

20:20 Vision Ministries -- Devotions by Roger Browning Week 44 (October 27-November 2, 2013)

The material found in chapters 14 through 16 of John is priceless. Jesus is alone with the eleven disciples who will take the message of salvation into the world. Judas has already sold out to Satan (John 13:27) and departed from them. These teachings are given to those our Lord can trust. I pray you are one of them.

Sunday -- October 27 (John 14:1-3)

Jesus begins by telling His disciples not to worry about what is about to happen to Him (v. 1). They have already believed in the God (His Father) of the Old Testament; now He wants them to fully **trust** in Him, the Word made flesh (John 1:14). The Lord tells them that there are many mansions (rooms) in glory prepared for those who believe in and accept His plan of salvation (v. 2). He is not going back to Heaven to get **that place** ready for us (it is ready now); rather, He is going to give His life to get **us ready for Heaven!** You can be assured that He has indeed gone back into Heaven to intercede for us (Romans 8:34), so you can also rest assured that He will call us Home to Himself at the appointed time (v. 3). This is the only place where **Jesus** specifically references the Rapture when He will "receive us unto Himself" (KJV). Just like He tells His disciples, He now tells us: Don't allow your hearts to worry about the future. It is in His hands!

Monday -- October 28 (John 14:4-6)

The disciples are very slow to figure out the meaning of Jesus' declarations (v. 1-5); therefore, He tells them directly: "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me" (v. 6). This is the key verse to determine whether your faith is truly in Jesus or in manmade religion. I still hear people ask, "Don't you think that all religions lead to Heaven?" If you cannot believe this simple declaration of our Lord, how can you claim to understand God's plan of salvation? After all, who else but Jesus offers to pay for every sin you ever commit? Who else was born of a virgin, lived a sinless life and died willingly in your place? Who else but Jesus arose from the grave and now intercedes for you in Heaven? Either Jesus meant for verse six to be taken literally or else he lied about the way to possess eternal life. My God is not a liar, so I take Him at His word and come to the Father through Him for salvation as well as all earthly needs. I pray you are doing the same!

Tuesday -- October 29 ((John 14:7-14)

These amazing verses end with one of the greatest promises to be found in the Word of God (v. 13-14). Jesus tries to explain that He is One with the Father (v. 7-9). He had already said, "I and the Father are one" (John 10:30), but Philip and the rest of His disciples cannot grasp this concept. The writer of Hebrews declares, "The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word" (Hebrews 1:3a). That's why the Lord says, "Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father" (v. 9). He then questions whether or not they believe that the Father is living in Him and that he is living in the Father (v. 10). This is extremely important because, through the Spirit, both Father and Son now indwell the true believer. The entire spiritual life of the Christian comes to us by the Spirit! Can you grasp this concept? Do you know that you can do all things through Him (Philippians 4:13) and that apart from Him you can do nothing (John 15:5)? Tomorrow, we will look at His wonderful promise given to all Spirit-filled believers.

Wednesday -- October 30 (John 14:7-14)

Jesus assures us that we can believe this wonderful truth about the indwelling Father from the **miracles** He performed in His Name (v. 11). It is no coincidence that the liberal interpreters of the Bible deny His **miracles** as well as His **deity** in their teachings. They know that if they accept **either**, they will have to acknowledge **both!** Many people scorn the idea of taking Jesus **literally** at His word, but woe to those who put doubt in it. A Bible was recently published that separates what He **definitely said and did** from what He **may have said** and what He **could not have said**. I would not like to be in the interpreter's shoes at judgment! The Bible often warns about **adding anything to** His word or **taking anything away** from it (see Revelations 22:18-19, Ecclesiastes 12:11-12, Matthew 4:4). The decision to accept Him, literally, at His Word opens the door to the tremendous promise in v. 13-14. This promise is too great for me to fully grasp, but I accept it at face value. God knows that those who know the truth about the Trinity and the indwelling Spirit will never ask for anything **in His Name** except for those things that will bring glory to Him. Can He trust you with this promise? Can you trust Him to believe it and receive it?

Thursday -- October 31 (John 14:15-24)

We are not saved by our obedience, but we are not truly saved **unless** we have a desire to obey (see James 2:14-26). Jesus teaches, "If you love me, you will obey what I command" (v. 15). I have had many people tell me, "I accept a Savior to forgive all my sins, but no one is going to tell me how to live my life." That is not true salvation! When you give your **heart** to the Lord, you surrender your right to control your life! The person who is truly saved will receive the Holy Spirit (Counselor) to comfort him and to guide him into all truth (v. 16; see also John 16:13). That is another wonderful promise from Jesus! Worldly folks cannot understand the concept, because they insist upon running their own lives. We not only understand this concept, but we also have the Spirit living in us to witness to the truth (v. 17; see also Romans 8:13-17). Jesus never leaves us alone; the Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit are all actively engaged in everything we do and every thought we think (18-20). Twice more (v. 21 & v. 23), He repeats that the entire Trinity will be at work in the lives of all who love Him enough to obey His commands. Can you sing "Trust and Obey" and really mean it from your heart? He has promised much to those who can!

Friday -- November 1 (John 14:25-31)

The Holy Spirit is a **Teacher** as well as a **Reminder** (v. 26). The older I get, the more important the latter promise becomes. Those who obey Him and accept His wonderful promises are given an **inner peace** that the world can neither give nor take away (v. 27). The next verse (v. 28) seems to be a contradiction to John 10:30, but Jesus is referring to **functions** within the Trinity in this verse whereas He was referring to the **essence** of the Trinity earlier. In explanation, I like to say that God the Father **thought out** the plan of salvation; God the Son **bought** the plan of salvation, and God the Holy Spirit **brought** the plan of salvation. The Three are one, but they have different functions within the Godhead. Jesus foretells much of the future so that His believers will not be surprised (v. 29). Satan (the prince of this world) has no hold on Jesus because of His perfect obedience (v. 30-31). The great news is that He has no hold on us either because of the wonderful truth taught earlier in v. 20-21. "Come now; let us leave" the shallow life we are living and enjoy the wonderful promises of living in obedience to Him!

Saturday -- November 2 (John 15:1-5)

Jesus establishes the relationship we have to Him and His Father in verse 1. As the gardener, the Father decides what kind of plant we will be and where we will be planted. It is His job to clear the land, plant the seed, water the plant and remove all the weeds that try to choke it out. All of this is the work of the gardener, and God the Father fulfills that role. The vine does the rest of the dirty work, and God the Son is the vine. It is His job to search underground to find moisture and nutrients for the young plant. He also has to hold up the branches while they sway in the wind. He has to support the branches when fruit forms causing them to get heavy. Jesus does these tasks leaving us, the branches (v. 5), only to "hang in there" and bear fruit. Jesus also prunes the branches (we don't like that) so that we can be even more fruitful (v. 2). His only command to us is to **remain** in Him so that He can **remain** in us (v. 4). How hard can that be? We will examine the many promises that come to us as a result of obeying His command in next week's devotions.