

Text: Jn 14.1-6

Prelude Music: pianist (and/or other instrumentalists)

Processional: Family enters

When The Roll Is Called Up Yonder — 566

Eulogy (Dayrle Unger)

Slide show

Face to Face — 555

Scripture reading: Revelation 21.1-8 (Pastor Don)

Rev 21.1-8 ¶ Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer *any* sea. ² And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, “Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them, ⁴ and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be *any* death; there will no longer be *any* mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away.”

⁵ ¶ And He who sits on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new.” And He said, “Write, for these words are faithful and true.” ⁶ Then He said to me, “It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give to the one who thirsts from the spring of the water of life without cost. ⁷ “He who overcomes will inherit these things, and I will be his God and he will be My son. ⁸ “But for the cowardly and unbelieving and abominable and murderers and immoral persons and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars, their part *will be* in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.”

Testimonials:

As desired

Jesus Lover of My Soul — 356

Intro:

For this service, I'd like to talk to you about

The Hope of Heaven

When a Christian passes away other Christians say, "They are in a better place." Or "They are with their loved ones now." Or words to this effect...

I wonder if you have ever considered what these words mean. They imply something about very important theological truths – truths not universally held, but truly believed.

Have you ever wondered

- Whether these words could be true?
- Whether someone will ever say that about you?
- Whether these words would be true of *you*, if they are said when your time comes?

These aren't easy questions, but God does give us sure answers to them. I'd like to share some of them with you today. I'd like for you to know for sure where you will be when you die.

For our text, I'd like to call to your attention again to John 14.1-6

¹ "Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me.

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.

³ 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 you know the way where I am going."

⁵ Thomas said to Him, "Lord, we do not know where You are going, how do we know the way?"

⁶ Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me."

I. The Guarantee of Heaven: Given by Jesus (2-3)

A. These words are given to comfort distressed disciples "Do not let your heart be troubled"

B. These words assure of a definite place

1. "My Father's house"
2. "Many dwelling places" (κτιν "mansions")
3. "A place" ("I go and prepare a place for you")

C. These words promise a return and a reception

"I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, *there* you may be also."

I don't think a lot of explanation is needed to show how comforting these words are intended to be, nor how comforting they are to believers.

- *But that brings us to a crucial point:*

II. The Inhabitants of Heaven: Disciples of Jesus ("a place for you" 2, 6)**A. In the passage, Jesus keeps saying "you" and "your"**

1. Do not let your heart be troubled
2. I would have told you
3. I go to prepare a place for you
4. I will ... receive you
5. There you may be also

Who is this "you" and "your"?

B. In the immediate context he is clearly speaking to the eleven disciples (Judas has departed)

1. These eleven were faithful to him to the end and beyond
2. The promises clearly are meant for them, but are they meant for them alone?

C. In the exclusive statement at the end of the passage, Jesus implies these words have a broader application

⁶ Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me."

1. The only way to the Father (to heaven) is through Jesus
2. But he says "no one" not "only you" — thus, the way is open to anyone who meets Christ's conditions

III. The Faith of Heaven: Believing in Jesus (1, 10-11)

A. The passage begins with Jesus' conditions

¹ "Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me.

1. Believe in God
2. Believe in Christ

Which is to say, believe in the one true God of the Bible, revealing himself in three persons (two named here)

B. Later in the passage, Jesus restates the conditions in a slightly different way

¹¹ "Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me; otherwise believe because of the works themselves.

¹² Truly, truly, 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 the Father."

1. Believing in Jesus is seen as critical
2. If you have a hard time believing Jesus' words, examine his life and works, and believe for the works' sake

There never was anyone like Jesus – the most important man to ever live.

But, as the Bible says, he not only lived, he died, and rose again, to guarantee eternal life for those who believe.

Conclusion:

How do we know we will be in a better place when we die? How do we know we will be in heaven when we die?

If you will accept Jesus Christ as your personal Saviour from sin, you have his guarantee of heaven.

Men resist for two reasons:

1. They dislike the narrowness of the way
2. They deny they are sinners needing a Saviour

Believe in him and live!

Closing Prayer

O That Will Be Glory — 556

Recessional: Family leaves the room first