

## **John 16:25-33 – “And in Conclusion”**

(Pew Bible Page: 903)

**Intro:** The story is told of a Reformation preacher who was arrested in the middle of preaching a sermon to his congregation. After suffering imprisonment for several years, he was finally released and able to return to his flock. His first Sunday back, he entered the pulpit and began his remarks with the words, “Now as I was saying...” A little tribulation hadn’t knocked him off his feet: he came back to finish what he had started. In the words before us, we have Jesus finishing what He had started way back in John 14:1, His final discourse to His disciples before the Cross. Though these are not Jesus’ last words before His death, they certainly are striking words to end the discourse. Jesus wanted to leave the disciples and us with four supremely important facts to bear in mind as they faced life without His earthly presence: “I have come to reveal to you the Father; You are incredibly loved by God; Your faith is real but weak; Take heart! I have overcome the world.”

**Proposition:** In the world you will have tribulation. Take heart! Jesus has overcome the world.

(v.25) Jesus Came to Show us the Father – **John 16:25 - 25** *“I have said these things to you in figures of speech. The hour is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figures of speech but will tell you plainly about the Father. Compare verse 25 with verse 28 for a significant statement of Jesus’ purpose in taking on flesh: The reason Jesus came was to show us the Father. Compare Genesis 1:3 with Colossians 1:19 & 2:9 and also with Hebrews 1:1-4 to see that Jesus is God’s ultimate revelation of Himself to man. Old Testament revelation was in figures, types, parables, and symbols, but with Jesus’ death, burial, resurrection, and ascension the figurative has passed away and the plain has come. This can hardly be over emphasized. It is of utmost importance that we see God for who He is because by a secret law of the soul we unconsciously imitate who we conceive God to be. The thing that puts us right, that reshapes the soul and ultimately gives us peace is holding a true understanding of who God is. The only way to receive this is through union with Christ and **Romans 10:17 - 17** *Faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.**

[DOCTRINAL POINT] Jesus came to show us plainly who the Father is.

[ILLUSTRATION] I have shared with you before A. W. Tozer’s famous quote, but it bears repeating: “What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us.” Understanding God is so important that God created the whole universe to make Himself known to men and angels. This revelation of God the Father has come to its culmination in Jesus Christ, the Son.

[APPLICATION] While the Bible gives us many valuable insights into who we are, that is not its main purpose. The main thing in Scripture is its revelation of who God is through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Read your Bible looking first to answer the question, “Who is God?” You will find the answer to that question most clearly revealed in the passages that speak to you about Jesus Christ, the Son.

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(vv.26-28) The Father Loves You and Welcomes You into His Presence – **John 16:26–28 - 26** *In that day you will ask in my name, and I do not say to you that I will ask the Father on your behalf; 27 for the Father himself loves you, because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God. 28 I came from the Father and have come into the world, and now I am leaving the world and going to the Father.”* As crucial as knowing who God is, if possible, it is more crucial still to realize that God loves you and welcomes you into His presence forever. Imparting this understanding is also why Jesus left heaven and came to earth. Until we are gripped by the truth of God’s love for us, we will always live in the shadows of uncertainty about our relationship with Him. Many believers struggle with uncertainty in their relationship with their heavenly Father. We are conscious of our weakness and failure in Sanctification. But let me show you a precious truth from the Scriptures that may give you comfort if you are one who struggles in this area. Compare Romans 5:1-2 with Romans 8:30: **Romans 5:1–2 - 1** *Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. 2 Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. Romans 8:30 - 30* *And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.* In Romans 5:1 Paul began a discussion of the believer’s security or assurance that flows along through all of chapters 5-8 and concludes in 8:39. The interesting thing to note is that Romans 8:30 is an exposition of the principle that Paul announced in 5:1-2. Notice that in both Romans 5:1-2 and Romans 8:30 Paul begins by speaking of our Justification (being put right with God) and ends by speaking of our Glorification (our ultimate dwelling with God). One feels that something is missing that ought to be between: Where is Sanctification (being made progressively holy)? It is not there. Paul simply leaps from Justification to Glorification with no mention of our Sanctification between the two. Sanctification isn’t mentioned, not because it has no place in God’s plan for us for clearly it does, but because it has no place in the theme being discussed: the security of the believer and our assurance of salvation. What are we being told? That Justification guarantees Glorification. Notice how Romans 8:30 counts our Glorification as a present reality right along with our Justification: **30** *And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.* The only explanation for why this can be true is the love of God. That’s why Romans 5:5 tells us that our hope of Glorification cannot possibly fail: **Romans 5:5 - 5** *and hope [of Glorification] does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.* God’s Justifying us and sending His Spirit into our hearts is proof of His love and present Glorification of every believe who has put faith in Jesus, His Son.

[DOCTRINAL POINT] To know that God loves us regardless of our performance for Him gives us assurance of our ultimate Glorification in His presence.

[ILLUSTRATION] Perhaps the greatest gift a parent can give a child is the gift of unconditional love. When a child knows that she is unconditionally loved by her father, she lives secure in the knowledge that even when she makes an error, she is still counted a member of the family.

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Nothing she can do will ever result in the bond of love being broken. Correction will have to happen, but rejection is simply out of the question, because unconditional love rules it out.

