

Troubled - cont.

Reunion

Third, remembering Jesus' second coming will help us deal with our troubles, so it is good to know that...

- Jesus' second coming means a reunion for the good with him (1 Thessalonians 4:13-17).
- Jesus' second coming means a vindication against all that is evil (2 Thessalonians 1:7-9).

Certainty

Fourth, a certain knowledge of God's truth can help us to deal with our troubles, so let us know...

- The way of truth (John 8:32).
- The way to the Father (John 10:7,9; 11:25; 12:26; 14:6).
- That we can have eternal life in Jesus Christ (1 John 5:13).

All the troubled hearts today can be truly comforted, but only by these four spiritual realities: confident trust, heaven's dwelling-place, Jesus' second coming, and a certain knowledge of the truth of God's word. - *Chris Reeves*

- Thought of the Week -

There are many people in this world who want to rob me of my prize and keep me out of heaven. The Devil, evil people, and worldly-minded people all want me to fail. But, there is another person that can potentially keep me out of heaven and that person is me. This week I am going to do my best to live right and avoid being the very one who keeps me out of heaven.

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For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 -

Let Not Your Heart Be Troubled

Life's Troubles

As we travel the road of life, we encounter troubles from time-to-time. Our troubles may come from old age, economic hardships, persecution (1 Peter 3:14), loss of a loved-one (John 11:33), negative conduct (Acts 15:24; 17:8; Galatians 1:7; 5:10), a lack of understanding what is right (Matthew 14:26; Luke 1:12,29), etc.

So, how do people deal with troubles? How do I deal with my own troubles? In ancient times, people like the stoics refused to recognize their troubles properly. They would often end up in despair or even suicide. The epicureans, on the other hand, drowned their troubles in pleasure. But, this would simply lead to more troubles.

In John 14:1-4, on the night of Jesus' betrayal and before going to the cross, Jesus gave the world a divine prescription for troubles. Let's examine this passage and learn how that we can deal with life's troubles today.

Jesus Knows Our Troubles

Jesus could give the world a divine prescription for their troubles because he himself was troubled in life (John

11:33; 12:27; 13:21). As a man, he was troubled and he did not want his disciples to be troubled as well (John 14:1-4,27). Jesus said to them (literally): "Stop letting your hearts be troubled..."

Consider what had just happened with Jesus and his disciples earlier in the evening that would be troublesome. Judas had left to betray Jesus (John 13:30), Jesus himself was leaving (John 13:33,36), and Peter's denial had been predicted (John 13:38). All of this, and other issues in their mind, left the disciples in a troubled state.

On the night when the disciples were troubled, Jesus stepped in and gave them a divine, four-fold prescription for their troubled hearts. He said:

1. "Believe in God, believe also in me..." This speaks of **TRUST**.
2. "In my Father's house are many mansions..." This speaks of **HEAVEN**.
3. "If I go ... I come again..." This speaks of **REUNION**.
4. "You know the way..." This speaks of **CERTAINTY**.

Trust

First, trust will help us deal with our troubles, so let us...

- Trust that God and Jesus are in control (Psalm 27:13).
- Trust that God and Jesus will aid us in our life now (Hebrews 4:16).
- Trust that God and Jesus will supply us (Romans 8:32).
- Trust that God and Jesus will not forsake us (Hebrews 13:5).
- Trust that God and Jesus will reward us (Hebrews 11:6).

Heaven

Second, keeping focused on going to heaven will help us deal with our troubles, so let us remember that heaven...

- Is prepared for us (Hebrews 4:14; 9:24; 6:20; Revelation 21:2).
- Is our home, not this world (Philippians 3:20).
- Will hold no troubles for us (Revelation 21:3-8,27; 22:15).

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