

For Such a Time as This

A Daily Devotional

Tuesday, April 16, 2024



From John 14

“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, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And when 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. And you know the way where I am 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, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but by me. If you had known me, you would have known my Father also; henceforth you know him and have seen him.”

The above is one of my favorite pieces of scripture. I’ve read this out at funeral services and during communion and at hospital bedsides. To me, these words of Christ speaks an assurance to me that he and God are one; that indeed, Jesus of Nazareth was and is God incarnate – in the flesh – with us. There is no division between the three persons of the Trinity; God is surely One.

Last week, I wrote about the British theologian Thomas Torrance and his experience of being asked whether or not it is true that God is ‘really like Jesus’. He was asked this by a dying soldier on an Italian battlefield and by an aged parishioner on her deathbed. The answer he gave was such an assurance that Christ offers us all.

Stephen Morrison, in his book on Torrance’s theology, does a good job of describing why this understanding of God and Jesus as one is so important:

We tend to split apart the being and act of the Son from the Father, that is, to fall prey to theological dualism. While it is unlikely we would ever deny that the Son and the Father are one in being and act, we far too often ignore this essential trust by pushing it to the peripheral of our thinking. As a result, there are many believers today who wrestle internally to reconcile two opposing images of God. On the one hand they love and believe in Jesus, the friend of sinners, the God of grace and mercy; but on the other hand, they *fear* His vengeful Father, the wrathful divine judge up in the sky keeping a list of all their wrongs in order to hold it against them. This divide is perhaps the most important dualism Torrance works to overcome ...

Christian faith teaches us to look at Jesus Christ as the very face and heart of God – to look consistently and constantly and hear the witness of scripture ... and finally, to trust in God’s mercy and goodness rather than our ability to win some kind of divine favor. In Jesus Christ, truly we see God.

Prayer for the Day: (From *The Valley of Vision*)

Lord Jesus, Great High Priest, may I find thy grace sufficient for all my needs. Amen.

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