

Prestonwood Connection 2004

What Does The Lord Require of Me? #5

Living With A Homesick Heart

John 14

Wednesday, March 10, 2004 • Dr. David McKinley

[Dr. McKinley, message Living With A Homesick Heart] < 236 >

Thank you Rick Briscoe. I tell you, one of the great blessings of getting to have the privilege of a..., leading each week in this service is having the opportunity to partner with Rick Briscoe and this incredible praise and instrumental team that we have on Wednesday evenings and we have just great, great a..., time together in worship and music and a..., our team is very diligent in their work and preparation each week and of course that's led by Rick Briscoe and a..., Rick has just recently recorded a CD of a variety of some music that is near and dear to your heart and to mine and of course that, *Sahara Heart*, song that you just heard that he wrote is on it as and a..., is several others as well. It's called, *A Song Of Hope*, and so I just want you to know about that, it's available in our bookstores. Specifically tonight I'm gonna ask Rick a..., right as we end tonight to head over there ahead of us and if you'd like to go over and a... pick up a copy of this new CD, *A Song Of Hope*. A..., how many selections are on it Rick? About 10, 10 songs and a..., there's a feature on it in you're a..., Connection Worship Guide tonight. But I know how much you love Rick and I know how much you enjoy the music that we share here and while this isn't our whole group, a..., there are some of the songs that we do in the Wednesday evening service on this a..., recording and a..., I hope that maybe someday maybe we can do a Connection piece, wouldn't that be great to be able to take this music and the celebration that we share here? So Rick thank you for a great job tonight. And a..., folks I just want you to know about that and to be able to be a..., a part of it.

It's great to be back with you tonight. I was away last week. Connie and I did celebrate 25 years of a wonderful life journey that we are making together, a..., doing life together. That's what we're doing and enjoying it and thankful for time to get away and celebrate with her last week as well a..., as just time to a..., refresh and renew. I trust that a..., you were here. I know that you heard a great message with Neal Jeffrey here speaking. Neal we love you and thank God for you man. Every time we have an opportunity a..., to hear, to listen a..., you're a great teacher, a great encourager and so I'm very thankful a..., for that.

But tonight we're gonna return to a..., the focus of our study on Wednesday evenings and the theme that we've been developing together, *What Does The Lord Require Of Me?* We've been looking at *The Upper Room Discourse*, those final moments that Jesus spent in peace and serenity, instruction and a...,

in encouragement with His disciples just before He went to the Garden of Gethsemane. And I was reminded in viewing the film, *The Passion*, a..., how powerful it is to consider again what happened from Gethsemane all the way to the cross and how significant and strategic these moments were spent in the Upper Room with our Lord. In fact, if you've seen that movie you know that many of the breakaway scenes go right back to the Upper Room and what Jesus was saying and what Jesus was teaching and what Jesus was a..., trying to imprint in the heart and the mind of His disciples. And so what we're really trying to do is to isolate, to categorize, to embrace some specific instructions that Jesus Christ has given to us as believers, as followers of Christ who were living in this day and this hour seeking to be faithful and to be true to Him. Because there's so many things swirling around out there that relate to faith and spirituality and I think it's very important that as Christians living with a biblical world view that we have a clear biblical understanding of what is it that Jesus Christ requires of us? Because, candidly, it's not always easy to get the instructions right.

A few days ago I came across some instructions that are printed on some actual product labels. I thought I'd share them with you:

On a Sears hairdryer this instruction is found:
Do not use while sleeping.

Heh! [congregation laughter] Good suggestion.

On a Swanson frozen dinner:
Serving suggestions, defrost.

Heh! [congregation laughter]

On a hotel provided shower cap in a box it said:
Fits one head.

Heh! Aren't we glad to know that? [congregation laughter]

On a Tiramisu dessert the instruction says:
Do not turn upside down.

