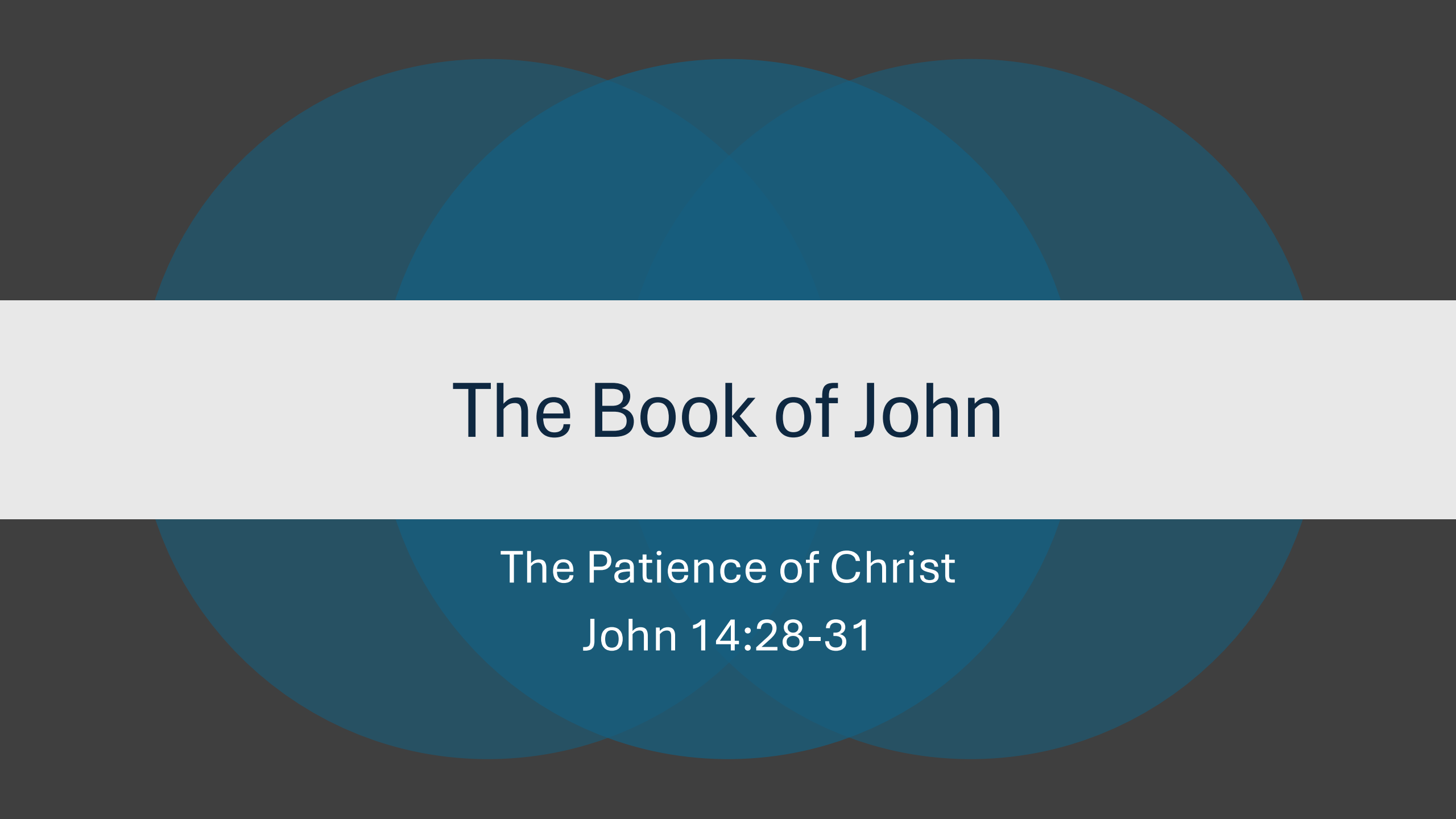




The Book of John

The Patience of Christ
John 14:28-31

John 14:28-31

28 “You heard that I said to you, ‘I go away, and I will come to you.’ If you loved Me, you would have rejoiced because I go to the Father, for the Father is greater than I. **29** “Now I have told you before it happens, so that when it happens, you may believe. **30** “I will not speak much more with you, for the ruler of the world is coming, and he has nothing in Me; **31** but so that the world may know that I love the Father, I do exactly as the Father commanded Me. Get up, let us go from here.

