

“The Way, The Truth, The Life” (Part 3)

John 14.1–6

¹“Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. ²In My Father’s house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. ³If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also. ⁴And you know the way where I am going.” ⁵Thomas said to Him, “Lord, we do not know where You are going, how do we know the way?” ⁶Jesus said to him, “I AM the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.” [NASB]

HOPE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

PORTSMOUTH, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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I. Introduction

I received another of those messages from our life insurance agency urgently inviting me to convert to a permanent policy. Now, I know this is an important consideration. But I could not help chuckling at the closing sentence stating that I had until Dec 26, 2026 to exercise this urgent option. Perhaps by then we will have gotten to John chapter 18, and I will take a short break to preach through Hebrews. Well, far more urgent than an insurance option, is being gripped by the truth of this passage. Herein is the *real* permanent life insurance. And it is *not* optional but *mandatory*. I will give a very brief two-point review of our past two weeks in this passage. Then I will add one more word about trouble. And then... yes, and then we will investigate the Un-Troubled Path.

A. Two Troubled Persons

The first point of review is that there are two troubled persons in this room. Jesus is one of them. After instituting the Lord’s Supper, Jesus washed the disciples’ feet. Through this He showed that it is *impossible* to love anyone until *you* are loved by Jesus. Now, in the midst of loving His disciples, Jesus^{13,21c} became *troubled* in spirit, and testified and said, “Truly, truly, I say to you, that one of you will betray Me.” Why was Jesus “*troubled*”? Jesus was troubled because His hour had come. Very shortly, Jesus would take our place in being near to God while under the Law as a Covenant of Works. Jesus in His own Person—human and divine—would satisfy the Law’s infinite punishment for our sin and rebellion against the infinitely Holy God. Jesus was *troubled*.

The remaining disciples are the other troubled person. Jesus said,^{1c} “Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me.” They were all troubled for the same reason. They were troubled because Jesus was going away. How troubling it is when someone who *is* love and who *is* life to you, talks about going away! How troubling when their health or circumstances threaten to take them away! It is troubling to be away from one who loves you. Jesus was troubled, and His disciples were troubled.

B. Two Troubling Prospects

The second point of review is that there are ultimately two—and *only* two—troubling prospects in this world. One of the two troubling prospects is to be near to God when you are under the Law as a CoW. Adam represented you in the Covenant of Works that God made with him. Adam gave up his obedience and became guilty; he gave up his holiness and became wicked; he gave up his knowledge and became distant from God and dark in mind. You were born, then, guilty, wicked, distant and dark.

But don’t blame Adam: you have sinned aplenty and are responsible for every offense you have flung at the Lord. “Vengeance is mine, says the Lord, I will repay.” It is very troubling to be near to God when you are under the Law as a CoW.

The other troubling prospect is to feel far from God when you are under the Covenant of Grace. God made this covenant with His Son Jesus from all eternity. God had chosen particular people to be united to and represented by Jesus. By this covenant, Jesus’ obedience, holiness, and knowledge are granted to you who trust in Him, while your sins, wickedness, and darkness were laid upon Him. He satisfies the Law for you with His obedience, and He satisfies the Law for you by bearing upon Himself your eternal punishment. You are no longer under the Law as CoW.

By this covenant, you are united to Christ. But sometimes He feels far away. That is troubling. You may be worried about money. If there are only two troubling prospects in the world, then what’s really happening, is you feel like Jesus is too far away to provide for your happiness. You may be worried for the safety of someone you love. What’s really happening is you feel like Jesus is too far away to help them... or even to receive them to Himself if your severest imagination plays out.

You may be unsettled, uneasy, troubled about your engagement with the community of believers. Are you feeling like Jesus is too far away to employ powerfully your two mites or your ten thousand talents in building His kingdom? Your life might be feeling like a shipwreck just about to happen. What’s really

happening is you feel like Jesus is too far away to love you, and hold you in His arms regardless of your failures and sins. It is very troubling to feel far from Jesus when you are under the CoG. You love Jesus because He first loved you, but it just feels like He is much too far away for comfort.