The only problem is it's printed on the bottom of the box. Heh!
[congregation laughter]

On the packaging for an iron it says:
Do not iron cloths on body.

And everybody said "Amen" right? [congregation laughter]

On a box of children's cough medicine, it says:
Do not drive your car or operate machinery while using this.

I'm glad they told the kids that.

On a string of Christmas lights:
For indoor or outdoor use only.

Heh! [congregation laughter]

On a Japanese food processor:
Not to be used for the other use.

Whatever that means. [congregation laughter]

On an American Airlines package of nuts:
Instructions, open package, eat nuts.

Heh, heh, heh, heh, heh. [congregation laughter]

And on a chainsaw made in Sweden there was this instruction:
Do not attempt to stop chain with your hands.

Well, I like that, I'm glad they told us that as well. Well a..., whatever it may be, trying to provide specific, succinct and practical instructions is not always easy. And yet I do believe that the instructions that Jesus has given us, while not in any way trivial, fundamental, essential, need to be understood and need to be embraced. We've already talked about the first and most important step in being a follower of Christ and that is found in John 13 in the opening of this study where we learned that we had to put aside our pride. Pride is the tripping point. Pride is the thing that keeps so many of us from being expendable for the purpose of God. We also talked about making love our aim and how much Christ wants the motivation of our life and the focus of life to be on the aspect of love and living out a life of love. In fact He said: [John 13:35]

"By this will all men know that your are my disciples, if you love one another."

But tonight we're gonna move over into the 14th chapter of the Gospel of John. We're looking at John 13 through John 17 and we're opening now John chapter 14 and I want to read tonight what I know are familiar words to many of you as you're here. But I trust words that will bring refreshment and encouragement to your heart tonight as we read and as we share these words together. John chapter 14 in verse 1:

*¹"Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me.
²In 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, ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also. ⁴And where I go you know, and the way you know."
⁵And Thomas said to Him, "Lord we do not know where You are going, and how can we know the way?" ⁶And Jesus said to him,...*

Would you say it with me?

... *"I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."*

Let's go back though to verse one.

"Let not your heart be troubled;..."

Obviously these words were spoken to provide comfort and encouragement. In the immediate context Jesus had just said some fairly disturbing things. In John chapter 13, that chapter that we had been looking at and been receiving instruction from a..., there were several rather disturbing things that Jesus had talked about. One He talked about the fact that somebody was going to betray Him, that He was going to be betrayed by one of those who was in that Upper Room, who was there breaking the bread and passing the cup, that one of them was going to betray Him. Jesus had also even looked at Peter and there had been a discussion with Peter a..., down in about John chapter 13 and verse 38, about the fact that Peter was going to deny Him. Not only was there somebody that was gonna betray Him, but Peter, the one who said, Lord wherever You go, whatever You do, You can count on me Jesus, I'm gonna be with you. And here the most confident and asserted of all the disciples, Jesus looked up and said, Peter, before the cock crows you will deny Me three times. And so surely enough Jesus had spoken to Peter, the disturbance of the fact that He would deny the One that he loved. And then Jesus had even told them in John chapter 13 in verse 33 that He was going to be going away from them. Here for a period of years, 3 years in fact, these men had done nothing but travel with Jesus and minister with Jesus and they were known as His disciples and their whole life identity has been a..., had come together and been found in their relationship with Jesus Christ and Jesus clearly told them sitting at that table that night, these are important things because I'm about to leave and I'm not going to be with you any longer. And so given the instruction of a betrayal and the instruction of a denial and the instruction of a departure Jesus looked at them and said:

"Let not your heart be troubled;..."

