

**CCF Study Notes**  
**Tuesday 7 AM Study**  
**11 April 2006**  
**John Chapter 14**

Before beginning to read from John Chapter 14 let's spend some time in prayer, considering our life Christ. Let's just:

1. **Believe** Jesus rather than being troubled;
2. **Thank** Jesus for going ahead of us to prepare a place for us;
3. **Ask** to be kept in Christ – in the Way that we might not drift away;
4. **Look** to Jesus and know the Father;
5. **Seek** enablement to do the works of Christ – and even greater works;
6. **Allow** the Holy Spirit to abide in us that we may know the truth, and
7. **Remember** that our life is found only in Christ.

Chapter 14 continues the private ministry of Christ in the week leading up to His death. Judas had departed already so 11 apostles were with Jesus. The issue in this chapter is peace. Our hearts will be troubled if we do not believe. The central verse is verse 6, which outlines the chapter. The following phrases serve as section headings: **1)** "I am" (7-11), **2.)** "the Way" (12-14), **3.)** "the Truth" (15-18), **4.)** "the Life" (19-22), and **5.)** "No man comes to the Father except through Me" (23-24). These, together with the introductory and closing sections are the outline of chapter 14. Notice that the first verse is rephrased in verse 27-29. Jesus is the embodiment of His teaching.

Several themes run through this chapter. One is that Jesus is going to be with the Father. Notice the last sentence of the chapter! Is this a mere coincidence or was this intentional? Another theme relates to fear, troubled hearts, peace and believing. The ideas of seeing, knowing and remembering are woven through this chapter. We need to remember what we have seen, heard and know about Jesus.

Consider the introduction to this section (1-6): What is Jesus trying to accomplish in this section? What should we do when events trouble us? How do we survive in this troubled world? Where is Jesus going? Where are we going?

The major obstacle to knowing God is our failure to believe in Jesus Christ and his words. If God seems far off and unapproachable what's the real problem (7-11)? Notice the patience of Christ: "Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known me..." This phrase seems to be the answer to many of my complaints as they are lifted up to God: "Don't you know Me better than that by now!?"

When Jesus calls Himself the Way he is saying more than that He is the path to God. He is the strength that enables us to do all things – in particular, the means by which we come to the Father. The early church took this very name, "The Way". The way we accomplish anything in this life the way we get to heaven: through Jesus Christ. We create compartments in our lives and assume Jesus serves us only in one compartment. Jesus wants to serve (and to rule!) in all areas of our lives. Do we understand that the Father is glorified when we ask Jesus to enable us to do great works in His strength? But notice it doesn't say "If you ask anything in My name, you will **get it**." What does it say? What does that tell us about our asking?

But there must be a truth, a genuine faith about us. Are we keeping Jesus' commandments? How does this differ from the Jewish idea of salvation through keeping the law? Where do we get the strength to keep Jesus' commandments? We need a Helper! Consider the designation: The Spirit of Truth. What does this name signify? What are the prerequisites to having this helper? Notice that the Spirit dwells **with us** and also **in us**. What is the difference? How do you explain verse 18? (Consider the term "Spirit of Christ".) Satan wants us to believe the lie that God has left us on our own, to fend for ourselves. Jesus answers that question. The Spirit leads us into all truth.

But we need life. The evidence of Life in us is our love for Jesus Christ, and our obedience to his commands. What is one very significant commandment Jesus gave in Chapter 13?

If we strive to come to the Father by some other way we are rejecting Jesus. To reject Jesus is to reject the Father's love, give God no place in our lives, and reject God's final word to man: His Son. Can such a person expect to come to the Father? But something seems oddly backwards about the explanation given in these verses. What is it? This reversal is actually a great distinctive of Christianity setting it apart from every religion.

Jesus taught His disciples well, but would no longer be able to continue that ministry. Who takes over the teaching ministry? How did the four gospels come to be written and why do they contain so many details? We are offered peace for our troubled hearts and knowledge in place of fear. We know what's coming and we know how it all ends. So we don't need to be bothered or worried. More than that, we are encouraged to rejoice. Why? Love for Jesus is the basis for our rejoicing. Why does Jesus say that Satan has nothing in Him? How does that fit in this place in the text?

Let us close in prayer, embracing Jesus Christ and our inheritance in Him.

P.S. MP3s of recordings of these studies in John and copies of these notes are now posted at <http://www.apu.edu/~jstoker>. The MP3s are not streamed, and are 13-14 Megabytes in size. These will easily download via DSL connections but not via dialup connections.