II. One More Word about Trouble

A. *It's a Command!*

Which brings me to One More Word about Trouble. And that word is, “Stop being troubled!” That is the literal translation of v1. Three things about this word. Firstly, it is a *command*. “You are being troubled; now Stop it!” It is undignified and it dishonors God for you to continue being troubled when you are united to Christ and bound to Him through the CoG. For disciples to continue being troubled, is for them to imply that Jesus is not going to take care of them as He promised to. It is implying that Jesus is not the way, the truth, and the life of eternal happiness. So stop that! I command you!, says Jesus.

B. *It's a Grace!*

Secondly, it's a *grace*. Jesus is speaking to His disciples. Jesus is speaking to you and to me and to all who believe in Him. *You* stop being troubled! Jesus is NOT speaking to the unconverted. Jesus is NOT speaking to unbelievers. Jesus is NOT speaking to people who are still under the Law as a CoW. Far from it! To them, He commands them to Be troubled... be *VERY TROUBLED*. The day of judgment is at hand! God is coming to judge the living and the dead! To NOT be troubled about that, is the height of the unbeliever's folly and arrogance.

But for you and me and for all who believe in Jesus, He has satisfied the severity of the Law's demands. There is no fury left in God toward you. God excitedly awaits your arrival, and Jesus is in heaven now preparing your dwelling place in His Father's house. He is coming back to bring you there. This is grace: God's riches at Christ's expense. By grace your troubles have been removed—laid squarely upon Christ. So stop being troubled.

C. *It's a Joy!*

And thirdly, it's a *joy*. Listen, there is a time to weep and a time to laugh; a time to mourn and a time to dance.^{Ecc3.4} Jesus was not going to the cross to lay a heavy burden of grief upon those in the CoG. Do you believe in God and also in Jesus? Do you mourn and grieve for your sins, and for the eternal torment Jesus had to pay to save you? Do you weep over the injustice in the world and in your heart? Do you lament the image of death when you see blood dripping from a cut in your child's finger, knowing that the life of man is in the blood? Do you weep at the image of the creation perverted by sin, when a dog bites your arm or a bee stings your forehead?

Okay, there is a time for that... and there is a time to stop it—if you trust in Jesus, that is. When He comes to receive you into His Father's house, He will make all things new. No more sin. No more injustice. No more death.^{Rev21.4} “God Himself will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away.” You are thus at liberty—and commanded in grace—to rejoice in the Lord always.^{Phi4.4}

III. Un-Troubled Path

A. *The Question*

And that leaves us with a big, pregnant question: HOW?! It is the question Thomas asked.⁵ “Lord, we do not know where You are going, how do we know the way?” You might read this as Thomas impertinently contradicting Jesus. Look, Jesus was *not guessing* when He said,⁴ “You know the way where I am going.” Jesus was *not speaking* to the *majority*, and, well, if a few—like Thomas perhaps—didn't know, then Jesus would still be mostly right by saying they did know the way. Jesus was *not speaking* to the ones who were *really* ‘in the know’—He didn't give a little wink to Peter, James, and John, unnoticed by the other disciples. No, Jesus told them—all of them—*you know* the way where I am going. This was not up for debate, and it was unseemly for Thomas to respond this way. Have you ever suggested or told God He doesn't know what He's talking about?

But then again, Thomas may not have been calling Jesus incorrect. He may have just been expressing his bewilderment, for he had not yet seen the resurrection—that was still veiled from his eyes. Still, Thomas did need to wait patiently, faithfully, expecting that Jesus’ words would become clear in God’s time. In any case, Thomas voiced the question we all ask with some regularity. “HOW?!?” “How am I supposed to stop being troubled!?!?”

B. The Answer

And with a shout, with the blast of the trumpet of God... yet with a still, small voice comes the answer: “I AM.”⁶ “I AM the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.” You know *ME*; ergo, you know *The Way*.

“HOW?!?” “How am I supposed to stop being troubled!?!?” “I AM the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.” This is the Un-Troubled Path.

1. I AM The Way

Stop being troubled; I AM the Way. I AM. I AM God. Nothing—not even you—can stop Me from bringing you where I want to bring you. I want to bring you into My Father’s house. I AM the Way in which you will come into My Father’s house, so stop being troubled.

“I AM the Way. I AM more than an asphalt roadway or bike path. I AM more than a Mercedes Benz you climb into to get to your destination.”