But you know just as those disciples, to whom Jesus was speaking in that Upper Room, were dealing with issues that night that would bring trouble to their heart, it would be my observation tonight ladies and gentlemen that we live in a world filled with people who have troubled hearts. We live in a society that is experiencing massive heart failure and there's so many things that are happening and transpiring around us that it causes each and every one of us to struggle with the issues of life and with the challenges of our times that ultimately keep our hearts in a disrupted and a...and a upset type of a fashion and I'm keenly aware tonight that as I stand in this place that all around me there are troubles hearts and wounded hearts and broken hearts, there are discouraged hearts, there are all kinds of hearts that are found in this place and I believe that that's one of the first things that I want us to look at and to think about tonight and that is, I want us as we gather in this place and we hear the

word of Jesus saying:

"Let not your heart be troubled;..."

Speaking to disciples then, but speaking to followers today, I want us to:

CONSIDER THE COMMON CAUSES OF HEART TROUBLE IN OUR LIVES. What are the things that cause us to have troubled hearts? What are the causes of heart trouble represented in this room tonight and then certainly in this community around us and in the world at large? What are the things that each and every one of us are dealing with whereby we need to hear the word of Jesus as He speaks to us?

"Let not your heart be troubled;..."

Well, let me just identify several things. One of the common causes and reasons for heart trouble in our day would simply be categorized as:

THE CARES OF LIFE. The cares of life, the things that we deal with day in and day out, the things that make up the system of this world in which we live, things that we have to give attention to and have to be concerned about. Jesus spoke about these things in *The Sermon On The Mount*, back in Matthew chapter 6 He said don't worry and don't let your heart be troubled and He talked about the things that we worry about in life. He talked about us worrying about what we would put on our bodies and...and...and how we would live our lives and He talked about finances and He talked about our fashions and He talked about the future. He talked about all the things that are just make up the cares of this life and ultimately it was there in Matthew chapter 6 and verse 33 that Jesus said:

"Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and then all these things will be added to you."

He gave us an incredible point of instruction that one great all consuming point of worry and concern could take care of a lot of lesser ones. But the fact of life is there are many of us in this building tonight who are struggling financially, who are struggling with what we're gonna do with our life today and tomorrow and in the future and we are just consumed with the cares of this life and it's causing us to have a troubled heart. But not only are there the cares of life there are:

THE CHANGES IN THE WORLD. You know things that used to happen over decades happen in a period of months, even weeks today. In a society and a culture that at one time had time to process and...and adjust and address change, today we live in a world that's just changing all around us, faster than we can cope, faster than we can keep up. And no matter how much you try to ride the waves and follow the trends and stay up on things you are constantly in a losing battle because the pace of life and the rate of change is faster than any of us can address, adopt or adjust to in life and it has impact on us emotionally and spiritually and physically. As we live our lives we end up with troubled hearts because of the changes in

the world around us and our...our struggle to try to...to try to cope with these things. So there's the cares of life, there's the changes in the world and then there's what I would simply call:

THE CHALLENGES TO OUR FAITH. Some of you are facing challenges in your faith tonight. It may be a sickness. It may be a death. It may be a point of persecution or resistance within your own family or within your work place. It may just be discouragement. You know sometimes when it just doesn't seem that God's comin through and we're praying and seeking and asking and seeking to be faithful and obedient and...and it just seems that we're...we're waiting for a long time, that challenge to faith and not being able to make faith like a fine-tuned machinery that just fits everything together and...and sometimes we have that mentality that if I have faith and God's at work then it's all just gonna fit together and sometimes it seems like the more we believe and the more we wait the more it seems to come apart. And the challenges of faith cause us to have troubled hearts. And then there are:

THE CONFLICTS WE FACE. Conflicts we face, I'm talking about relationships, broken relationships, tense relationships, unresolved conflicts in life. I don't know how much you've given thought to this but I think that if you really took time to assess your life, that you would agree with me that 90% plus of the happiness and the sadness of life that you experience is in direct proportion to the relationships of your life. 90 plus % of everything really good has to do with a relationship or the influence of a relationship in your life and 90% of the stuff that's really hard has to do with a relationship or something negative that's happened in a relationship in your life. And it's a conflict that we face in relationships that constantly keep our hearts troubled. And then there're just:

