

John 14:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know.

Analysis

And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know. Jesus has just told His disciples He goes to prepare a place for them (John 14:2-3). Now He asserts they know both His destination and the route. The Greek καὶ ὅπου ἔγω ὑπάγω οἴδατε τὴν ὁδόν (kai hopou egō hypagō oidate tēn hodon) uses perfect tense: you have come to know and continue to know.

Jesus's statement seems puzzling—how could they know? Yet He had repeatedly taught He was going to the Father (John 7:33, 13:3, 36). The destination was heaven, the Father's house. The way was through His atoning death, resurrection, and ascension. Though the disciples didn't fully grasp it yet, Jesus had provided the information.

This sets up Thomas's honest question (verse 5) and Jesus's profound answer: 'I am the way, the truth, and the life' (verse 6). Jesus wasn't describing a path to follow but identifying Himself as the path. The way to the Father is not information or instruction but a Person—Christ Himself.

Historical Context

This occurred in the Upper Room on the night of Jesus's betrayal. The disciples were confused and fearful, aware something momentous was approaching but unclear about details. Jesus's teaching prepared them for His crucifixion and absence, though they wouldn't fully understand until after Pentecost (John 14:26).

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does Jesus being 'the way' rather than merely showing the way shape our understanding of salvation through Him alone?
2. What does it mean practically that we already 'know the way' through Jesus's teaching and person—how should this inform our confidence?
3. How does Thomas's honest confusion (verse 5) and Jesus's patient answer encourage us to bring our questions and confusion to Christ?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	ὅπου	ἐγὼ	ὑπάγω	οἴδατε,	καὶ	τὴν	ὁδόν	οἴδατε,
And	whither	I	go	ye know	And	G3588	the way	ye know
G2532	G3699	G1473	G5217	G1492	G2532		G3598	G1492

Additional Cross-References

John 10:9 (Parallel theme): I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.

John 3:36 (Parallel theme): He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.

John 16:28 (Parallel theme): I came forth from the Father, and am come into the world: again, I leave the world, and go to the Father.

John 6:40 (Parallel theme): And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.

John 14:2 (Parallel theme): In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

John 13:3 (Parallel theme): Jesus knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he was come from God, and went to God;

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