

Jesus got the hook-up

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I'm ready and willing and waiting, Amen. Alright let's run to our Bibles to the gospel John, chapter 14, just going to share one verse with you and then we'll be done and some of you are going to beat yourselves up trying to get that money. Amen. So once you get there let's all stand, that's the gospel of John 14 and we'll read one verse, verse 6 and let's pray and ask God for his help this morning. Look at what the Bible says in John 14:6, a familiar passage of Scripture, the Bible says

“Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.”

The Bible says that Jesus says, “I am the way.” I just want to talk, just a little thought, Jesus got the hook-up.

Father, I pray in the name of Jesus that each of us realize that not only does Jesus have the hook-up but he's the one that hooks us up and takes us with Him when it's time to leave this earth. And I pray, God, if there's one that's here today that has not given their life over to Jesus Christ, I pray that this would be that morning when they get blood-bought, born-again and put into the family of God. I pray, God, that someone, some way that you help us in that area that we need your help. I pray, God, to speak to us in such a way that we will hear your voice clearly and will speak directly to our hearts. I pray God that we respond by saying not “No”, but “Yes! Yes!” And for that God we'll shout “Halleluia!” God, help somebody this morning, help me as your servant to arrive at the word of truth: guide my speech, my actions, my tongue, all that I say and I do. I ask that, God, you be the director of it all, and for that, God, I shall praise you. Through the Holy Spirit, have your way now and whatever I've left, yes sir, take care of that too for it is in your Son's name we pray, Jesus, Amen.

Now be seated.

Jesus got the hook-up, Amen. When we talk about that word “hook-up,” we're talking about a connection. He has the connections for you and I to get from this place to another. The Bible said that Jesus said “I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.” What did he do? We know what he done, we heard the songs already this morning. What he did was this, my friends, He came and he died

upon an old wooden cross, Amen. And they took his body, my dear friends, and they took it and placed it into a tomb, Amen. But then they came on that third day, they found the tomb was empty, the stone was rolled out of the way, what did they see? His gown is laid up here, my friends, but Jesus was gone. And now he's seated on the right hand of the Father and up in heaven, by the way, and one day we shall also be with our Lord and our Savior, Jesus Christ. He has the hook-up; he knows the way; he is the connection for you and I to get to heaven, Amen.

I want to look at three things, real quick and then we'll be done. We see the tree, the tomb, and we see the throne. Look at what the Bible shows us. He has the hook-up, I like this, on how to get in. The Bible says in verse 6, "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life." That word "way" means "the road; the journey; the highway, by implication, progress." If you're going to make progress it has to be through the Lord Jesus Christ. If you are going to be successful in this journey of life, it has to be through Jesus Christ. He is the way in, my dear friends, to the family of God by receiving Jesus as your Lord, Savior and King. And the Bible says that "no man cometh unto the Father" but what? "By Him." Notice what it didn't say. He didn't say "no man comes unto the Father" but through the Baptist church first or by the Catholic Church or the Lutheran Church, or the Pentecostal church. No, no, no, the Bible says that Jesus said you must come through Him. Jesus Christ, he's the only way, my friends, to get to the Father.

Also, my dear friends, not only is he the way in, he's the hook-up in, but also, my dear friends, he is the hook-up on the way out of many things that we face. What things do we face? We face discouragement, we face distractions, and we face difficulties. Look at what the Bible says in 1 Peter 5:7, this is a good verse, it's a working verse, it's a living verse, Amen. It's a life-changing verse. This verse tells me that if I walk around with some stuff that I don't want that I don't have to have it on me. Look at what the Bible says in verse 7, let's back up to verse 6, "Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time." Here it is, "Casting all your care upon him; for he cares for you." That word "casting" means "to throw upon," that word "all" means "the whole," "care" means the idea of distraction. What is distracting you on this road that we're traveling? What has you off kilter, so to speak, what has you, my dear friends, on the wrong street or going in the wrong direction? A lot of times, my dear friends, we allow a lot of stuff to hinder us but what the Bible says is this, throw all that stuff on who? On Him.

