



JOHN: Jesus, the Way, the Truth, and the Life

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Eddie Williams

Scripture Reference: John 14:1-14:7

You're listening to a sermon from Doxa Church in this, the third installation of our gospel of John series we'll take a look at the upside down nature of our Messiah, the many prophecies of his death and resurrection and the unstoppable nature of God's redemptive plan for his people. For more information about Doxa or to join us for a Sunday gathering, go to doxa-church.com.

Today we'll be reading John 14 verses one through seven. Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God. Believe also in me in my father's house are many rooms. If it were not so I would've told you that I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go to prepare a place for you, I will come again. And I will take you to myself that where I am, you may be also, and you know, the way to where I'm going. Thomas said to him, Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way? Jesus said to him: 'I am the way the truth and the life. No one comes to the father, except through me. If you had known me, you would've known my father also from now on, you do know him and you have seen him.' This is the word of the Lord. You may be seated.

Well, good afternoon, everyone. Good afternoon. Oh, I have some vocality. Good, good, good. Hey, my name's Eddie. If you're new, I'm the lead teaching pastor here. So glad you could all join us. We're in the midst of a series on John. So if you've got a Bible open up to that text, there, it was, uh, John 14. We're gonna be in verse one through seven and I'm gonna pray. We've got a lot to cover. We'll get it right into it. Well, Lord Jesus, you are the way aren't you in a world that presents many ways, presents a lot of different options for how we can live, who we should talk to, who we should date, where should we should work, where we should live. Lord, you present the way. And so I pray for provision and protection over the was listening to this message. It's a powerful message.

Lord, it's a powerful scripture rather. So I pray for provision and protection. I pray for a hedge of protection around the pulpit, that I might communicate this well, anything that comes, uh, from my mouth and not from you Lord, would that just be discarded in my friends, in their, in their hearts. So Lord Jesus, I do pray that as many of us are looking for the way you would clear what the way actually is. And it's you, we love you in his name. Amen. All right, I'll get this off the chest off my chest early. So, uh, will Smith slapped, uh, Chris rock across the face in this, on stage at the Oscars this week, right? If you were living under a rock, a just told you something really crazy. Like if you wanted to cap off 2020 and 2021 with a story, that would be it.

We finally get in person and then people are slapping each other in the head. It's crazy. Now I will confess to you that when I, I did weirdly enough randomly decided to watch the Oscars, which is not, um, it's not normally my style, but I did watch it. And when I watched it, I was like, oh great. Like I have something to talk. Like I can't wait to tell this on Sunday. And then as I going through the week, I was hot and I am so incessantly bored of this topic now--everybody's perspective about it. And now here I am telling you about it. Okay. So here we go. Well, if you didn't know, maybe my, maybe my mother-in-law didn't know. I don't know. He got mad at a joke about his wife and he walked up and slapped him in the face. That's what happened.

And nobody knew what to do. It was super uncomfortable. You maybe saw the clip stuff. It was really uncomfortable. Do you stop the show? Do you keep going? Do you call the police? Do you escort the fresh Prince of Bel-Air out? Like, what do you do? Right. Do you know what they decided to do in the moment? Nothing. They just let it happen--to be fair. Uh, there was a heightened sort of, you know, sense of intensity and emotion, like right, who would've known exactly what to do in that moment. But we can safely say, now that we live in a day where someone can slap another person across the face on national television, shout profanities at them, sit down, win an Oscar and get a standing ovation. 44 minutes later. That's pretty, pretty crazy. All of this is very troubling. I don't know about you.

It's a little troubling to me because that's, that's sort of the, the humorous version of all the trouble in the world. Like that's hilarious. It's troubling the fact that we're in a really weird time, but it's not the only thing going on. Right. Have you seen the, the gas prices you've seen the gas prices. Filled up right by my house. First time over \$5 finally hit it. 5 0 5. I drive a truck. It's a lot, right? Inflation, 7.89 percent, really close. Everything costs more. It's really expensive. Gas is, uh, you know, quite the struggle for people. You have all these things. There's obviously a war in Eastern Europe. Still continuing to go on. There's really, uh, sort of bizarre sexual ethics at play in our public schools across the country, particularly in Florida. And if you don't know what's going on, you can look it up.

It's incredibly troubling. There's a lot going on. And Russell Wilson got traded to the Broncos. Like this is just a weird time. It's really uncomfortable for, for us. What do we do? The world's troubling. But you know, what's more troubling than just the actual trouble in the world. The thing between our ears, you know what I'm saying? The actually it's, it's, it's the brain. Cause we do live in an age of anxiety. We live in a, a stressful time. I'm I'm not gonna debate that, but we also have a tendency to imagine things are worse than they are. Am I the only one that does that? Or do you freak out? Like I do. We freak out the enemy within sometimes is just as great as the enemy outside of us. You know what I'm talking about? Especially if you have a child and you've ever tried to bring them in to the doctor's office for a shot, does anyone ever try to do that?

