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“A Better Heavenly Place”

John 14: 1 – 6

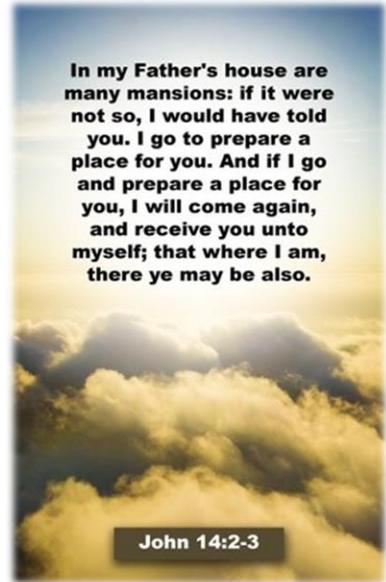
- A Message Summary -

Pastor Jack preached on this message at the Watchnight Service of Sovereign Hope BP Church on 31 Dec 2021. The salient points were as follows:

A) Counsel and Comfort for the Troubled (v 1)

John, a beloved disciple of our Lord Jesus, did not die as a martyr but he died naturally at a ripe old age. John had an intimate (close) relationship with his Master. He recorded many incidents in the Lord's life that were not recorded in the other gospels.

- In **John 14:1**, he recorded that Jesus said, “Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.”
- 2021 was a troubling year. The word “trouble” in the original sense, means “to agitate, to disturb, to afflict, to annoy, to distress.”
- Did you feel troubled in this year 2021? Have you experienced similar feelings/conditions as mentioned above?
- When people are under prolonged duress or pain, and a season of affliction, inconvenience or misfortune, due mostly to the Covid 19 pandemic, **they are not only physically affected, but also mentally, intangibly and psychologically too, in a personal, or family or social dimension. Have you also been similarly afflicted thus? How were you and your family affected? What were the specific issues that distressed, afflicted or depressed you?**
- Do you think that the Lord also presupposed that the people He was addressing at that time were similarly affected? If those people were troubled, why were they troubled at that time?



- The reason why this year 2021 is such a troubling year is because many issues affected us personally, nationally or as a family. What do we do when we are troubled?
- In **Psa 32:5-7**, King David was going through some trouble that he had brought upon himself. He acknowledged his own sin with Bathsheba and David confessed his sin in **Psa.32:1**.
- What is the cause of trouble? The main **cause** of trouble, including physical disasters such as earthquakes, floods and volcanic eruptions, is **SIN**.
- **SIN** is a transgression against God and as we have offended God, we will have to face the wrath of God as the dire consequences of our sin.
- We, in this present time, also need to examine ourselves of what sins we may have committed and to acknowledge them and ask for God's forgiveness, just as David did. We must set right with God lest we incur his wrath, and seek His mercy in the midst of this pandemic, and mitigate the divine punishment that will befall us as a direct result of our sins.
- God can be a hiding place for the people who come to seek Him for His pardon and His deliverance from their troubles.
- Again, in **Psa 59:16-17**, David cried out to God to deliver him from his malicious enemies and God became his defence and refuge.
- In **Psa 34: 4**, the psalmist said, "I sought the Lord and He heard me and delivered me from all my fears." Also in **vs 6** he said, "This poor man cried, and the Lord heard him, and saved him out of all his troubles."
- As we approach the end of 2021, have we found the solution and **basis** for our troubles?
- The answer and the solution for our troubles is faith in the **PERSON** of our **LORD JESUS CHRIST**, not any human plan, vaccine, safety management scheme or strategy!
- The Lord Jesus was also, in reality, addressing His disciples and followers (Christians/believers), did they believe in Him, as the Son of God, and the Saviour who could save and deliver them from their afflictions, distresses and troubles.
- The Lord was speaking to **Christian** people who were **saved** and **believed** in Christ. So can Christian people suffer from afflictions, distress, troubles, depression, fears and mental concerns?
- When you go through such circumstances, what should you do, what can you do?
- In **1Sam 30:6**, "David was greatly distressed; for the people spoke of stoning him, because the soul of all the people was grieved, every man for his sons and his daughters: **but David encouraged himself in the Lord his God.**"
- **In his deep mental anguish**, David "**encouraged himself in the Lord his God.**"