When I was a lad, I jumped off a bridge into the Brandywine Creek. A bunch of us were doing it one steamy summer afternoon. But I was the one who found a discarded automobile engine block buried under the sandy creek bed. Buried, that is, except for a few very rusty screw-posts that penetrated both the shoes I was wearing for safety and my feet. For weeks afterward, my brother had to do more than walk with me wherever we went. My stitched yet infected wounds required that he *carry* me on his back. Short or long as they were, those travels brought me very close to him.

But to go where Jesus wants to bring us, requires a Friend who sticks even closer than a brother.^{Pro18.24} “I set before you the way of life and the way of death.”^{Jer21.8} The way of death is the way without Me. The way of life is the way through My death. I AM the new and living way which I’ve inaugurated for you through the veil that is, My flesh.^{Heb10.20} *My hands and My feet* must be torn by nails on posts. You must be healed by *My* wounds.

“The gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it. The gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are few who find it.”^{Mt7.13f} I AM the way. I AM the way the Apostles proclaimed.^{act16.17} I AM the way of righteousness; it is better not to have known Me than to know and turn away.^{2Pe2.21} I AM the Way; Christ in you, the hope of glory.^{Col1.27}

I AM the Way; I AM your great high Priest. You may come to My Father because, and only because, I bring you to Him. He does not need your gifts, your ministry, your work. I AM a more excellent way, namely *love*.^{1Col2.31;13.13} I am going to My Father, so that I might usher you into His very house. Now, do you still think I am going to be far from you? The same Spirit Who dwells in Me, I send to dwell in you. You are forever united to Me, bound by My Spirit and your faith. (Which faith, by the way, I’ve given to you and will make sure you never lose, even if you feel at times like you’ve lost it). So stop being troubled.

2. I AM The Truth

Stop being troubled. I AM the Truth. Truth is the accurate description of reality. Reality is the way things are as God sees them. Truth, then, is the accurate description of the way things are as God sees them. I AM the Truth. I always see things as God sees them.^{12.49c} “I did not speak on My own initiative, but the Father Himself who sent Me has given Me a commandment as to what to say and what to speak.

⁵⁰I know that His commandment is eternal life; therefore the things I speak, I speak just as the Father has told Me.” I AM the Truth.

To see things as God sees them, you simply need to hear, understand, and believe in Jesus as He testifies. Everything Jesus thinks, says, and does is one with what God thinks, says, does. Everything Jesus wants is not only identical, but is *one* with what God the Father wants. When Jesus says He is preparing a place for you in His Father’s house, that means His Father wants you in His house and *will have* you in His house.

Every unregenerate soul, every unbeliever is left with Pontius Pilate asking, “What is Truth?”^{jn18.38} Pilate was not being snide. He really did not know. There is no way to know the Truth, particularly to know that God wants you in His House, unless you hear and believe in Jesus when He says He wants you in His Father’s house.^{18.37} “For this I have been born, and for this I have come into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice.”

Revelation! This week CNN posted results of a Poll! Hark! A CNN Poll! The result? “Money is the world’s greatest cause of stress... and second most stressing is the state of the world.” CNN Revelation... but not Truth. Money is *not* the world’s greatest cause of being troubled. As God sees things, being near to God when under the Law as a CoW, and feeling far from Jesus when under the CoG, are the world’s greatest—and only—prospects of trouble and causes of stress.

“Money is the world’s greatest cause of stress. State of the world is second most stressing.” As a well-known Sicilian would say, “You’d like to think that, wouldn’t you?” It is *much* more comfortable for the unconverted to convince himself that money, and the state of the world, are more troubling than being near to God. For the person who is still under the Law as a CoW, it is *much* more comfortable to lament the loss of investments and fear the failures of society, than to face the prospect of being near God when He judges the unbeliever’s sin.

As for the converted, it is *much* easier to lament the loss of money—and with wide eyes to portend the collapse of culture—than to face the feeling that Jesus is far away. Perhaps a reason He feels far away is that we’re too lazy to diligently implore His presence when culture is caving in.