And if you mistakenly, let it slip that they're going in to get a shot. Oh, that's terrible. I mean, literally a kid of ours will wander around the house after hearing this, like they're on death row. I mean, they're literally dreading 24 hours of just somber. They're sitting in the corner by themselves. They're really sad. And then you get 'em to the hospital and then they start panicking. Like it's a freak show. Has anyone actually tried to bring a kid in for a shot? I'm sure you have some tough kids. Maybe it's it's crazy. They act like they're being committed to an insane asylum. And they're like, no, they're fighting. And then what happens? It's terrifying, right? It's the end of the world. Then they get the shot and then what? Nothing. That was it. It wasn't that bad. Right? Sometimes the, the biggest monster in our lives is the one we're imagining, right?

That just like a kid. So there is real trouble, but we also have the added effect of magnifying our trouble. So what does Jesus say about this? Well, Jesus starts this passage for his disciples who by the way, are very troubled with a firm yet calm voice to his disciples. He says, don't let your hearts be troubled, but not your hearts be troubled. Well easier said than done Jesus. Right? And I would agree with that. It is easier said than done, but what's great about Jesus is he's been troubled before this. Isn't a guy who's not had any trouble. In fact, just earlier couple weeks ago, if you remember, we just did a passage right before Judas was about to betray Jesus. And it, the scripture says that Jesus was troubled in spirit. So this man, this God man has been through trouble and he leans into us even though he's been there before, Hey, listen, I know it looks bad, but don't be worried.

I'm gonna figure this out. He brings us that comfort. So what we're break, what we're about to break down is perhaps one of the most comforting passages in all the scripture. Now, when you hear it, the way the truth, the life no-one comes to the father. But by me, you often think of like a, sort of a big, like gung-ho message. And here we go. And that's all true, but there's some verses before it, some really powerful, comforting verses before we get to that. And Jesus wants to try--tell us that if we do find ourselves trouble today, for whatever reason, Jesus wants to help. Okay? So if you find yourself troubled, he wants to help. And he is about to help his disciples, learn a few different things and we're gonna learn those things too. Okay. Three things we're gonna learn today. First thing, how to be UN-troubled.

Okay. How do we be UN-troubled in a world like this? Why we shouldn't be troubled in the first place? That'll be fun. And then how to live instead. Okay. How to be UN-troubled. Why we shouldn't be troubled in the place? How to live instead. Okay. First. How to be Un-troubled. And yes, I would love to hear the answer to this one because there's a lot going on right? This world. Let's look at verse one again. Jesus says, let not your hearts be troubled. Drum roll. Believe in God. Believe also in me. So again, Jesus, right now he senses his disciples' anxiety. They are stressed out. They are ver--they're they're they're crazy right now. They're they're feeling this because Jesus said he's soon gonna die. He mentioned that to 'em. Right? And they love Jesus. The disciples witness one of their own Judas sprint out of the room to go off and betray Jesus just a few minutes ago.

Okay. And then Jesus told them he was leaving and that where he was going, they couldn't follow. And then Peter speaks up finally, last week, if you were there and he says, I'll follow you wherever. And he says, oh no, no, no. It's gonna be much worse. You're gonna deny me three times instead. So after all of that, every time they open their mouth, they get corrected and they're just going, okay, well, this is all really troubling, Jesus. And then Jesus says, don't be

troubled. And then his antidote, believe in God instead, believe in God instead. That's how you do it. So at face value, okay. Troubles's antidote is active belief in someone who can handle the trouble. Trub--trouble's antidote is active belief in someone who can handle the trouble. Now think about it. If you're a child, maybe some of you aren't too far away from being that.

Or maybe you are one right now, right? And you hear a noise under your bed. You know what I'm talking about, hear the noise in your closet and you go, you know what, that's a noise. That's a foreign noise. There's something serious going on. I'm sure that that is the monster from the Disney movie. I just watched a few hours ago. So rather than checking myself or just going back to sleep, I'm going to go get someone who can do something about this. I'm going to wake up my mother and father 1:30 in the morning and I'm going to ruin their sleep on the front end and the back end and in the middle. Right. And so you go in and you get mom and dad and you know, mom and dad walk in and they look around and they go, Hey, everything looks good.