- **We learn that in our great distress, we should emulate David and learn the art of encouraging ourselves in the Lord**, when there is the unjust oppression of men or trials of life, or in the current situation of the raging health pandemic, when we become infected and must be isolated/quarantined from family and friends.
- However, we also ought to seek counsel and comfort from godly sources of help if these are available as David sought the priest too.
- Being Christians, we are not alone; we ought to pray, to seek and to discern God's will for us, to mitigate our troubles and distress.
- The Lord reiterated that as we believe in God, we ought also to believe in Jesus Christ.
- The word "believe" has 2 elements; one is a salvific element.
- Are you gravely troubled tonight?
- **Is God causing things to happen to awaken you from spiritual slumber, to enable you to realise that you need Christ to save you from your troubles?** The more you struggle with your troubles, the deeper you will sink in them. Our unwillingness to seek God for his mercy and to submit to God's will and to entrust to the Lord will exacerbate our problems in life.
- We find the word "surrender" a very difficult action to carry out. If we don't submit to God's will, we will miss out on the **revival, restoration and healing** in our lives.
- The Lord has given us only **one** option as counsel and comfort for deliverance from our troubles living in this depraved world, and that is **TO BELIEVE AND TRUST IN THE LORD JESUS CHRIST.**



B) Certainty of an Eternal Place (v 2–4)

- In **John 14: 2&3**, the Lord spoke about something beyond this world, in the future, before the disciples had witnessed the events. In **vs 2**, Jesus said, "In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you."
- Sometimes we act as if we are going to live in eternity on this earth when we drive our stakes deep into our earthly homes. However, the Word of God reveals that our lifespan is a short one of 70 – 80 years on earth. Thus, are we ready to leave our earthly abode at short notice if God summons us to move on? The Lord said that He was going ahead to prepare a spacious room for us to abide in eternity, when God calls us to leave our earthly home one day.
- **Verse 3:** And if I go to prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also." **Verse 4:** "And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know."
- We prepare for many different things in our lives on earth, such as interviews, examinations, work and many other occasions of life but have you ever thought

of preparing for your last day on earth, at a meeting with the Lord? **We need to prepare for our own funeral but it is not referring to writing a will or buying insurance. It is about the spiritual dimension of preparing to meet our God. Are you ready to meet your God?**

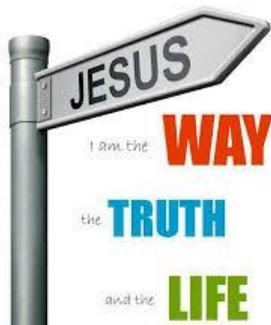
- What kind of place will this “mansion” be?
- In **Rev 21:1**, we get a description of a new heaven and a new earth where there is no more sea. 70% of the earth’s surface is covered by water/sea. **The sea always symbolises separation but when we go to heaven, there will be no more sea, so there is no more separation.** Our lives is also like a tempestuous sea that hides many mysteries below its surface. **The sea also symbolises death, but in heaven there will be no more death, sorrow, tears or pain. (Rev. 21: 4)**
- **The sea also symbolises change**, but in heaven there is no more change, so all remain constant. If you want to change, do it now, before you leave the earth because there is no more change in heaven. Now is the last chance to effect any changes before we leave this world.
- **The sea has a mysterious nature, but in heaven the sea holds no more mystery.** Whatever can be known, will be made known because there is no more sea in heaven and Jesus Christ is there.
- Some people will not make it to heaven. These people include the **fearful**, the **unbelievers**, the **abominable**, the **murderers**, **whoremongers**, **sorcerers**, **idolators**, and all **perpetual liars. (Rev. 21: 8)** They will have their part in the **lake of fire.**
- Does the above **verse 8 of Rev 21** describe anyone of us here in this sanctuary tonight?
- Those who are **unable** to make it to the “mansion” that the Lord has prepared for us are those who do not know God and who are unrepentant of their sins and refuse to turn to God.
- There will be no physical temple in heaven as both God and the Lord are already there and so it is unnecessary to have a temple to reflect their presence. **(Rev 21: 22)**
- In heaven there will be no sun and moon, for the Lord’s glory will light it up. **(Rev 21:23)**
- That will be the glorious day for all those people whose names are written in the **Lamb’s Book of Life (Rev 21:27).**



C) Consideration of Christ, The Way (v 5-- 6)

- **(Jn 14:5)** Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way?
- **(Jn 14: 6)** Jesus saith unto him, I am the **way**, the **truth** and the **life**: no man cometh unto the Father, but by **me**.
- What **must** I do and what **can** I do to get out of all my troubles and **enter** this place/ mansion that the Lord has gone ahead to prepare for me?