THE CHOICES THAT WE MAKE. That's right, the choices, sometimes I try to make good choices but I do it with bad facts or with poor judgment. And the choices that I make I misjudge, I have bad advice or sometimes I'm just stubborn in my own determination that I'm gonna do it the way I see it and the way I wanna do it and I'm just gonna push for it and the choices that I make sometimes bring consequences and outcomes in my life that ultimately cause me to have a troubled heart. Can we get that list up there one more time, again, all of those things? Because I want you just to think about them tonight. I want you to consider the common causes of heart trouble, the cares of life, the changes in the world, the challenges to our faith, the conflicts we face, the choices we make. Anybody here got a troubled heart? Jesus said:

"Let not your heart be troubled;..."

Jesus spoke these words because He knew that we lived in a world and in a system and in a arena of life, a sphere of life where it would be natural and normal for us to have nothing but heart trouble. He knew what reality living was all about. And for all of the reality stuff that we hear spoofed on television today, this is reality living! Reality living is

dealing with the cares of life, the changes of the world, the challenges of faith, the conflicts we face and the choices we make. That's reality living! And when I'm living in a real world and facing real world issues the outcome of that is that I struggle with heart trouble, being anxious and worried and frustrated and all the rest. And what is it that everybody's looking for? We're looking for peace. We're looking for comfort. We're looking for hope. Well thank God, Jesus Christ looked at His followers on the eve of His arrest and His crucifixion and He said to them:

"Do not let your heart be troubled;..."

And I believe that Jesus Christ would have me to say to you tonight, don't let your heart be troubled. That brings me to the second thing I want us to consider tonight and that is if I understand that there are many common causes of heart trouble in this room what are we to do about it? Well, here it is:

ATTACH YOUR HEART TO A FUTURE HOPE. Attach your heart to a future hope.

¹"...you believe in God, believe also in Me. ²In My Father's house there are many mansions, if it were not so I would have told you, I go and prepare a place for you. ³And if I go and prepare a place, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also."

In the pressures, the problems and the pains of life Jesus has a plan, a place and a pledge. A plan, a place and a pledge.

What's the **PLAN**? Jesus said you're gonna be going through some things here, but I'm gonna let all the things that you go through here that would cause you to have heart trouble to only be disruptive for one purpose, to get you prepared for the place I'm preparing for you. And I'm preparing a place for you that I want you to wanna come to and therefore the things that you're goin through here in life are just gonna have to be constantly be bumps in the road to remind you that there's another place, there's another purpose, there's another outcome in life and I want you lookin about...looking there and thinking about that. In other words, I have a plan and my plan has to do with why I came and what I'm going to do. And Jesus says in an authoritative, definitive and an affirmative fashion. I [even I] have come and I [even I] am gonna go and I [even I] am gonna come again. Very strong the way that Jesus said this. He said I want your focus to be on your future hope. So He said I have a plan. And secondly I want you to know that:

I have a **PLACE**. A place called...well what's it called? Hum? Heaven! Heaven! Heaven is a real place, it is a real place where real people will spend a real eternity who know and love Jesus Christ. The place called heaven. I love the fact that He says:

"In My Father's house are many mansions;..."