I don't, there's no monster here. Everything's okay. And then the child is able to go, oh, you know what? If mom and dad say, there's no monster. I trust him. I'm gonna go to sleep. And sometimes it takes a little time, but they do pass out. But let's say that kid goes in there and he wakes dad up and dad goes, oh my, are you serious? Get the shotgun. And he goes against the shotgun, "grab the kids Cheryl, we're outta here". Right. And he goes and kicks in the door and he's like, oh my God, kid's gonna freak out. Right. It's terrifying. Let's let's not scare kids like that. Okay. Let's be a little more nuanced. But it, it that's how it works. Right. If the person who can solve the trouble is not worried. Why are you worried? Right. I fly a lot. Many of you fly a lot.

I know there's few pilots in here. Okay. You're way more educated. Don't laugh at me. Okay. This is how it goes. I get a little nervous with the turbulence. I don't know, about you. The seat's a little small for me, based on my size and my shoulder width. And so a little claustrophobic already. I feel the, the plane start rumbling. I get a little nervous. Okay. Now what do I do? When I get nervous on a plane besides reach for the paper bag and breathe into it, I don't do that quite yet. I look to the flight attendants. It's like every sane person in America. If they are fine, just serving diet Coke to people, I'm fine. Like, okay, well they're not worried. Or if I hear the, the, the, uh, the pilot come on and he says, attention, people buckle up, got a few bumps. No big deal.

Okay. Whew. We're good. But, and like this, this happened one time headed to Spokane from Seattle, you know, the overhead bins start opening and the stuff starts falling and hitting people. And the there's, they start scrambling up and down, man. I'm telling you, we're going down. Like I, in my mind, we are donezo. Like I'm praying. I'm I, I evangelize the person next to me. Like, you need Jesus. This is it. And I am just freaking out. Right. Because the people that can do something about the trouble they're freaking out. So I'm freaking out. Right. That's how it works. That's what Jesus is saying here. I'm the one--I can do something about your trouble. If I'm not worried, why are you worried? If I'm not worried? Why are you worried? When we take our trouble into our own hands, we are often unequipped to handle them and often make them worse than they are.

We often make it worse than they are just like me on the plane, panicking over turbulence, panicking over turbulence, Jesus here is saying instead of believing in your self, why don't you believe in me? Cause I have the experience. I've got the expertise. And I could tell you, I know this seems crazy, but I actually have it handled. Okay? Okay. That's how to be UN-troubled.

Why we shouldn't been troubled in the first place. Now you might say that's it just believe in God. Like I, I just not buying that. Especially if you're here, you're like, I'm not a Christian. I'm just kind of, exploring Christianity. That's not enough for me. Right? Oh, by the way, I forgot to ask the question. Who here by show of hands has flown on a plane. Anyone flown on a plane. Most people, I actually didn't fly on a plane until I was 18 years old. You get that? That's crazy. Okay. And if you're like me, any sleepers on a plane, anyone sleep by show of hands short flight long flight. You sleep. Maybe you can't sleep, but you tried anyone like that, right. You're okay to try to sleep. That's crazy.

Do you know the pilot, Derek? Do you know the pilot when you fly? Do you know the pilot? No. You don't know the pilot. So you got--you paid money to get in a metal tube that goes 500 something, miles an hour shoots off into the sky. And then you fall asleep on the plane and you don't know the guy who's flying it and you've never even seen him. You just trust him. You trust the brand of Alaska airlines or Delta with your life. That to me seems pretty crazy. That that seems wild to me. I don't think like when I first started sleeping on a plane, I, I was very nervous. I don't know who the guy is. We'll often trust somebody we've never met with our lives, but we won't trust Jesus when we know exactly who he is. It's so bizarre. And who is Jesus?

Exactly. By the way, who is he? Well, he's the God that shows us the way to live in this troubled world. He shows us the way to live in this troubled world. Okay? Look at verse four, Jesus says, and you know, the way to where I'm going. And Thomas said one of his disciples, by the way, who hasn't said a lot up until this point says, Lord, we did not know where you're going. How can we know the way? And Jesus said to him, I am the way and the truth and the life, no one comes to the father except through me. Now, remember Jesus told them he was going away, buddy. Now he's saying here, you'll know the way to where I'm going. And then Thomas here, poor Thomas he's finally speaks up and ask, well, where are we supposed to go? I don't know the way I don't even know where you're going.

How am I gonna know the way Jesus then gives his disciples and really us three big reasons why you should not be troubled in believing in a God like him. He gives him three, right in succession. I am the way I am the truth. And I am the life. Why that's why you should believe in me. Okay? Let's explore those first one. Jesus is the way why you should trust him. His ethics, his values, and his morality are the way to live in a world like this. Okay? Now a life with, with Jesus, contrary to popular, belief is not an instruction book or rules. It's actually more like a way of, life's it's like a way of living. You learn how to live with Jesus. As you walk with him day by day, even in the old Testament, the law or the Torah in the old Testament was not to be understood primarily as a set of rules, as much as it was a walk with God, it was a way for you to be holy enough, to walk with God and be in relationship with him.