Give me little Jackie here. Come on up here son. Now he's a good boy, but let's say that he was your distraction, let's say he represents your distraction and your hindrance, he represents that thing that's holding you back, that's weighing you down. Hold your hands up straight in the air. You walk around with all that stuff on your shoulders, if it's not that heavy what do you do? You think you can carry it, "I can kind of handle this," but the Bible says cast how many cares? All. That means, my dear friends, the small ones too. And he says this, you're going to represent the Lord for just a second, don't get a big head. He says take all those cares and cast them on Him, take them over here and give them to Him. If I give them to Him, I don't have them anymore. But sometimes, what we do is this, a lot of times you say, "You got it Lord? You're sure you have it? Do you want

me to help you with it? Carry it a little bit? You're sure you don't need help? It's been with me a long time. I can let go? Are you sure I can let go? Okay, I'll let go. Are you sure? I let it go already. I did let it go." Well, if I let it go why is it still pulling me around? That's what some of them are, my friends. We're still hanging on to it. It tries to hold you back and twist you up, but He says to take this one too and do what with it? Cast it on Him. A lot of times it's easy to let go. This one is a little heavier. It will make you wobbly a little bit. We can't wait to get this one off but there's probably that one that's really hanging on to us and the Lord might be leaving it there for a reason. You say, "Please take this one, Lord? Why, Lord? Please take this one." This one here that makes you bend a little bit, it'll make your back hurt. This one right here will make you shaky and this one you can't wait for the Lord to take over this one.

What does he say? He says casting all of your care upon Him. Why? For he careth for you. He is concerned about you. When you think nobody else is concerned about you, there's always one and his name is Jesus Christ. Amen? He invites you to bring your problems over to Him. So there's Jesus who has the hook-up to get in, Jesus has the hook-up to get out of all kinds of stuff, but also, lastly, Jesus has the hook-up on the way up.

Look at what the Bible says over in 1 Thessalonians 4:13. Look at this, this is a good verse. A lot of times we read this verse at a funeral service or something like that, but this is not a funeral service. This is an exciting time, this is a glorious time. Look at what the Bible says in verse 13, "But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe," keyword, if, choice, God is not going to make you believe in His son Jesus. If we believe, if you choose, if you desire to have Christ as your Savior, you can have him, he's a free gift. But watch what he says, "For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him." If we believe, if we trust Him.

I'm thinking about Taylor, him and his fiancé are getting married, so we have our pre-marital counselling sessions, and in the midst of this session he recognized the fact that he didn't know Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior, he knew how to spell Jesus's name, knew about Jesus, but he knew that Jesus Christ was not his Savior and there in my office on that Wednesday night, we took the Word of God and in the midst of the Word of God he received Jesus as his Lord and Savior. He's on his way up to a glorious place.

The Bible says this in 1 Thessalonians 4:15, "For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent," or precede, "them which are asleep." There it is, "For the Lord himself," Jesus, "shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first. Then we which are alive and remain," the Bible says, "shall be caught up," I like that word, "caught up." By the way, that word also means "pulled." I like that. "Caught up," pulled up, "together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words." My dear friends, Jesus got the hook-up for the way up, Amen. If you want to go up, then you've got to come through the Lord Jesus Christ, trust Him

and Him alone. Then, my friends, when He comes back for us, the Bible says, you haven't got to try to leap up yourself, He's going to draw you to himself. I know some of you are saying, "I'm afraid of flying, Preacher," but let me give you some good news, look at what the Bible says in 1 Corinthians 15. We're almost done. Drop down to verse 55, the Bible says in verse 55 of 1 Corinthians 15, "O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?" The sting, that word "sting" also means "the poison." The sting, the poison of darkest sin and the strength of sin is the law but thanks be to God Halleluiah, the Bible says, he has give us the victory through our, I like that word "our" that means me right? I've got to pull myself up by my own bootstraps? No, the Bible says, my dear friends, he says this: "he gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore because of this, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, firm, always abounding, increasing." Oh my, that messes some of you up. It doesn't say decreasing in the work, it says "increasing, abounding in the work of the Lord for as much as you know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord." I like that part.

Let's back up to verse 51, "Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be," what? "Changed." Here it is, guys, for those who are afraid of flying, "In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be," what? "Changed." The Bible says that in a moment, not a snap, a twinkling of an eye so we're not going to be like Superman, "Oo, I'm afraid. I'm going to fall." No, it's faster than that. Faster than that. So, my dear friends, you won't have time to be scared of flying, as a matter of face, there won't be any more fear. You see, there won't be any more tears and there won't be any more fear either. All these things, we're not going to have any of that stuff anymore, my dear friends, because the Bible says that we will have an incorruptible body, a body without flaws, a body without sin, our minds will be changed, our hearts will be changed, we'll be a brand new creature in the Lord Jesus Christ.