Now, I know a lot of us have got this idea that heaven's gonna be kinda like goin to Beverly Hills and just drivin around and every...everybody's gonna have their own yard and their own gate and their own butlers and the whole thing and I'm gonna live in my little isolated house and your gonna live in yours and we'll wave at each other as we pick up the, you know, Heavenly Daily News every morning. [pause for congregation laughter] But the...the biblical perspective is a little bit more of a community than that. That's kinda of our American idealized version. You have your color, I have my color and you know we each drive our Rolls Royce down to the...to the end of the street to get the mail every day. You see I don't know, I mean there's just all this stuff we've got. But literally Jesus said, in My Father's house are many rooms. Now don't get the idea that you're gonna be stacked up in a condo either. I don't want you to go the wrong a..., idea here, but what I'm tryin to say to you is, is that God...Jesus is saying I am preparing a place and this place is so incredible and it's a place that's gonna have a place for you. It's gonna be for you and it's a part of what I'm doing and it's a part of what I'm preparing and it's a place. And try as hard as I may tonight to try to describe that place to you I can't do it. I thought long and hard about what can I do to help you to think about the place called heaven and finally I landed on the fact that while I couldn't describe to you what heaven's like I could tell you what heaven is not like. And instead of me just trying to make it up how bout I take you there? Keep your hand in John 14 and let's look over to the book of Revelation chapter 21. Revelation 21, it's the next to the last chapter of the Bible, in it the Bible says that Jesus has a plan and Jesus has a place. Let's just be real sure that we understand what He says about this place. Revelation chapter 21, beginning in verse 3:

And I heard a loud voice from heaven...

Okay we got the right place here all right? I wanna be sure you got the right place.

I heard a loud voice from heaven...

The place!

...saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. And God Himself will be with them and be their God."

Do you see that same parallel as to what we've just read?

"I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place, I will come again and take you to Myself; that where I am, you may be."

We're gonna be together there in this place called heaven and God is going to be our God and we're going to be His people. And then it says:

"And God..."

Verse 4!

"...will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. And there shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away."

I wanna ask you a question. What beyond what's listed here can be named that gives us heart trouble. I mean... **< turn tape >** are these the things that cause our hearts to be agitated and irritated? Isn't it the fact that I deal with tears of a broken heart, of death and sorrow and crying and of pain? All of those things that we fear and all of those things that we struggle with, the Bible says they're not gonna be in that place any more. And then it goes on to say that:

He who sat on the throne said, "Behold I will make all things new." And He said to me, "Write, these words for they are true and faithful."

Here's the promise tonight. It is simply this, that Jesus has a plan and Jesus has a place and that place is called heaven and He finished up that pl...that place by talking about:

A **PLEDGE**:

"...I will come again...and I will take you where I am."

It is a promise. It is a hope. Yes, it is a future hope. But that's what I need everyday. As I'm going through the hardships of life and the things that would cause me to have a troubled heart I don't just need to try to resolve it here and now. What I need is to constantly be attached to the future hope and I need to live with the eyes of heaven here today. That's what the Bible teaches us in another place. In the book of Colossians chapter 3, you read there in the book of Colossians that the greatest thing that we can do in life, to get through life is to set our attention and affection on things above. The Bible says: [1-3]

¹If you then were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. ²Set your mind on things above, and not on things of the earth. ³For you are died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

And when Christ who is our life appears then you will also appear with Him in glory. Heaven really is intended to be a real-time experience for the believer. It's to be something that in the realities of life gives me a real hope and the tragedy is, is that in the materialism of our world far too many of us have lost the reality of the hope of heaven. We keep thinking that things are gonna satisfy what only heaven can satisfy and that's why it's so important for us to come back to the words of Jesus and understand the significance of an eternal perspective. As a Christian, I have to live my life every single day saying what Dorothy said in the *Wizard Of Oz*. Do you remember what she said? Do you remember what she kept repeating over and over and over again? If you know what it is would you

say it with me?

"There's no place like home."

That's it! Ladies and gentlemen, when I am here and my heart is troubled, the thing I've gotta say over and over and over again is, there's no place like home. There's no place like home. There's no place like home. Do you know that 53 times in these portions of Scripture that we are reading in John 13 and following, Jesus talked about the Father's house? How vital it is that we understand the need to attach our heart to a future hope. There's one final things that I want you to see tonight and that is not only that we need to consider the common causes of heart trouble and to attach our hearts to a future hope, but the third and the final thing that I want us to consider tonight in this discussion that Jesus had with His disciples is that we are to:

EMBRACE THE FULL MEASURE OF CHRIST'S SAVING WORK. We're to embrace the full measure of Christ's saving work. You say, well what do you mean by that. Well, look at what He says here. He says:

"Let not your heart be troubles; you believe in God, believe also in Me."