Okay? And course we like to default to rule keeping. So, you know, we always go in that direction, but Jesus, in the way is not trying to get us to follow rules. He's trying to show us how to live. That's what he's trying to do. So the way the Jesus way, it leads to life. It leads to flourishing, even in a troubled world, in a complex world, like find ourselves in now our culture, the one we live in currently that we love and we're here to, we're called to help love the culture. Don't be like the culture, but I love it. I want, I its salvation. I want, I, I, I love the, the styles and the food that culture brings, but I want it to come to know Jesus, the culture doesn't present one way to salvation at all. Does it? It actually doesn't even present one way in general.

It actually presents many different ways through all these different ways. But Jesus here states that his way is the way, not many ways that the culture provides one way. Now, if you were here in November, I, we preached a series called "We are Church" and "We are Church" is a series on the church. But I actually took a sermon and talked about the way of Jesus, like, what was it like, how do you follow the way of Jesus? And I gave a definition there and I actually want to give you the definition again. Cause I think it will help sort of make sense of some of what the way is. So let's look at it here. This is my definition, the way of Jesus. It's embarking on the lifelong journey of seeking, knowing, obeying, and resting with Jesus. The way of Jesus follows him to the Gethsemane in doubt, the desert in need the cross in suffering and the tomb in life.

The way links arms with other imperfect people in the church, as we journey through our sin toward a redeemed future. So that's what the way is. And his way is peaceful. It's not high strung. It's not crazy. It's a calm, intentional walk toward holiness and morality. And that doesn't mean it's an easy walk. In fact, many times it can be very, very difficult, but it's simple. And it's honest, listen, the culture we find ourselves in is not simple and it's not honest at all. We actually live in a very complex and ever changing culture. And again, there are many ways to follow, to find the good life, not just one way in culture. So which way is it? Do you know why there are so ways that you can live to achieve whatever sort of like carrot is at the end of the stick in culture?

Do you know why there's so many different ways that you do? You, you ever heard that or, um, what's good for you is good for you. And what's good for me is good for me. You heard those phrases. Do you know why there's so many ways because the culture doesn't know where it's going. So if it doesn't know where it's going, then you can, anyone can build a road to nowhere. Why not just build a road in nowhere? And then it's just all about the journey. It's never really about the destination. Well, because there isn't a destination. If you're here and you're not a Christian, let me just ask you a question or you're here. Maybe you were a Christian before and you're kind of, you're figuring things out without Jesus in your life. Where are you going? I just wanna ask that question. Look, where are you going?

What is the purpose of your life? Where are you aiming at? Who are you trying to please? Now, if you go on YouTube or something like that, you can find a number of gurus and blogs that will tell you that they're pursuing the good life, health, wealth, happiness, aiming for those things. Where do those things get you. Where do they get you? Do you get first of all, do you, can you get 'em? That's the first part? Happiness. Huh? Wow. Good luck with that one. Right? Where do they get you? Well, if you're lucky, you can get some momentary happiness and or you can maybe get some sporadic seasons of abundance on your way towards you guessed it certain death because that's the end of the good life is the death. Because if you live by definition without Jesus, you die. That's what the good life gets you.

And which way do you go to get the good life? Because again, there are so many ways like what job do I have? Like, do I start a business? Who do I marry? How do I live? What's morally right and wrong in the world. Am I created? Or have I evolved out of a primordial ooze -- Stardust, bumping into Stardust? What do I do? It's tough. Jesus way though is way clear. It's much clearer than that. It's incredibly clear. It's guaranteed. In fact, it also provides something that the culture's way cannot provide you, which is meaning and value. Those two things are nice.

The reason the culture cannot give you a way to meaning and values because it's not actually rooted in any truth either. Which actually leads me to my next point. The reason--second reason

we should trust Jesus. Jesus is the foundation of truth. So he is the way. And he's the truth. We live in a culture that has no idea what's true or not. No clue. None. The goalposts keep moving on. What's good and fair. Right? I feel like, you know, uh, Charlie Brown trying to kick the football, you know what I'm saying? Lucy catches the ball and then man, maybe this is an old analogy. And then she moves the football and then Charlie Brown misses and he falls. That's like the truth in the culture. Whoop. Nope. That's not it. We have no idea what it is. Has anyone else noticed how inconsistent the culture's values are today? Has anyone, is it too? Is me? Ooh, it's bad. Okay. Let's take our Oscar fiasco for example, let's go back. Let's go back. Come on. Will Smith walks up on walks onto the Oscar stage again, hollowed ground for the Hollywood elite and slapped the Jesus outta Chris Rock shouted, profanities, at him, and then sat down and got a standing ovation.

