

# “Six Reasons to be Assured!”

John 14:1-6,27

**Intro.** – Charles Schultz, creator of the comic strip *Peanuts* had a character named Linus. He was the little brother to Lucy. What was Linus’ trademark? That’s right, Schultz had Linus tenaciously clinging to his blanket. Wherever he would go and do, Linus would have to have his blanket. He would be totally insecure without it... We laugh at this because of the seed of truth behind it. Each of us are in need of our security blanket of one kind or another. The question is what is that “security blanket”? Wherein lies our assurance?

Martyred missionary Jim Elliott wrote: “He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep, to gain what he cannot lose.” Does that explain your assurance, your confidence and hope? Have you given away that which you cannot keep in order to gain that what you cannot lose? Is your assurance and comfort resting solidly in the promises of Christ our Lord or do you continue to look to the world for your assurance?

Our text takes us to the night in which Jesus is handed over to be crucified. The hearts of the disciples are filled with threatening emotions. Jesus had just made clear to them that He would be departing. They were perplexed because of the predictions that Jesus made – that one of them would betray Him, one would deny Him and the rest would forsake Him. Finally, they were wavering in their faith. How can one Who is about to be betrayed and abandoned be the Messiah? This then is the implied background to the words, “*Let not your hearts be troubled.*” This exhortation is based on love of the highest level, for when Jesus uttered these words, He Himself was troubled (John 13:21; Matthew 26:38).

On top of all this, what Jesus expresses here is not a mere pious wish, like our cheery but often empty: “Don’t worry. Everything will be all right.” When Jesus said, “*Let not your hearts be troubled*” He substantiates this with His promises – promises of comfort and assurance.

Years ago Mrs. Joseph Knapp(Phoebe), wife of the founder of Metropolitan Life Insurance Co., came to visit Fanny Crosby. They were the best of friends. Phoebe was an amateur musician and asked Fanny to listen to a melody she had composed. “What does the tune say?” she asked her friend. After hearing it a few more times, the blind hymn writer wrote the following:

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!  
Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!  
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,  
Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.

*Purpose: to examine six reasons to be assured/comforted*

- in looking more closely at John 14 hope we see even more why this truly is the assurance chap of Bible

## I THE CERTAINTY OF HEAVEN (v 2)

- reality of heaven is spoken of throughout Bible; however, detail of heaven is sparse...

### A. The Father’s House

1. God’s dwelling place referred to as house & or heaven:
  - a. Deuteronomy 26:15; Psalm 33:13-14; Isaiah 63:15; 2 Corinthians 5:1
  - b. no doubt this expression provided for our limited concepts – God need no house with roof...
2. There is comfort in thought heaven referred to as *the house of the Father*...

### B. There Are Many Dwelling Places

1. Literally means “*many mansions*” – speaks of there being plenty of room...
2. Speaks of heaven’s permanency = uncertainties of this life are not to be compared to heaven...

### C. It’s a Prepared Place

1. What did Jesus mean, “*I go to prepare a place*”? – Without His death = no *place*
2. Without Jesus’ ascension and sending of Holy Spirit we would not be ready for heaven...
3. Jesus truly is the pioneer of our faith = heaven a prepared place for prepared people!

## II THE CERTAINTY OF CHRIST'S RETURN (v 3)

- note: Jesus not just saying I'll take you to that place... He speaks of something far more comforting

### A. "I Will Come"

1. Jesus has already proven His Word is His bond...
2. Promised He would return... return for His Bride the Church
  - Douglas McArthur – Philippians said, "I shall return" "I have returned. By the grace of Almighty God, our forces stand again on Philippine soil."

### B. Receive You to Myself

1. Literally means – "Face to face"...
2. This conveys the idea of being in His very presence – welcomed home... embraced....

This completes the simplest idea of heaven. It is being *ever with the Lord!* All of which we can take comfort in, knowing that Christ comes again to receive His own *face to face*.

## III IN THE CERTAINTY OF CHRIST BEING THE WAY (vv 4-11)

- "the way" in 2 senses:

### A. From God to Man

- because of Christ and through Christ all spiritual blessing can/are extended to man.

### B. From Man to God

1. 1 Timothy 2:5 "*For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.*"
2. Apart from Christ there is no comfort here... and no hope for heaven. He is *the Way!*

## IV THE CERTAINTY OF GREATER WORKS (vv 12-14)

- here Christ affirms, though He be absent His work will continue on at an even higher scale

### A. Power to Work Miracles Affirmed Here

1. To the disciples that is... in total harmony with the purpose of miracles – reveal God's redemptive plan for mankind...
2. All in harmony with the purpose of Christ – Matthew 18:11 "*For the Son of Man has come to save that which was lost.*"

### B. Something Greater Than a Miracle Affirmed Here

1. The Gospel is a message of hope... forgiveness (Romans 1:16) and promise...
2. Man is the *agent* of the Gospel
  - a. God is the author/provider...
  - b. through man (you/me) God extends His salvation – fields are ready pray the Lord of harvest to send forth workers (Matthew 9:37-38)

## V THE CERTAINTY OF HOLY SPIRIT'S PRESENCE (vv 16-26)

- recognize the Apostles being promised "miraculous gift" = ability to work miracles...

- recognize the simple gift or "indwelling of the Holy Spirit"

### A. To Whom is this Promised

1. To those who accept the gift of God's grace on His terms.
2. Titus 3:5 "*He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit.*"

### B. Purpose of Indwelling Gift of Holy Spirit

1. Enable us to live fruitful, holy lives.

2. Romans 8:9 “...*You are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him.*”
3. He guides, comforts, encourages even helps us to pray – Holy Spirit is another promise whereby we are to be assured.

## VI THE CERTAINTY OF PEACE (v 27)

### A. Not the World’s Peace

1. World might give outward pleasure, physical rest/enjoyment, wealth, position etc.
2. What world can’t give – can’t give *inner peace* or peace with God!

### B. Christ’s Peace

1. He alone is the author of real peace – He bought it by His own blood on the Cross...
2. It is a lasting peace – nothing temporary about it...
3. It is freely extended – God’s desire that all would be at peace with Him!

Thus, there is nothing lacking on the part of Christ to our being assured/comforted. He extends His peace and at the same time says, “*Let not your heart be troubled.*”

**Conclusion:** A nurse in Omaha, Nebraska had the right idea. January 24<sup>th</sup>, 1978 a woman gave birth to baby boy on the hospital elevator. The mortified mother kept saying, “Oh it’s so embarrassing! It’s so embarrassing!” This nurse tried to comfort her with more than just a “it’s not that bad... don’t worry.” The nurse said to this mother, “Why 2 years ago a woman had her baby out on the hospital lawn!” The new mother sobbed, “I know, I know. That one was mine too!”

Well, the nurse tried to substantiate why the new mother should be comforted. She tried, but miserably failed. God be thanked for making the reasons for our being comforted so clear and so unchanging. God be thanked we have these six reasons to be assured!