our Father which art in heaven” (Matt. 6:9).

Then, His **RETURN** to the Father would complete the process of giving hope to disciples to dwell there in the future. We are now in hope of eternal life (Tit. 1:2). Jesus was to offer His blood as payment for the church, where salvation from sin is enjoyed in this life (Acts 20:28). The saved were in the church (Acts 2:47). His presence with the Father makes heaven sure (Heb. 9:24-26). Jesus was to take His place on God’s throne, to serve as mediator and intercessor to those who believe in Him (1 Tim. 2:5; 1 John 2:1-2).

Fourth, THE SECOND COMING. “I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also” (John 14:3). Jesus promised to “come again” in order to take the righteous to heaven. His coming will cause a resurrection of all the dead who have lived and died in the Lord, who will with the righteous still alive, to meet Him in the air, to enter that eternal home (1 Thess. 4:13-18). This is not to say that the wicked will **not** be raised, for they will, but their destiny will be one of eternal damnation (John 5:28-29). If Jesus could leave heaven and come once, He can leave it to “come again” to receive God’s children and take them to heaven (1 Cor. 15:23-24). If Jesus could arise from the grave, He can also cause **us** to rise from the graves to be with Him where we can together praise God for all eternity.

Finally, Jesus told the disciples that He had revealed to them the **WAY** to heaven, and clearly stated that He was that way (John 14:4-6). He revealed this WAY to the disciples, who in turn have revealed it unto us (Matt. 28:18-20). With God’s word available to us, we can **know** that if we follow that word, believing in God and Jesus, heaven will be our eternal home. Are you prepared for the coming of Jesus in the last day?

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