And again, the shocking part in all this is that nobody did anything, nothing. Now I was sitting there going somebody like escort the dude out. Like that's messed up. I mean, if you're at, if you're at your kids' soccer banquet and the coach says something and his kid gets up and goes up and slaps the coach, that was disrespect. You mean to tell me I'm the most improved? I'm the MVP. And you would, Hey, listen, Timmy, we're outta here. Like you can't, you can't slap somebody. And yet he stays here. Now what's crazy about all this is that actually Will Smith the abuser in this situation, he was loud--he was lauded. People loved him. Everyone that was in attendance, stood up for him and clapped several people that were interviewed actually, um, were happy that he stood up for his wife. So I I'm just gonna ask the room. Okay. I'll just ask the room is shouting profanities at someone and physically assaulting them a wrong.

Yes. Okay. Learn that in first grade. Okay. It's bad. Right? Let's take it a step further. Okay. Let's say the man Will Smith slapped was not a Black man. Chris Rock. Let's say it was a woman. Let's say he slapped a woman. Would the reaction be the same in the culture? No. Rightfully so. We do not want people being slapped. We especially do not like men slapping women. That's that's wrong. So how is it that changing one variable outta this equation changes them different and creates a different moral outcome. How does that happen instead? What it shouldn't. First of all, instead we watched Hollywood's elite who represents sort of the spiritual, the spirit of today's culture. Sit silently as their own ideologies bent in on themselves. And they, we call that an intersectional car crash. They no idea what to do because some of these things are true in culture.

And we know it's wrong to slap someone, but what or two Black people wonder if one of them's white? Wonder if one is one Latino, if one's handicapped or a woman, like what do we do? The cultural standard changes. But we know those, I guess should say, if you believe the Bible is true, we understand foundationally that you should not hit someone and you should not shout profanities at them. Okay. We understand that to be true. It's not always easy to understand. Sometimes it's very difficult, but in fact, we know it's true. Okay? So we watch these sort of ideologies bend in on themselves. We watch a cultural Del standard incarnate sort of take place and intersectional car crash happens. There's no foundation in the worldview of a culture other than what's popular. And what's helpful for today. Paul actually calls this something in Romans one.

He says that people, um, exchange the truth about God for a lie, that they became foolish in their thinking and their, their hearts were darkened. He, he says that people suppressed the truth by their unrighteousness. It's actually a, it's actually a symptom of sin. It's something that lives deep

within us. For those of us that are Christians. We, we believe that people are sinful. We have sinful natures and we actually don't desire everything. That's right. And good. And just because we feel something is true, doesn't actually make it true. That's why we believe in someone who has the truth or who is the truth. That's Jesus God's word gives us unchanging standards and morality. His, his truth is the same yesterday. Today. Forever. Always true all the time. We don't have to wonder which way the cultural wind is blowing in order to figure out whether or not someone's allowed to slap somebody.

We just know it's wrong. Doesn't matter who it is. We don't need to understand those different things. We don't have to check Twitter or Instagram or at various--check in with our local public school district to understand what's actually true about the world. That's what the scripture does. It gives us the actual truth. Now we don't have to wonder which way the culture is blowing, but it also means that multiple truths, if they contradict one another cannot be all true at the same time. Okay. I feel like that should go without saying right. I'm wearing white shoes and then I'm like, well, they're red to me. Okay. Well, so they're red and white shoes. No. Well they're also blue shoes. Well, what color shoes are they? They're white. What are we doing here? There's one truth. In fact, the one truth, his name is Jesus. And he is not just the way.

He's the only way. He's not just the truth. He's the only truth. That's right. That's what we believe. And if you trust someone who can do something about the trouble you're experiencing, instead of trying to solve all your own problems with cultural ideologies, then maybe we'll get somewhere or maybe, oh, Jesus will just come back. Okay. Jesus, the way the truth. He's also the life. Jesus leads to life. Now Jesus truth lead to the flourishing of humanity. This means when I say flourishing, I mean families, legacy, repentance, salvation. These are ideas that come with flourishing of humanity that God's truths bring to us in his life. Now cultural truths are not that they're incredibly inconsistent and they lead really to human, not growth, but stunting, I dunno. If were you old enough? I don't know if this was like a nineties thing or my mom used to tell me that if I lifted weights or drank coffee, when I was a kid that I would stunt my growth.