In chapter 14, Jesus attempts to calm the disciples' troubled hearts.

- **John 14:1** “Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me.
- **John 14:27** “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.

Chapter 14 covers questions or statements by four apostles (Peter, 13:36; Thomas, 14:5; Philip, 14:8; and Judas, 14:22) and Christ's words of encouragement to them.

First Question

John 13:36 Simon Peter said to Him, “Lord, where are You going?” Jesus answered, “Where I go, you cannot follow Me now; but you will follow later.”

- Jesus’ response is that He promised to prepare a place for them in heaven (14:2)
- He will return for them so that they will be with Him in heaven (14:3).
- **John 14:4** “And you know the way where I am going.”

This got Thomas thinking, so he asked a question

Second Question

John 14:5 Thomas said to Him, “Lord, we do not know where You are going, how do we know the way?”

- He assured them that the only way into God’s presence is through him (14:6).
- **John 14:7** “If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; from now on you know Him, and have seen Him.”

This led to Philip's statement

Third Question

John 14:8 Philip said to Him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.”

- He revealed his divine essence. If you want to know what God is like? Look at Me (14:9).
- Their spiritual power would be greater because of His return to the Father (14:12).
- Petitions were to be asked in His name for the purpose of God’s glorification (14:13).
- Love for Him should be the basis of future obedience (14:15).
- They would receive the indwelling of the Holy Spirit (14:16–17).
- **John 14:21** “He who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me; and he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and will disclose Myself to him.”

Not wanting to be left out of the discussion, Judas (not Iscariot) was confused by Jesus' statements, so he asked the following question:

John 14:22 Judas (not Iscariot) said to Him, "Lord, what then has happened that You are going to disclose Yourself to us and not to the world?"

- The Spirit will be their new teacher of new things and would cause them to remember the events of Christ's earthly ministry (14:26).

Jesus ends with repeating His guarantee of internal peace (14:27).

John 14:28 “You heard that I said to you, ‘I go away, and I will come to you.’ If you loved Me, you would have rejoiced because I go to the Father, for the Father is greater than I.

What do you notice in the phrase?

“If you loved Me, you would have rejoiced.”

- The verbs are past tense

What does that tell us?

- Their failure to understand and to trust him is a failure to love him.

Reason to rejoice

John 17:4–5 “I glorified You on the earth, having accomplished the work which You have given Me to do. **5** “Now, Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.

Question:

Based on what Jesus told them in this chapter, why should Christians today rejoice?

The Father is greater

The Father is greater (more important) than Jesus in the sense that the one who sends a messenger is greater than the messenger he sends.

This is the idea in John 13:16

- **John 13:16** “Truly, truly, I say to you, a slave is not greater than his master, nor is one who is sent greater than the one who sent him.
 - No slave is more important than his master

John 14:29 “Now I have told you before it happens, so that when it happens, you may believe.

Jesus repeatedly makes this statement to them

- **John 13:19 (NASB95)** “From now on I am telling you before it comes to pass, so that when it does occur, you may believe that I am He.
- **John 16:4 (NASB95)** “But these things I have spoken to you, so that when their hour comes, you may remember that I told you of them. These things I did not say to you at the beginning, because I was with you.
- Question: Why does Jesus repeat himself?
- Knowing these things, their faith will be strengthened when these things occur.

John 14:30–31 “I will not speak much more with you, for the ruler of the world is coming, and he has nothing in Me; **31** but so that the world may know that I love the Father, I do exactly as the Father commanded Me. Get up, let us go from here.

- The ruler of the world is coming is a reference to His coming crucifixion.

What is Jesus referring to when he said: “he has nothing in Me”?

- Although sin gives Satan his controlling power, he cannot control Jesus because “there is no sin in Jesus.”

The argument of the case is complete; Jesus says, “Come now, let us leave.”

- When we are engaged in Bible Study, we have to cross over a river involving time. We have to put ourselves in the disciples' shoes and ask: How would we respond to Jesus's statement about leaving?
- Hindsight is 20/20, but when you don't have anything to look back toward, what do you do?