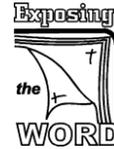




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The Gospel of **Verifying** John the MESSIAH

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35- I AM the Way the Truth the Life *John 14:1-14*

Jesus, spending His final hours on earth with His disciples, speaks about His departure as we looked at in our last session. We continue with this theme in this session as well. Jesus is going to make the seventh of eight I Am statements in our text. In the way of review let's look at the previous six.

- 1- I AM the Bread of Life *John 6:22-71*
- 2- I AM the Light of the World *John 8:12-19*
- 3- The Great I Am Debate and Declaration *John 8:20-59*
- 4- I AM the Door *John 10:7-10*
- 5- I AM the Good Shepherd *John 10:11-21*
- 6- I AM the Resurrection and the Life *John 11:25-26*

Here in *John 14* we look at the *I AM the Way the Truth and the Life* statement with the final one to come; I AM the Vine in *John 15*.

The Bible Knowledge Commentary introduces this section with the following which I think sets the tone of the group very well.

The disciples were completely bewildered and discouraged. Jesus had said He was going away (7:34; 8:21; 12:8, 35; 13:33), that He would die (12:32-33), that one of the Twelve was a traitor (13:21), that Peter would disown Him three times (13:38), that Satan was at work against all of them (Luke 22:31-32), and that all the disciples would fall away (Matt 26:31). The cumulative weight of these revelations must have greatly depressed them." (p 322)

I- Father's House:

During certain times of the year it seems very comforting to travel home. There is

something that draws us back to home. Jesus has told them He is going away and that had caused them anxious moments as they tried to understand and then gives them some of the most assuring words found anywhere in the Bible.

Joh 14:1-14 Let not your heart be troubled: ye 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 unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also. 4 And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know.

Audio Adrenaline sang the song that has been so popular with the younger generation called *Big House*. The chorus says:

Its a big big house
 With lots and lots a room
 A big big table
 With lots and lots of food
 A big big yard
 Where we can play football
 A big big house
 Its my fathers house

While some may scoff at some of the lyrics, my I say it seems to capture the feeling of us wanting to be there and a carefree atmosphere.

Jesus said He was going and preparing and returning and receiving us to Him. Now that is a promise worth hanging our hat on beloved.

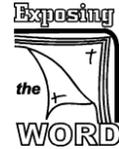
This coming back here He is referring to is the rapture of the church. *1Th 4:16-17 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: 17 Then*



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we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

This also, I feel can be seem as what I refer to as the personal rapture when Jesus takes us home one at a time in death. **2 Corinthians 5:8** *We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.*

II- The Question of Thomas:

Let me remind us of the crowd that Jesus is addressing. It is the remaining 11 disciples after Judas departed. Those that had traveled with Him now for about 3 years.

John 14:5 *Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way?*

The mystery was still foreboding. Thomas did not know where He was going and certainly knew He did not have a clue how to get there. Peter had voiced virtually the same question just a moment before in **John 13:33**.

III- I AM the Way, the Truth, and the Life:

In response to this question then Jesus makes the great statement in **John 14:6** *Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*

Jesus statement here is easy to understand. He is the only way to get to heaven. No other way leads to the Father's house. He is the singular way, the exclusive way, the only way. It was Christ who made it possible for us to come into the presence of God by His blood.

Many see the allusion here of Christ to **Isa 35:8** *And an highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The way of*

holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it; but it shall be for those: the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err therein.

We see that He is the new and living way in **Heb 10:20** *By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh.*

The fact is that He is Truth is evident when all other religions and attempts to reach God in other ways are investigated and understood. John had declared in **John 1:17** *For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.*

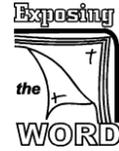
John has been telling us all along that He is the life. He is both physical life and spiritual life. Physical life would cease to exist without Christ who is one with the Father and Spirit. **Col 1:15-17** *Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: 16 For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: 17 And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.*

The spiritual life has been noted in **Joh 1:4** *In him was life; and the life was the light of men.* And also in **Joh 11:25** *Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live.* He who can call dead men back to life certainly is the Life.

IV- Show Us the Father:

Jesus tells them that they should have known the Father and that they had in fact seen Him. This leads to another question.

John 14:7 *If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also: and from henceforth ye know him, and have seen him.*



Philip is the one to speak. He is the third of the eleven to enter into the discussion.

John 14:8 Philip saith unto him, Lord, shew us the Father, and it sufficeth us.

Philip asks Jesus to show them the Father. Jesus reply is one of the most amazing and strong statements of His deity.

John 14:9 Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father? 10 Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works. 11 Believe me that I am in the Father, and the Father in me: or else believe me for the very works' sake.

Remember a moment ago in Colossians it said speaking of Jesus as “*the image of the invisible God...*” Every divine attribute that Jesus had displayed before them, every action, every emotion were simply a reflection of the Father.

Again we are reminded of those sign miracles that we have discussed. Jesus told them to believe for the signs that they had witnessed and He would be verified. It was the works of the Father that the Son accomplished that they had witnessed. He had done simply what John declared in **John 1:18 No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him.**

V- Promise of Greater Works to Come:

Jesus is going to make what we can see as an allusion to the promise of the Holy Spirit that He will flesh out in the coming verses.

John 14:12 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works

that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father. 13 And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. 14 If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it.

The promise that Jesus was giving them was that He would not leave them even in His death and when it looked like it was over it was really just beginning. He would continue to work through them throughout their life and He would hear their prayer and answer to the glory the Father.