Is that like just a lot? Did she lie to me? Be straight with me? I gotta work this out my Tuesday. I'm my counselor. Stunt your growth foolish. Listen, when we follow the way the culture leads us, it stunts our growth. It makes us weak. It makes us selfish. It makes us incredibly sensitive and it makes us individualistic, right? The culture, the culture might say, you know, who cares, who you're intimate with? You know what that leads does that lead to life? Who cares, who you're intimate with? Does anyone got--does anyone got good results with that yet? Not--it doesn't lead to life. It leads to shame. It leads to loss. It leads to guilt. Spend your money on you just do you, you know, whatever that doesn't lead to a life of flourishing. It leads to a life. First of all, on yourself, debt and bankruptcy, but also greed.

And there are so many needs that are going unmet. Make the most outta yourself. Now be punchy, go viral, right? Figure out how to go viral. That's not self actualizing at all. Or self aggrandizing at all. Social medias' get incr--are beginning, increasingly more performative each iteration. And now pretty soon now we're dancing in front of our mirror trying to get likes, clicks and comments and views. We're selling ourselves. This culture teaches you to run and run fast. I mean, you guys know what I'm talking about. I've talked to some of you-- I'm busy. Oh man. I, yeah man. I'm so busy. I got all, not only do I have kids job vacation, this that right. Text tweet, email message. DM vacation, earn money. Busy, busy, busy. Can't sit too long. Woo. What's the

life without Christ to get you in a world. That's like this, a crazy treadmill that you're just running on constantly.

What's a world like this. Get you a life without Christ gets you a fast-paced exciting viral treadmill of life. That ends you guessed it in your death. And guess what your tech company's gonna do for the people that know you at your work, they're gonna get you count it. 10 days bereavement to grieve your death. That's what they're gonna get. 10 days bereavement, bereavement. You're gonna grieve the death of someone. You know, and guess what? Right after those two weeks back on the treadmill, as they sprint towards their own death, that's where we're going a life without, after Jesus, not after the culture promises far more. First thing flourishing in this life. You wanna leave a legacy financially, spiritually for your children. That's what a life after Jesus can do for you. It's a spiritual legacy of people worshiping Christ. They have the blessing of God on their lives.

That's what I want. I don't want my kid to have 285,000. There's nothing wrong. I have a lot of followers on social media, but that's, if, if that's all you have, you're in a bad spot. It's not legacy. Does this want, does this, let me just, does this culture want your flourishing? Does this culture want you to flourish? Or does it wanna milk you for your resources until you're finally old enough to not need 'em anymore? That's what they--what's we call the rat race. We literally string up mice in wheels and have 'em spin around for experiments. That's what people are doing. It's not the way of Jesus. The way of Jesus also gives us eternal life, a life beyond today. You don't have to sprint. Now when you know you're around for eternity, because guess what? This life is a sprint. If there is no eternity, because this is all there is you better get much as you can.

But man, if you've got an eternity, whew, I'm, I'm gonna kind of take it a little slower. I'm gonna walk with Jesus. I gotta run or sprint. I'm gonna walk. All right. How to live instead. That's a lot of stuff. How do we live? What do we, how do we make sense of all this? We talked about how to be UN-troubled. We talked about why we shouldn't be troubled cuz man, this Jesus is the way the truth and the life now. And with how do we live instead? Look at verse two of our text "in my father's house, there are many rooms. If it were not so would I have told you that I go prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again. And I will take to myself that where I am, you may also be", man, that is so encouraging Jesus going away, but he's, he's gonna come back.

He's gonna prepare a place for the disciples and his, all his disciples and he's preparing a place. And then he is going to eventually come back and then get them, get us. So then we can meet him where he is been building those places. So again, that's amazing story. And it's incredibly powerful. But to close our time, there are three ways that are heavenly perspective. If we understand that could actually inform how we live today. Cause it's great that we know that information, but how does it actually change us now? Yeah. So here's the first thing. Be heavenly minded, knowing that we're going to heaven, knowing that God preparing a place for us now changes how we live. I I'm somebody who loves to get stuff on the calendar. I'm that guy. Right? So when I go on vacation, I like to get it on really early.

I share this with some of our volunteers out there. I used to run Spartan races. Does anyone run Spartan? They're not popular as much anymore, but they were. You get a cool picture, jumping over a fire at the end--the fire is not really big. They angle it. It makes it look big. It's not big. It's

not big. If you, if you've got a lot of medals and you're feeling cool, I'm sorry. I just didn't think it was that big. Anyway, you have, you have, oh my gosh, you get that on the calendar and guess what happens? I gotta start training. I gotta start eating well, I gotta get ready to go. Right. I also like to get vacations on, on the calendar because especially, you know what I'm talking about in the, in the late fall, in the early winter months, especially in the Northwest, out in this area, it's nice to see that you've got some warm place on the calendar coming, right?

