

Sent: Wednesday, April 29, 2015 11:02 PM  
Subject: Last Nite's MOB Study

Last nite, in our study of John 14, we learned some really important things, mostly things only captured in John's Gospel! These were words from Jesus, on the "eve of the cross"--sometimes referred to as part of the "upper room" discourse, or His "farewell discourse"! We'll learn more in the weeks to come--but what we covered last nite was packed with profound doctrinal truth, and vital information for practical Christian living!

In the midst of the disciples' turmoil, after learning that Jesus would be betrayed by one of His own--and leaving them, and "going to a place where they could not go (at least for the time-being)--and in anticipation of how their lives would be totally shattered in seeing Him suffer and die on the cross--Jesus offered words of comfort! These words would only have real meaning and impact on them, however, "after the fact"! That is, after He would ascend up into heaven and return to His Father! But impact they would have! And application as well for every believer down through the ages, including for us today!

He said they were "not to let their hearts be troubled," but to "believe"! Believe in God (the Father!) and also in Him (among other things putting Himself on the same plateau with His Father). He said He was "going to prepare a place for them...but that He would be "coming back" (some day!) and, "receiving them to Himself, that where He was, they would be also!" (This was clearly a reference to the "rapture"!)

When Thomas (that would be "Doubting Thomas"! ) inquired about "the way to the place where He was going," He responded with some of the most important words ever spoken! "I am the way, the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through Me!" This, especially when understood in context with the rest of the Bible story, should forever settle the question of the "way to God," and heaven, and eternal life! And, according to Jesus Himself, the only way!

He next reiterated His relationship with the Father! He was "one" with the Father! He who has seen Him, He said, had seen the Father! John, in fact, had introduced Jesus in the very first chapter of His gospel as God Incarnate! God "in the flesh"! He was "with" God, and "was God!" His "intimacy" with the Father was expressed with the words, "the only begotten of God in the bosom of the Father," And one of the reasons He had come into the world was "to explain Him" (John 1:18).

Kostenberger, in his book, sees the unique and special relationship, and unity and connection, between God the Father and God the Son (Jesus) as being one of the central themes of John's gospel. And He maintains that Jesus "envisioned this intimacy of relationship" with His disciples as well--and with all His eventual followers! But in order for it to happen--and only after He was to return to His Father--He would send "another Helper," the "Spirit of Truth," who would not only "come along side" (as Jesus had done for His disciples), but "would abide with them and be in them forever"! And because of this, this would be empowered to do "even greater works" than when He was with them in bodily form!

All this explains what Kostenberger defines as the "in terminology"! We find this concept of the believer being "in Christ"--and Christ being "in" the believer, in the person of the Holy Spirit, throughout New Testament teaching. The key theme of Ephesians is all about the "spiritual blessings" we have "in Christ;" and Paul, in Galatians 2:20, writes about how that, when we become believers, Christ "lives in us" and that "the life that we now live in the flesh we live by faith in the Son of God, who loved us and gave Himself for us."

But there's more! John also wrote, in 14:26, that the Holy Spirit, "whom the Father would send in My name, would teach you all things. and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you!" This is clearly directed to His disciples, first and foremost, and explains how the apostles would later be used as "instruments" to write the divinely inspired writings of the New Testament, which would become "God's Word" and primary revelation to the world! And the same Holy Spirit, living in believers today, among His many ministries, "illumines" the Scripture to us as well.

But there's still more to our lesson from John 14! It's a kind of "wrap-up" thing! The idea is that when we're "connected" with God (through Christ alone), and have the Holy Spirit within us (as in the "in" terminology concept), we will love Him, and want to please Him and do His will, and glorify Him--and obey His Word (all of which is alluded to in this text). And the "end result" of the Spirit's working in our lives will be a deep and lasting peace! And so, Jesus, in His parting comments, includes another great promise, which, like the others, will only become apparent, and a great comfort for the disciples, "after the fact," that is, after His return to the Father! But it's now there for us as well, and it's with this thought that we close our look back at John 14:

"Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful!"

Have a great week, men!

Lowell