[APPLICATION] You will never feel secure in your salvation, even though you are truly saved, until your heart is gripped by the reality of God’s unconditional love for you. If you are struggling with assurance of salvation, stop looking within yourself for evidence that you are saved. First go to the source. Search the Scriptures for evidence of the love of God. Ask God to apply that evidence to your heart through His Spirit’s indwelling presence. The path to assurance doesn’t lie in searching out who *you* are, but in searching out who *He* is.

(vv.29-32) Though our Faith is Genuine, we are Usually Ignorant of its Weakness - John 16:29–32 - 29 *His disciples said, “Ah, now you are speaking plainly and not using figurative speech! 30 Now we know that you know all things and do not need anyone to question you; this is why we believe that you came from God.” 31 Jesus answered them, “Do you now believe? 32 Behold, the hour is coming, indeed it has come, when you will be scattered, each to his own home, and will leave me alone. Yet I am not alone, for the Father is with me.* Jesus’ disciples now make an astounding statement: “Now we believe because you are speaking to us plainly!” Consider the facts: Jesus had just told them that *the hour was coming* when He would speak plainly to them, not that *the hour had arrived*. The hour of plain speaking would not come until the cross, the tomb, the resurrection and ascension made possible the outpouring of the Spirit. When the Spirit came to indwell believers, the hour of plain speaking would begin.<sup>1</sup> *They aren’t listening.* Nevertheless, their faith in Him is real – it’s real, but ignorant faith. Ignorant faith is weak faith, and Jesus pointed out where such faith leads in verse 32: **John 16:32 - 32** *Behold, the hour is coming, indeed it has come, when you will be scattered, each to his own home, and will leave me alone. Yet I am not alone, for the Father is with me.* Weak, ignorant faith leads to failing the Master. Untaught faith may be genuine, but it can’t sustain faithfulness in the face of crisis, persecution, and afflictions. Note well, however, that their untaught faith does not cause Jesus to reject them. He loves them still, and will restore them after their failure, because their faith, though weak, is real.

[DOCTRINAL POINT] Though our faith is genuine, we are often ignorant of its weakness.

[ILLUSTRATION] Little boys often imitate their father’s actions and mannerisms. In their little minds they are just like daddy – strong, brave, able to handle everything. This is all very well until they are confronted with a task that is beyond their means. Then their true weakness shows up. Does a loving father reject them because they cannot do all that he does? Far from it! Their weakness simply endears them even more to their father.

[APPLICATION] In just the same way that a human father knows how to deal with the weakness of a beloved child, our heavenly Father knows how to deal with our weaknesses and failures. He never rejects us because of our weak faith, for even faith the size of a mustard seed will carry a believer safely to heaven (cf. Mt. 17:20). Weak faith doesn’t keep us from the Father’s

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<sup>1</sup> G. Campbell Morgan.

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love; it keeps us from being as fruitful as we'd wish. The aim of each one of us should be to grow in our faith as much as possible. How can we do this? The secret, of course, is in saturation with God's word. The Spirit of God corrects, hones, strengthens, and increases the believer's faith through prayerful devotion to God's Word. As we devote ourselves to prayer and the word of God, we grow ever stronger in our faith. Perhaps we feel that we don't need this help so much these days. Maybe we think we've reached the point of reasonable maturity. But let me ask. Can we ever become too mature in Christ? No matter how long you've walked with the Master, let me encourage you stir-up your faith to maturity through devotion to prayer and the Word.

(v.33) We Can Have Peace because Jesus has Overcome the World – Knowing their weakness and coming failure, Jesus spoke a word of comfort to His disciples: **John 16:33 - 33** *I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.*” The world we live in is a “hot mess” and you and I can't fix it. Take heart! The One we have put our trust in can and did. Ultimately, Jesus' victory over the world brings us the peace we need to live as saints in a collapsing culture because we know that come what may, Jesus will bring us safely home to Glory.

[DOCTRINAL POINT] Jesus' victory over the world gives us peace.

[ILLUSTRATION] Being thrown from a boat unexpectedly is tribulation. Remembering that you're wearing a life jacket is peace.

[APPLICATION] In this world we will experience tribulation. Our Lord has told us to expect this. As things around us become more restless, Jesus invites us to find our rest in Him. Who doesn't need the assurance of peace today? Jesus encourages us by saying, “*Take heart!*” You are made for another world. A world of peace provided through Jesus' victory on the cross. God has made Himself known to us in Jesus. God has proven His love for us through Jesus. God has forgiven our failures for Jesus' sake. God has overcome the world's tribulation through Jesus' victory. Take heart! Your Savior has overcome the world.

**Conclusion:** Jesus knew that His disciples were on the cusp of challenging times, failure, confusion, and turmoil. As He closed His discourse He left them, and us, four great reassuring truths. We know the Father. We are loved by the Father. The Father understands our weaknesses. The Father has given us peace through Jesus. What more could anyone need in troubled times? Like that old preacher during the troubled times of the Reformation, we need not be knocked off our feet when troubled times come. Take heart! In Christ we have everything we need to face anything this world can throw at us.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Sources: J. C. Ryle; Martyn Lloyd-Jones; G. Campbell Morgan; A. W. Tozer