- We need to ask a question: **where** are we going and **how** are we going if we don't know the way? (**Jn 14:5**) How can we get to this place when we are lost physically, spiritually, emotionally and eternally?
- In **verse 6**, the Lord answered **not** by showing us the way/direction to go, but by saying that He **himself** is the **Way**, not a super highway or road but a **Person**.
- The Christian religion is a “**done**” religion, so there is no need for us to do anything **more** to get to heaven. **We need only to believe and trust in the Lord Jesus Christ, to repent of our sins and to uphold His commandments. We just need to follow Christ. Good works/acts cannot save our souls.**
- The Lord said that He is the **Truth**, not deception, lies or fake news and false teachings. The **Truth** is a Person, **not something** that you have to do to save yourself.
- Jesus stated that He is the **Life**, which we so desperately need today.
- During this rampant Covid-19 pandemic, more than 5 million have died and many more may be infected. Everyone is susceptible to it as it gets endemic. We all take turns to leave our earthly abode whenever our time on earth is up. It is not a question of “IF” but “when”.
- **So, treasure your life and your spouse, children, church, parents and all loved ones and never take anyone for granted. While we still have breath in us, life is in Christ.**
- We must follow the straight and narrow, correct way that takes us to the right destination. If we don't get it right, we will be messed up big-time when we pass on to the other side of eternity and it will be too late to make any amend.



Conclusion

When you leave this world, what kind of Life will you bring with you--- a Life unto eternity with Christ, or a Life unto damnation without Christ?



This is an epic issue for our careful and wise consideration, will our final resting place be in “the lake of fire” or in “a better heavenly place.” **Do you know this God, our Heavenly Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, intimately? Are you ready to meet your God whenever He summons you from your life on earth? These are imminent spiritual issues for us to ponder over seriously and expeditiously.**

May God have mercy on us all. Amen.

Han Kin Hoong

COME JOIN
UPCOMING EVENTS...



JOIN US FOR A MORNING OF

Praise

FEBRUARY		<i>4th Anniversary</i> The Vigilant Growing Church in End Times <i>Rev Phillip Heng</i>
06		

Please register with Dn Yue Kay at 97450311
by 31 Jan 2022.

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**Local Church Retreat
June 2022...**

**The committee has started
their planning! Keep a lookout
for details available soon!!!**

Happy Birthday

Blessed 59th Birthday, Micheal!



SHBPC ladies with
visitor Esther.



Thank you for forwarding all your Sunday sermons. Always enjoyed them, some of them I listen to it twice, like last Sunday's sermon, the message is so appropriate not only for the coming CNY, but also for Christians to follow and obey the word of God. Some I listened to it again because I want to make sure I really get the message.

I forwarded it to my family and friends here in Aussie Land and Singapore.

*Dn John Tann
Ebenezer BPC
Melbourne*

Thank God for Jesus who stays in our hearts who will give us the strength to go through this year. Now I know the reason why HE stays in our hearts, to help us produce HIS character. Let's continue to shine for Jesus. Thank God for reminding all of us through the GAES message this evening. Puji Tuhan!

*Pr Roska
Medan, Indonesia*

(NB. Pray for wisdom for Pastor Jack who will preach monthly at the Sunday Global Assembly English Service, an international virtual worship service at 5 pm. All are welcome to attend.)

Memory Verse

Col 1:28 Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus:

Announcements

1. Welcome to our Worship Service! For our visitors, do leave us your contact numbers in our guest book before you leave.
2. Pastor speaks today on “***The Equipping Towards Maturity in Christ (Col 1:28-29)***”, the quarterly theme of “Christ-Centred Principles for the Local Church”, a study on the Epistle to the Colossians.
3. Pastor speaks next Sunday on “***The Foundation of our Pre-Eminent Christ (Col 2:1-13)***”.
4. Sunday School classes continues after worship service:
 - WCF Shorter Catechism Class – Pastor Jack
 - Understanding Biblical Eschatology & related Topics – Joseph
 - Studies in Numbers – Dn Kwong Leen
 - Burmese Bible Class - James
5. Chinese Fellowship meets on Sunday night at 7pm via Zoom with both local and overseas brethren. Included in the programme is a study on Church History in China on alternate Sundays. Join us for a time of profitable learning.
6. Do send your prayer items to Pastor and join us for Church Prayer Meeting on Wed at 8pm via Zoom. The prayer list is available in church.
7. **SHBPC 4th Anniversary Thanksgiving Worship Service** will be held on **6 Feb 2022**. Rev Philip Heng will preach on “***The Vigilant Growing Church in End Times (2 Peter 3:9-14)***”. Do come and rejoice with us! Register your attendance with Dn Yue Kay by 31 Jan (Hp: +65 97450311).
8. Monthly Neighbourhood Bible Class meets on the first Friday of the month on the study of 2 Samuel. Come and join us!
9. Those who wish to bring a new friend to the worship service, kindly inform the safety officer Dn Yue Kay or Pastor at least a day in advance.
10. Do kindly observe the safety measures of the church and assist with the weekly cleaning of the premises.
11. Love gifts, Offering and Tithes to the Lord can be given in the following ways:
 - **Cheque** payable to **Sovereign Hope Bible Presbyterian Church** and mail to church address. (Kindly write the full name of the church as indicated.)
 - **Fund transfer** to Church **UOB** Account **392-308-825-1**
 - **PayNow** to Church UEN: **T19SS0116FSOV**
