

(John 14:23-31, NIV84)

Jesus replied, "If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. He who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me. All this I have spoken while still with you. But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid. You heard me say, 'I am going away and I am coming back to you.' If you loved me, you would be glad that I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I. I have told you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe. I will not speak with you much longer, for the prince of this world is coming. He has no hold on me, but the world must learn that I love the Father and that I do exactly what my Father has commanded me. Come now; let us leave."

Remember back when we used to give painstaking directions to visitors who were coming to our homes so they could find where we live? Nowadays when going to visit someone if they ask us if we need directions, we say, "No, just give me your address and I'll put into my phone and it'll tell me how to get there." But what happens if the phone doesn't work, or technology fails us?

The other day I was talking to one of my members (she'll recognize herself in this) and asking her the mailing address of one of her children. She had to confess that while she knew how to get to her child's home, she didn't know the address. She was familiar with how to get there; she knew the way.

Would that we would have such familiarity with our Savior and with His Word. We might not be able to quote chapter and verse, but we know the essence of what it says. We might not have it memorized verbatim, but we "know our way around" the Bible.

While you have the free time to do so, familiarize yourself with the comforts and assurances that Jesus gives us in His Word.

With you, knowing Him who is the Way,
Pastor Golm

April 9

The Road to the Father's House

"You know the way to the place where I am going." (John 14:4)

Frequently during the Savior's intimate conversations with his disciples, he had spoken to them concerning the way to his Father's house. Indeed, in a sense, that was the sum and substance of all of his discourses with them.

The way back to the Father-to establish that way, to reveal it, to proclaim it-that was the supreme purpose of the Christ's coming. That is why on the eve of his departure he now can say to his disciples: "You know the way to the place where I am going."

As the Master Teacher, he is encouraging them to recall to their minds everything that he had told them about his Father's house and the way by which we reach it. "You know the way", he says. In other words: "Think back!

Recall all that I have told you about sin, faith, and forgiveness in my name, and about eternal life in my Father's house above. Surely, you know the way."

But there is also a deeper purpose in these compassionate words of Jesus.

When you say to a friend: "You know the way to my home", you are inviting him to come. So Christ tells us, "You know the way", to remind us that we are on that way and to encourage us to continue on that way. He is reminding us that through faith in him and his atonement for our sins, we are daily making progress on the road from earth to heaven. Surely, we have every reason to rejoice. We know the way; and, by God's grace, we are on the road that leads us to our eternal Father's house. Knowing that, we can find strength, assurance, and direction at the dawning of each new day.

Thou art the Way; to Thee alone From sin and death we flee; And he who would the Father seek Must seek Him, Lord, by Thee.

Thou art the Way, the Truth, the Life: Grant us that Way to know, That Truth to keep, that Life to win, Whose joys eternal flow.