He talks about the Father's house and then He says in verse 4:

"and where I go..., and the way you know." But Thomas said to Him, "Lord we don't know where You're going and we don't know the way."

And then we all read it together.

Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father but by Me."

Jesus made one of the most authoritaded and one of the most exclusive statements that can ever be read in the Bible and that is there's only one way to heaven, there's only one way to hope, there's only one way to healing and it's all found in Jesus. That's what it's all about. It's all about Him. And so He's anser...answering the question, how can we get to heaven?

I read about a Sunday School teacher who decided with a group of children that she was gonna try to really drive home the point of the fact that there's only one way for us to get to heaven. And so she was kinda challenging them a little bit and she was asking some questions and she looked at her Sunday School class and she said I...boys and girls if I sold my house and I sold my car and I had a big garage sale and I gave all of the money from all of those things to the church would I get to go to heaven? And the kids all said, "No!" She said, well boys and girls let me ask you this, if I clean the church every day and mowed the yard and kept everything ni...neat and tidy and I never said a bad word and I was never unkind to anybody do you think I could go to heaven? She looked at them and they all said, "No!" She said, well then boys and girls how can I go

to heaven? And one little 5-year-old boy lifted his hand and said, "You gotta be dead." Heh! [pause for congregation laughter]

Well, there's a lot of confusion about how do you go to heaven and I can tell you tonight if we took a survey on the streets of this community we'd have every conceivable idea about what you gotta do to go to heaven. One verse sums it all up. Jesus said:

"I am the way, the truth and the life and no one comes to the Father except by Me."

I wanna read to you something written by Bishop Ryle, a wonderful believer who was involved in the church of England about 200 years ago. But he said this and I think it's so important. He said:

It avails nothing that a man is clever, learned, highly gifted, amiable, charitable, kind hearted and zealous about some sort of religion. All this ~~will not make his soul...~~ will not save his soul if he does not draw near to God by Christ's atonement and make use of God's own Son as his Mediator and Savior. God is so holy that all men are guilty and debtors in His sight. Sin is so sinful that no mortal man can make satisfaction for it. There must be a mediator, a ransom payer, a redeemer between ourselves and God or else we can never be saved. There is only one door, one bridge, one ladder between earth and heaven, the crucified Son of God. Whoever will enter in by that door may be saved. But to him who refuses the Bible holds out no hope at all. Mere earnestness will never take a man to heaven. Sincerity alone will never wipe away our tears.

What he has said 200 years ago is what I'm affirming to you and what Jesus said in the 1st Century. There is only one hope for salvation. It is in Christ and Christ alone. That's why this same writer of the Gospel of John, over in 1st John chapter 5, verses 12 and 13, affirmed the essential need for every person to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. 1st John chapter 5, actually in verse 11 it says:

¹¹And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. ¹²He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the son of God does not have life. ¹³These things are written that you may believe on the name of the Son of God, and that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe on the name of the Son of God.

Our confidence is in believing on the name of Jesus Christ and therefore we have to understand that our hope and our confidence and the cure for heart trouble in this life is being absolutely sure that we know Jesus Christ, because to know Him is to know the way, the truth and the life. Not a way, not a true and not a life, the way, the truth, the life, One and only One absolutely, that's what the Bible teaches. Having said that, almost every time we hear this verse that's the only way we think of this verse. We tend to think of it only in the context of salvation and clearly that is the emphasis of this verse in this passage. Saved by Christ and by

Christ alone, one way to be saved. But there is something more here that I want you to see and consider as I kinda wrap this up tonight and that is that in Romans chapter 5 in verse 10 we read these words:

For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His...

What?

...life.