I AM the Truth. I AM your great high Prophet. Moses was a prophet, and the Law came through Moses. Grace and Truth came through ME, I AM.^{jn1.17} To say Jesus is not the Truth is to say, at *best*, that He is just another shadow of good things to come, but not the very form of those things.^{heb10.1} It is to be troubled like John the Baptist in prison, asking, ^{Mt11.3} “Are You the Expected One, or shall we look for someone else?”

To say Jesus is not the Truth is to say, at *worst*, that He is a deceiver, and we all are still under the Law as a CoW. It is to say that Jesus came, taught Good Ways, and gave us a Good Example. We still must make ourselves Good Enough by Doing What Jesus Did, for God to bring us into His house. To think that is, and should be, very, *very troubling*.

But for you who believe, the Truth is *near* you. “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart—that is, the word of faith which we are preaching,⁹ that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.”^{Rom10.8} You see, Jesus—the Word of Life, the Truth Himself—is *not* far from you. I AM the Truth and I AM dwelling in you, so stop being troubled!

3. I AM The Life

Stop being troubled. I AM the Life. When I came, there was no room for Me at the inn, and there was no room for Me in your heart. But there is lots of room for you in My Living Father’s house, because I have made you alive. My Father has given to the Son to have life in Himself.^{5.26} In Me is life, and the life

is the light of men.^{1,4} You know this, you who love Me and believe in Me. I AM the bread of life.^{6,35,48} “I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies, and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?”^{11,25f}

Then stop being troubled! I AM the true God and eternal life!^{1jo5,20} You are alive, you who truly are My disciples. For you to be alive means that I AM set apart as Lord in your heart.^{1pe3,15} I AM your great high King. “He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life.”^{1Jn5,12} I AM your life, and thus I cannot be far from you.

I AM the life. “He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. For My flesh is true food, and My blood is true drink. He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him.”^{6,54ff} Does that sound like I am far from you? Then stop being troubled. On the cross I took your death, and I gave My own life to you. I rose from the dead; I don’t need to take My life back from you, nor do I want to. I want *you* to have My life, and have it you shall. Forever. With Me! So stop being troubled.^{14,18} I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you, and bring you into My Father’s house.

4. No one comes to the Father but through Me

I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me. You can boast about nothing before God. But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption.^{1Co1,30} My Father appointed Me to be to you, Wisdom—your Prophet. My Father appointed Me to be to you Righteousness—your Priest. My Father appointed Me to be to you Sanctification—your King. My Father appointed Me to be to you Redemption—your Way, Truth, and Life; your Priest, Prophet, and King.

No one comes to My Father but by Me. No one knows Father but from Me. No one lives except in Me. So come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest.^{Mt11,28f} I will give you rest... and you will stop being troubled.

IV. Confession

“HOW?!?” “How am I supposed to stop being troubled?!?” Lest you think I don’t need to listen to my own sermons, I’ll offer you an example. I frequently feel like Jesus is too far from me, for my work here to have any fruit of conversion. And I am troubled. Now I hear the Lord say to me, and to you, Hope Presbyterian Church:

“Stop being troubled. I AM the way, the truth, and the life. There is only one way, one truth, one life. I AM in you. If anyone in this city is going to come to My Father, they are going to come through ME, and you are one of the only means in Portsmouth by which people can hear and know ME. There aren’t many members at Hope, and there aren’t many believers in Portsmouth. Since when did I depend upon ‘Many’?”

I AM ONE. I AM building My Church. I know what I AM doing. And what I am doing in Portsmouth is uniting Myself to a few, as one Body with One Holy Spirit. When My Kingdom comes, all will know that I AM the Lord; that I AM the way, the truth, and the life.

I AM not too far away... I AM not far at all. I AM right here among you and in you, the hope of glory. I have chosen at this point to do My work in and through few. So stop being troubled. Enjoy being alive. Enjoy ME. Let your light shine before men. If they see you, they will see the Way, the Truth, and the Life. And all whom I am calling will hear My voice and they will come. You watch and see.

Now, beloved, rehearse the word of the Psalmist who was troubled just as you have been troubled:
^{Ps42:5} “Why are you in despair, O my soul? And *why* have you become [troubled] within me? Hope in God, for I shall again praise Him *for* the help of His presence.” You see? “The help of My presence.” I AM the Way, the Truth, and the Life. And I AM not at all afar.