

“Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.’”

In this time of the year, we may be thinking about the way. Maybe it’s the way to college as we celebrate high school students graduating and making plans to go off to college. The way to your new career as you graduate college and make plans to move to your new job. The way to your vacation destination this summer. Maybe you’re simply thinking about the way to your favorite local destinations with orange traffic barrels blocking off the ways you’d normally go.

The way was also what Jesus had in mind as He prepared His disciples for His departure. This reading from John 14 is called the Upper Room discourse and is a peek into the words Jesus said at the Last Supper with His disciples. Jesus wanted to give the twelve important teaching in the hours before He would go the way of the cross to the tomb to the resurrection to the right hand of God.

In our text, what did Jesus want to say? **BECAUSE JESUS AND THE FATHER ARE ONE, WE HAVE HEAVENLY DEEDS.**

First, I. Jesus and the Father are God. Jesus is at pains to let us know in this text that He and the Father are God. Our text starts, **“Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me.”** We might understand Jesus as saying, believe in God, that is, believe in me. In this statement, Jesus is saying that He is God.

But Jesus’ disciples have some doubts. **“Philip said to him, ‘Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.’”** Jesus chides Philip saying, **“Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’?”**

“Whoever has seen me has seen the Father.” So it is that if we want to know about God, our Heavenly Father, we need not simply ponder vague religious thoughts, meditate on a mountain, or peer into the clouds, but rather, we simply look to Jesus Christ who has revealed Himself through His Word.

Our Heavenly Father is all-powerful. He is outside of time. He is the creator of all. He knows all things. He is invisible. He is holy so that we as sinful creatures would melt like wax in the face of His glory. How can such a God interact with His creation? Through His Son Jesus who is Himself God.

Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life. We learn the way God acts through the way Jesus lived for us, died for us, and lives again for us. This is the way God loved the world: that He gave His only Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

Jesus’ lowly birth show us the God who is willing to humble Himself to bring us back to Him. Jesus’ perfect life demonstrates how perfect and holy our Heavenly Father is. Jesus’ sacrificial death on the cross in which He bore our sins proves beyond a shadow of a doubt the Father’s love for us. Jesus’ resurrection

previews what is coming for us, that we will spend eternity with the eternal God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

That's our hope as Christians, that through Jesus' birth, life, death, and resurrection we have the way to the Father. We have the hope of eternal life. We have salvation.

Jesus continues, **“Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works.”** What we need to learn from this upper room discourse is not only that Jesus shows us the Father, but when we hear Jesus, we hear the Father.

Jesus' teaching throughout the Gospels is not simply manmade opinions, but it is the teaching of God Himself. When Jesus taught, people were amazed, **“for [Jesus] was teaching them as one who had authority, and not as their scribes.”** How can you have a more authoritative word than from the one who knows all things, created all things, and has power over all things?

And so, II. Jesus provides us a heavenly deed. By deed I mean a slip of paper which describes property rights. As we all know, a property deed is more than just slip of paper. It is a promise. A deed is a promise by the government and the legal system that you and you alone own a piece of land, and perhaps as long as you have a mortgage, the bank owns it also.

We closed on two houses, and man, there's a lot of papers you have to sign. It's a lot of work to transfer property, and usually it is best advised to have the professionals handle all the details.

But better than any real estate transaction, Jesus promises us an even greater deed: **“In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.”** Some translations translate rooms as mansions. Through faith in Christ, you have been granted a heavenly deed.

Of course, a deed is not the property itself. Looking at a piece of paper is not the same as sitting in your family room curled up on the couch or enjoying a nice spring day on your back deck. We're not to the property yet. Jesus promises that He is coming back to take us to that heavenly estate.

At the resurrection of the body, the Lord will renew the heavens and the earth, and we will live in a resurrected body that no longer feels aches and pain, has no illnesses or diseases, and will never age. If that wasn't good enough, Jesus is preparing a place for each of you who has faith in Him. You have a place in the new heavens and the new earth.

How can we trust Jesus? Precisely because of our first point, that because He is God, we can take Him at His Word that this is the case. This is not the word of

some con man, but the Word of the trustworthy, holy, and almighty God who indeed is the way, the truth, and the life.

As you consider the way this year: whether it be the way to college with the goal of the career that could get you a halfway decent place to stay, the way to a career that will let you pay the bills, the way to your vacation, or the way to yet another doctors appointment, wherever life may take you, never forget the heavenly deed promised to you, and live a life with that promise on your mind and on your heart.

No matter where your life may take you, you have Jesus going with you on the way. High schoolers, no matter where your college journey make take you, remember that you always have a home at the church, and be sure to find a church home to worship when you're off in another city.

Finally, III. Jesus provides us heavenly deeds. Beyond preparing us a heavenly place, Jesus has plans for us in the between. Jesus concludes our text with a somewhat enigmatic saying, **“Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father. Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.”**

How could it be that we would do greater works than Jesus? Who is greater than God? We believe in the Triune God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and what Jesus looks forward to here is the day of Pentecost. We commemorate Pentecost May 28th and on that day we celebrate the Holy Spirit coming into the hearts of believers.

It is through the Holy Spirit indwelling in believers that we as a collective can do greater works than Jesus. The Church throughout the world is imperfect and this side of heaven is full of sinners, but across the world and across time we have been the hands and feet of Jesus to continue to do His will to care for a dying world, to proclaim forgiveness to sinners, and to show the love of the Father to those around us.

“For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.” There are good works that God has planned for you to do. You get to be a picture of Jesus to those around you.

On this day we celebrate high school and college graduates, but we also are perhaps a bit sad because they're moving away, but as they know the way, the truth, and the life, and as they are assured of their heavenly property deed, we can rejoice that as they move to new towns to meet new people they take with them heavenly deeds that can show others the Father through the love of Jesus.