

“Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. 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. ³ And 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. ⁴ And where I go you know, and the way you know.” ⁵ Thomas said to Him, “Lord, we do not know where You are going, and how can we know the way?” ⁶ Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. ⁷ If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; and from now on you know Him and have seen Him.” ⁸ Philip said to Him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us.” ⁹ Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? ¹⁰ Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own authority; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works. ¹¹ Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father in Me, or else believe Me for the sake of the works themselves. ¹² Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father.”

Text: John 14:1-12 A 9/17/17 Job 19:25-27 1 Peter 2:4-10 Psalm 98 Resp. Ps.: 25
Hymns: 728, 761, 355, 613

WE HAVE ETERNAL LIFE BY FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST!

Dear fellow believers in Christ,

Here’s a quote, with a little paraphrasing, which describes what religion is to many people today:

People will often say they are ‘spiritual’ but not religious; which usually means that they will believe any religion that doesn’t involve Jesus. Popular choices include (religions in which you don’t have to give up stuff and actually go to ‘church’). Mostly they are into religion that fits really well into their [home décor] or wardrobe and doesn’t require them to do very much. (quoted from the web site: “Stuff White People Like”)

In contrast to that, how blessed you and I are to have been given faith in Jesus Christ, and with Him, eternal life!

Jesus says, *“I am the way, the truth, and the life.”* In the original, Jesus is saying literally, *“I alone am the way”* Acts 4:12 says about Jesus, *“Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”* It’s not enough for someone to simply believe that there is a god. If a person believes in any other god than the God of the Bible, he believes in no god at all. He may be very sincere in what he believes, but the tragedy is that he doesn’t know God. God says through His prophet Isaiah, *“I am the Lord, that is My name; and My glory I will not give to another, nor My praise to idols”* (42:8).

Jesus says, *“No one comes to the Father except through Me.”* The only way to know the true God is through faith in His Son, Jesus Christ. Jesus says in John 5:23, *“All should honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him.”*

Jesus says, *“I alone am ... the truth.”* Jesus told Pontius Pilate, *“For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice.”* Pilate had the Son of God Himself standing before him, inviting him to know the truth about God and salvation in Him. But Pilate scoffed, *“What is truth?”* and threw away that opportunity to be saved (Jn. 18:37-39). Jesus invites everyone, *“If you abide in My Word, you are truly My disciples. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall set you free. ... If the Son sets you free, you shall be free indeed”* (Jn. 8:31-32, 36). We find God in the Bible. The Bible isn’t just one of many books that lead us to know God. The Bible is the **only** book that leads us to know God. The Bible promises us that *“faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God”* (Ro. 10:17).

Jesus says, *“I alone am ... the life.”* No religion other than the Christian religion, and no ‘spiritual’ experience other than faith in Jesus Christ, can give someone eternal life. There is nothing we can do or have to do to save ourselves. Jesus died on the cross for our sins, and rose again. The Bible says, *“Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, and you shall be saved”* (Ac. 16:31). Because we believe in Jesus, our sins are all forgiven. Jesus says, *“Whoever believes in Me has everlasting life”* (Jn. 6:47). Because we believe in Jesus, we are going to heaven!

Jesus assures us, *“You know [My Father] and have seen Him.”* When Jesus says that we *“know”* God, the idea from the original is that God lets us know Him through a personal relationship with Him. As the Apostle Paul says, *“I know whom I have believed”* (2 Tim. 1:12). **Christian** faith is not uncertain hope. People sometimes say, “Have faith” or, “Trust in your faith” (whatever **that** means). They talk about having faith that somehow, some way some higher power will see us through. That’s not faith, that’s wishful thinking. Hebrews 11:1 tells us that *“faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.”* The faith God gives us in Himself and in His Son is certain. The faith God gives us is the inner confidence that God really is there and that God really has saved us.

As Jesus was speaking about these things to His disciples, one of them, Philip, said to Him, *“Lord, show us the Father.”* Philip wanted to see God the Father. Jesus told Phillip, *“Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me?”* Jesus says, *“Blessed are those who have not seen, yet have believed”* (Jn. 20:29). We can’t see God. We don’t know God because we can see Him with our eyes. It’s because we have faith in Jesus that we know God.

Jesus asked Philip, *“Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own authority; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works.”* We can know God through faith in His Son because they’re one with each other. Jesus once told some Jews who didn’t believe in Him, *“I and the Father are one.”* They wanted to kill Him because they understood that He’s saying He’s one in **essence** with God the Father, equal with Him as God (Jn. 10:30-33). Philip didn’t need to see God the Father because he had God the Son speaking to him, revealing God to him. When we hear the words of Jesus Christ, we’re hearing the Word of God. God the Son and God the Father are one, and their words are one in the same.

Jesus says, *“Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father in Me, or else believe Me for the sake of the works themselves.”* Once a man named Nicodemus came to Jesus to learn about Him. He told Jesus, *“[I] know that You are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him”* (Jn. 3:2). Since Christ’s words are the Word of God, they have the power to convince us that He is God. Christ’s miracles also have the power to convince us that He is God, because only God could raise the dead back to life and do the other amazing miracles Jesus did. John says about Christ’s miracles that we read about in the Bible: *“These are recorded that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name”* (20:31).

Jesus assures us, *“Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. 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. ³ And 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.”* Just as God gives us certain faith in Himself, so God gives us the confidence that He is taking us to heaven. Jesus told the thief dying on the cross, *“Truly I say to you, today you shall be with Me in Paradise”* (Lk. 23:43).

In Revelation chapters twenty-one and twenty-two John gives us this description of heaven: *“I ... saw ... New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ... God ... will dwell with [men], and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be ... their God. And ... there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying; and there shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away. ... And the city was pure gold, like clear glass. ... And the twelve gates were twelve pearls: each individual gate was of one pearl. And the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass. ... And the city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illumined it, and the Lamb is its light. And the nations of those who are saved shall walk in its light. ... And ... they shall serve [God], and shall see [God’s] face.”*

Jesus tells us, *“Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father.”* What were the greatest miracles Jesus performed during His earthly ministry? It wasn’t when He brought someone who had died back to life. Jesus’ greatest miracles were bringing someone from unbelief to faith. Just before Jesus ascended back into heaven He gave us our life’s calling: *“Go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature”* (Mk. 16:15). Jesus converted many people during His earthly ministry. But He says that we believers since then have done *“greater works than these”* through our sharing of the Gospel which has brought so very many more people to believe in Jesus and be saved.

Dear friends, **WE HAVE ETERNAL LIFE BY FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST!** Believe it! Share it! Amen.