

Do Not Let Your Hearts Be Troubled

Look up † *Believe...Come...Do...*

In the name of Jesus our **Love** even greater than mother love, dear fellow children of God:

In a way this text is an illustration of Pastor Gawrisch's sermon March 29th: ***"I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us."*** As Paul says in another place: ***"We do not lose heart.....For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal."*** (Romans 8:18; 2 Corinthians 4:16-18 NIV84) Soon this will all be forgotten behind us. What wisdom do we see now? Not in the news, it's on T-shirts!

If you're happy and you know it, it's your meds.¹

I'll get over it, I just need to be dramatic first.

Just once, I want a username and password prompt to say, Close enough.

Mister Rogers did not adequately prepare me for the people in my neighborhood.

Reality called. I hung up.

Yes, I'm a nurse. No, I don't want to look at it.

Common sense...not a gift...a punishment...you have to deal with everyone who doesn't have it.

Common sense can't chase anxiety and fear away. Being busy can't settle your heart. What's left after the tenth time cleaning your house? Jesus isn't stuck on T-shirts. He writes His love and saving peace on human hearts by the powerful engraving of His Word: **Do Not Let Your Hearts Be Troubled.**

† **Believe** (vv.1-3)

Must have been my freshman year in college when some friends picked me up at the airport in Pierre, SD, and drove to their ranch near the Nebraska border. The roads were barely visible in the white-out of a ground blizzard. "Look up, Mark!" they said. Clear sky all the way to the stars. Just look up!

Jesus always gets to the heart of our problems with the kind hearted gentleness of a dear friend wrapping an arm around you when you're trembling with fear. Jesus says, **Do Not Let Your Hearts Be Troubled.** Then while showing us what's missing in the swirling confusion around us, He helps us look up to see His victory over anxiety and worry. ***"Do not let your heart be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me."*** (EHV²) Everyone believes in something – government, medicine, survival. But Jesus is the only safe object for your faith, the solid Rock on which to rest your confidence. **Look up...Believe!**

Know why some folks don't mind staying at home? They live in a "McMansion" which they rarely saw driving to work all the time. Would they trade for an apartment or trailer? That's how some translations make this sound as if Jesus means an apartment building with "many rooms." But it fits the context of heaven much better, as children too can understand. Jesus says, ***"In my Father's house are many mansions."*** Picture huge estates, parks without bugs, storms, death, sorrow or pain. Wide open spaces where animals **roam freely** (Isaiah 32:20). Your own **"place"** forever with Jesus your Redeemer.

Driving through a blizzard, you need to know shelter and safety are waiting. ***"In my Father's house are many mansions. If it were not so, I would have told you. I am going to prepare a place for you."*** How did Jesus **prepare**? He washed away our guilt and shame on the cross, lit up the glorious road to heaven by rising from the dead and opened heaven to all believers by ascending to God's right hand.

¹ CatalogFavorites.com (800-221-1133)

² Holy Bible: Evangelical Heritage Version. (2019). Milwaukee, WI: Northwestern Publishing House. (800-662-6022)

That's why our troubles are *light and momentary*, not worth the weight of all the *glory to be revealed in us*. *Living stones* God's temple? One T-shirt says, *My body is a temple – ancient and crumbling probably cursed or haunted*. But you, dear friends, echo Paul, ***“Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day.”*** (2 Corinthians 4:16 NIV84) Jesus promises: ***“If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and take you to be with me, so that you may also be where I am.”*** How can we be sure Jesus will *come again*? Since God loved you by name from all eternity, helped you hear and **Believe** God's Word, came to suffer the first time for sin, what could keep Him away from Judgment Day? Taking believers home to heaven, giving the godless eternity in torment?

✦ **Come** (vv.4-10)

No one works for weeks then skips out on payday. Since Jesus is coming soon, He wants us now to **Look up** and **Come**. “Doubting Thomas” is such a help here. Jesus says, ***“You know where I am going, and you know the way.”*** Thomas asks, ***“Lord, we don't know where you are going, so 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, except through me....”*** That got Jesus into lots of trouble. No one wanted to believe He was ***the Way***, the only **Way** to God in heaven. Then as now people want to **Come** – when they're not too busy or having too much fun. “I'm not afraid to die, just not too soon.” But ***the Way and the Truth and the Life***?

Imagine at the airport working really hard to polish an arm rest. Airport staff asks, “Why?” So you say, “I don't have a ticket and I want to get on the plane.” Call Security! You don't like waiting for the one ramp onto the plane so you cut your own door in the side? That's good works without faith in Jesus: worthless polishing no matter how hard you work, destructive as terrorism even if you're super sincere.

Thanks for Philip too! ***“Lord, show us the Father, and that is enough for us.” “Have I been with you so long,” Jesus answered, “and you still do not know me, Philip? The one who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? Don't you believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I am telling you I am not speaking on my own, but the Father who remains in me is doing his works.”*** Experience the kind and loving heart of God. Just **Come** with childlike hearts to Jesus. Learn how God cares for children, moms and dads, singles like Him. **Come!**

✦ **Do** (vv.11-12)

Is your heart **Troubled** not knowing what might happen? **Believe the Truth**: Jesus has your **mansion** prepared. **Troubled** by doubt and guilt? **Come the Way** to God's kindness and love in Christ alone. **Troubled** not knowing what it's all worth? Here's **the Life** above swirling confusion.

You know people who love to work and **Do** things? But no one can **Do** good like God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. All are so *into* what you **Do** in God's Name. ***“Believe me that I am in the Father, and the Father is in me. Or else believe because of the works themselves. Amen, Amen, I tell you: The one who believes in me will do the works that I am doing. And he will do even greater works than these, because I am going to the Father.”*** Jesus did spectacular physical miracles, but there are **greater works** which ***“God has prepared for us to do”*** (Ephesians 2:10)? Jesus' brother Jude (22f EHV) says, ***“Show mercy to those who are wavering. Save others by snatching them out of the fire. Show mercy to still others with fear....”*** ***“Remember this,”*** says another brother James, ***“Whoever turns a sinner from the error of his way will save him from death and cover over a multitude of sins.”*** (James 5:20 NIV84) Faith will **Do**.

One more thing the Holy Spirit wants to **Do** to lift us above T-shirts and blizzards today. Looking up, we also get to look back with believers from eternity. ***On that day it will be said, “Look, here is our God! We waited for him, and he saved us! This is the LORD! We waited for him. Let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation!”*** For now, ***“Go, my people, go into your rooms, and shut the doors behind you. Hide yourselves for a little while, until his wrath has passed over.”*** (Isaiah 25:9; 26:20 EHV) Always we know this too shall pass. **Do Not Let Your Heart Be Troubled – Looking up....** Amen.