Cause you can get through some of those days because you know, something's better is coming, right? So once I get something on the calendar, it changes my perspective on the present changes the way I think now. Jesus, right now is building a place for you, specifically you for those of you in Christ, for those of you that want it. Jesus is preparing a home for you. As we speak, he's building it. He's customizing it. He's getting it ready. He's actually cooking the food. He's doing all these wonderful things. And then he's gonna come back and get you, get us and bring us to his presence. And we're gonna get to be in this literal place. That's what we're talking about here. He's cooking the, the food he's coming back, all this great stuff. Now some of us have felt sort of restless by all the drama today. The trouble, the politics, the media, the actual genuine things in your life like illness that it's happening. Financial struggles, personal sin. One day Jesus is going to come and get you and end the turmoil for good. That's gonna be so good. How would you like to spend a day on earth? Like I've been thinking about this recently. How would you like to spend a day on earth? Where you walk the street and you didn't have a single sniffle? Like the plants weren't actively trying to, to kill you with histamine.

You wouldn't cough. You wouldn't sneeze. Nobody would cut you off. There would be no red lights. There would be no bickering in the car with your spouse, your sibling, there would be no anger. There'd be no legitimate loss. And there would be no fear that that day would actually ever end that day would go on in perpetuity forever. You know, that's really gonna happen. That's actually, what's going to happen. Christ is going to come back. He's going to redeem and renew the world. There will be no evil, no brokenness, no loss. And you will walk the planet on your best day, a thousand times over. And it will never end. That's the story of Christianity. That's the story that Jesus brings. So when he says I'm going to prepare a place for you, that's not like, oh, let me just let me just zone out here because there's a lot of mumbo jumbo.

So actually he's going to prepare a wonderful place for you to dwell forever. He's gone for you. It's unbelievable living in light of a future. Hope like that should change how we live now. Shouldn't it? It should. So being heavenly minded would guard our troubled hearts because then we could ask, you know, how could I see a situation or this person or this, this problem is conundrum in light of heaven. So when life gets hard or indeed it will indeed it will. And when troubles come and of course they're coming, we can find comfort and rest for our hearts in the fact that there will be an eternal home, that all these troubles will be gone. That's the heavenly mindset you need. It gives you an inner ballast, something that keeps you afloat no matter what happens to you, problems come. It doesn't matter. I'm I'm gonna be with Jesus soon.

Oh, problems here. Hey, listen, you need to be with Jesus too. Let me help you out and get to understand this. It gives you an eerie, calm. Yeah. I like to do this exercise where I sit, you know, I like imagine I I'm, I'm sitting and I'm praying. I'm praying to Jesus. And, and I'm imagining myself present with Christ and I'm, I'm sort of looking down at a river. And I just imagine my troubles just being in the river, all the, the discomfort, the seasonal depression, the, the anxiety about health conditions, the, the, the stres with children and the sicknesses and all the

loss. I just imagine me being present with gr--Christ and not present to those things. And I want, watch them go by and I take note of them. And I learn from them and then I can move on and be with Jesus.

That's what we get to do. When we're heavenly minded, we also get to pursue heavenly company as well. You know, I believe Jesus. I, we get to see it in the scriptures, but I bet Jesus is a master conversationalist in real life. I bet he is. So I bet the art of conversation is so powerful to him. I, he could write the book on it. He did in fact do that. Yeah. Perfect company. He's preparing a place and that's premeditated when you're preparing something, right? It's not whipping up a box of Kraft, Mac and cheese to give to the kids. I didn't prepare that. I just did it real fast. Okay. When I'm prepping a wonderful meal, it takes time. It's, it's intentional. It's slow. I bet that's what Jesus is. Like. What if we were like that to people in our lives? Wonder if we were slow, intentional, wonder if we worked to be a non-anxious presence in the life of other people?

Wouldn't that be something I know all of us are waiting for the non-anxious present person to come help us. But what if we were that person to them? Wouldn't we attract that wouldn't we help shape them into that. Now I know that might take some work. Okay. It's like, that's easier said than done. But if we work to mold our current friendships and family relationships in a heavenly company, and we were seeking a depth of conversation, asking questions, opening our home, eating good meals together, enjoying music, enjoying one another's presence. I would suggest work to build a bullpen for yourself of quality friendships that would mirror heavenly company that you will have in heaven. Cuz Jesus will be heavenly company. And remember you're not just going to receive the place of heaven, but the person of Christ. Okay. And we serve, we get to love.