There is a life in Jesus Christ and to be saved by His life means, not only, that I've been rescued from the condemnation of sin and the certainty of judgment, but that I have a new life that I now live in Christ. And therefore what I'm trying to say to you in this 3rd and final point tonight is that as you live your life as a follower of Christ you have to embrace the full measure of His saving work and not only is it that you know the truth about how to go to heaven, but the truth about how to go to heaven is the truth that you live out in life right now. And when Jesus says I am the way, the truth and the life, that is something for your heart tonight. What does it mean?

Well, the word **WAY** that is used here is actually a Greek word that means navigation, a direction. It was a word that was used to describe the work of a pilot, a forerunner; not a pilot of an airplane, but the pilot and steersman of a ship. You know that today in port areas and I've certainly lived around those in my life, that when big ocean vessels begin to make their way into port they don't just, you know, kinda push the throttle and go in and just kinda pull up and say hey we're here. They come into the entry and then one of the pilots in one of the smaller boats comes out alongside and comes up on and helps to take that ship safely to the dock. Because he knows everything about the port and he knows everything about where that ship can go aground or where that ship can get into danger and so the pilot safely guides them in. Do you get the truth tonight? Are you dealing with heart trouble in your life? Because there're things you don't know and you can't see and you don't understand. Jesus is the way and if you will leave the navigation of your life in His hands He will never fail you. He will never fail you! He will always see you safely to the place that He's prepared for you and you don't have to fear your life being adrift if you're living your life in Christ. You may not have all the answers, you may not understand everything about what's happening, but your life is not adrift if Jesus is the pilot of your ship, because He is the way and He is the way of navigation in life. No drifting, no danger in Jesus.

But then the Bible says He is the **TRUTH**. Obviously, the truth is taken to mean that which is absolute, that which is a standard, that which is timeless and eternal. Jesus is eternally the truth. Jesus is absolutely the truth. But as it relates to this life, not only is it that which I know ultimate, it is something that I can know daily in my life and that has to do with orientation. Heh, there's a word that needs rescuing.

Everything in our world is about orientation, how you are gender oriented and sexually oriented and all of these other kinds of orientations. Well, you see there is only one who has made us? It is the God who created us and that same God became one of us when He sent Jesus to come and walk and live and die for us and the only true orientation in life of living a life of purpose and significance is when my life is completely oriented to the stability and the reliability of the Word of God. The world is fake! God's truth is what is real and apart from the truth of God being the source of orientation, of how you live your life, you are constantly gonna find yourself living and choking on the fakes and the substitutes of this world because the truth is in Jesus and for all that the world can banter and discuss and debate about freedoms and individuality and experimentation it will always be confusion and loss and awash because the only orientation that matters is the orientation of Jesus who is the truth. And if you are Christ oriented your life will never fail to be real and reliable.

One final thing and that is Jesus says, I am the **LIFE**. What does that mean? Well, have you ever heard anybody say this is the life? What do they mean by that? You've seen commercials, maybe you've even said it. You know you've had an opportunity to get away and maybe you're sitting on a beach somewhere, you've got a book, a big glass of lemonade and you just sit back and say, "Now this is the life. Wish I could do this 365, you know 24/7." Now you'd be bored, but the fact of the matter is there are moments in your life when you think this is the life. It's talking about satisfaction. When Jesus says I am the life, He's saying I'll satisfy every need you have. Satisfaction, Christ life; Christ the way, navigation; Christ the truth, orientation; Christ the life, satisfaction.

Years ago I heard a little verse and I believe it's the verse of a song that goes like this.

*Friends all around me are searching to find
What the heart yearns for by sin undermined.
I have the secret, I know where it is found,
Only true pleasures in Jesus abound.*

The world is searching, you can know satisfaction in Jesus Christ. Now you can't know His navigation, orientation or satisfaction until you know Him as salvation. You have to put your faith and trust in Jesus. There's no other way to the Father but by Him.