We get to accompany others in anticipation of how we'll be accompanied by Jesus. And if you're thinking, you know what? I just need people in my life to do that for me first. I'll tell you what, I'll tell you the same thing that I tell when I'm doing, uh, counseling for like college kids or like I'm just looking for a good girl. I can't find a good girl. I'm a, I'm a guy I want good girl. Who's awesome. Who's great. She can cook. She smells good. She's athletic. She's tall all these different things, right? And I say, okay, if you want, if you want a good girl, you gotta work on being a good guy that the good girl wants. If you're not a good guy, it doesn't matter how great you want her. You're just dreaming. Okay. If you want a good friend in your life, you should work on being a good friend that a good friend wants.

That would probably be a great start. How can I be as best of a friend, heavenly company to people and cultivate those relationships over time. Last thing. So we talked about being heavenly minded, pursuing heavenly company, bring heaven to earth. You know that Jesus will be the ultimate host. He's gonna be a wonderful host. Think of the most amazing architecture you've ever seen. Maybe you have been to Rome. Maybe you've been to, uh, Rio de Janeiro. Maybe you've been to some of these wonderful places in Europe and you've seen the wow, the crazy architecture or maybe you've just been to a really nice hotel like me. Yeah. The Blasio's great. Wow. You know, I've never seen, you know, I've never seen the empire state building, but there it is in Vegas, like, oh, that's crazy.

That's me. Wow. Anyway, imagine the amazing architecture in these places, right? Just all this wonderful architecture, as great as all that stuff is. And as comfortable as the nice coziest hotel was ever been in your life, Jesus is going to do that for us. A thousand-fold. He's working

overtime to make sure that the place we walk into is a million times over wonderful and better. What if we sought to master the art of hospitality for others like Jesus is doing for us? What if we decided we wanted to create a place? And by the way, not just a place for people, but a presence for people. It's not just hospitality. Isn't just a, a, a place at your living room. Although it is, it's also your presence. What if we, we saw to create a place and a presence free of judgment and full of truth and kindness and comfort and love and a non-anxious presence.

What if we did that for other people, you know, we can live with heavenly anticipation now and welcome others into it because we know what's coming. Do you understand? Check out to end our time. Look at, uh, first John chapter three, verse two "beloved (talking to the church) we are God's children now. And what we will be has not yet appeared, but we know that when he appears, we shall be like him because we shall see him as he is." You're gonna see Jesus as he is one day and you're gonna be like him. Let that sink in. And I listen, I know we can't fully grasp that right now, but one day we're gonna be like it. What if we lived like that? Now? What if we lived? Like we were gonna be like Jesus, one day. And other people felt that and experienced it and actually gave their lives over to the cause that made us awesome.

Wouldn't that be something we should after all, because we can live with great confidence in this Jesus. This Jesus is the way he's the truth. He's the life. The three things we long for the most. How do I live in this crazy world? What's this world actually about? And man, I sure wanna live as long as I possibly can. Jesus gives us all three. That's it? That's the answer. He's not just the way the truth in life. He's the only way, the only truth and the only life. And so here, friend, if you're here and you're trying to understand Christianity, you're trying to understand Jesus. And maybe you're just understanding this for the first time. Let me tell you something. You've been living your life a long time, trying to figure out what way is up and what way is down. You're gonna live in a culture.

That's gonna tell you to swim upstream when super hard, you're gonna tell you you're gonna live in a, culture's gonna tell you to get a specific job, to work specific money, to do this with your kids, do that with your kids. Wait, don't do that with your kids. It's gonna tell you the truth is not the truth. That the truth is that is the truth. Isn't the truth. It's gonna tell you all different things. I'm even confused saying it it's nuts. One public school's gonna tell you one thing, another public school's gonna tell you. Private School's gonna tell you something different than the homeschool is gonna tell you this grocery store full of masks, this grocery store's living like it's 1940. You have no idea where to go, who to live. That's what the truth brings you. This world, Jesus is the actual truth and the trouble that we all experienced because of that, man, that trouble is nothing to the trouble stopper.

And that's who we worship, the trouble stopper. Do you want that guy today? I want him for you. Let's pray, Lord. We need you. We seek you. We long for you. I pray for special power right now, Lord God, by the power of the spirit, would you just help anoint my brothers and sisters here that are far from you, would you help them? Lord God, would you anoint my brothers and sisters that that love you that are, but they're having a tough time experiencing the trouble of this world. Lord God. It is hard to be a person right now in 2022, but you are not someone who doesn't experience trouble yourself. And that's why we're comforted by you. Lord, you say comfort. Those with the comfort you received, well Lord Jesus help us to be comforting to those in our lives. We've experienced hardships like us as you've helped us would the spirit fall, would our hearts be open? Would our minds be receptive? And with those that are far from you, come

to know Jesus and decide that, oh, this Easter is baptisms at Doxa, and maybe I should get baptized. We love you. And in his name we pray. Amen.