I've got three questions and then I'm done. The first one is this and you've got to be honest: are you in the family of God? Now remember the way in is through Jesus Christ. The Bible says in Romans 6:23, "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is," what? "Eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." The Bible says in Romans 10:9, "That if thou shalt," what? "Confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and," what? "Shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be," what? "Saved." Verse 13 says what? "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." "Preacher, how do I get in?" Call on Him! He's not like us. What we do is this: when it rings or vibrates or whatever, we look to see who it is and we send them to voicemail. God doesn't send it to the voicemail. He doesn't say "leave your message and we'll get back to you soon." No, when you call Him, my dear friends, instantaneously, at that second, at that moment, my friends, he not only hears you but He responds. I know that somebody says, "Preacher, I called him yesterday and I ain't heard from him since." No, you've heard from it. "But he ain't said nothing." Sometimes God's silence is to simply wait. So when God says to wait, we think He hasn't responded. Like your parents when you ask them for something and they say they need to think about it, that can be interpreted several ways. They say, "Wait a minute and let me think about it." Or they say, "Well, we can't go." He just said, "Wait."

And sometimes the hardest thing is to wait, and sometimes He says no. "Well, he doesn't answer me. God doesn't like me. He doesn't love me. I need a new vehicle too. Why does Billy get a new vehicle and it's hooked-up. I guess he must love Billy more than he loves me because my engine be shaking and stuff like this." I think, what are you shaking for? This ain't no dance, Amen. No, He's just saying "wait." Just wait.

My dear friends, God's going to answer you and all you have to do is call upon him. But when it comes to salvation, you don't need to wait, that's instantaneous. All you've got to do, my dear friends, you don't even need to get on your knees, Some of you say, "What's the posture? How do I get him...what do I have to do to get in?" You don't have to get on your knees like this. I mean, you could be standing up, you could be sitting down, you could be riding down the street in the car. But you simply have to call on Him. Recognize that you are a sinner in need of a Savior and that Jesus Christ is the Savior that you need. He paid the sin debt that you couldn't pay by giving His life on the cross. He gave Himself. Nobody took his life, he gave himself. And, my dear friends, they put him in that borrowed tomb, he was placed in that tomb and on the third day He came out, not because he couldn't get out, my dear friends, but He told him that in three days, because you've got to remember that I'm not going to get too much into the history of it all but for them you had to be dead at least 3-4 days for them to say that you the body and the spirit and all that kind of stuff is gone so he waited for those three day and then he came up out of that grave. Then, check this out, not for one day but for 40 days after his resurrection, over a month, he was walking about talking with folks.

We're a little early but we're done though. Look at what it says here. Look at Acts 1:3, we need to see this, the Bible says this, "To whom also he," talking about Jesus, "shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God." For over 40 days. Nobody had the backbone when it came time to die. "We talked to the man for 40 days. I even ate fish with him for 40 days. We communed with him and then later on we saw him when he was caught up into glory." So, my dear friends, when it came time, he didn't have any problems. When it came time for Peter to be crucified upside down on the cross, he didn't have any problem because he knew that Jesus Christ had died and risen from the grave, he spoke to him after his death, my dear friends. Because if it was a lie, I don't know about you, but I would say, "Whoa. Time out. We hid the man's body. Don't kill me. I'm going to show you where the body is." But they knew it wasn't a lie. They knew they weren't hallucinating. What did he tell Thomas? Thomas was doubting and he said, "Unless I touch him." He came and said to Thomas, "Check me out, man. Grab a hold of me, hit me on the side." And Thomas said, "Lord, Lord my God. I believe you." He went from doubting Thomas to shouting Thomas.

I've got to get done. Listen, my dear friends, first of all, are you in the family of God? Secondly, are you overwhelmed by life? If you're overwhelmed you can hardly think or focus. 1 Peter 5:7, He says, "Give me all that stuff. Cast all them cares upon me because I care for you. You don't have to walk around overwhelmed." Listen, I thank the Lord for this, I sleep well every night, in spite of problems, in spite of stuff, I go to sleep. The

Bible says that he neither sleeps nor slumbers. So if God's up all night why should I be up too? I'm going to lay down and go to sleep and we're going to take care of that stuff tomorrow. I'm going to sleep. I'm going to get me some sleep but some of us go to bed with the problem and you aren't going to fix it at night. We sit there trying to think of ways. We try to strategize. "Let me see, how can I do this thing?" If it's money, who can I borrow from? Who can I talk to?" You have all this kind of stuff but the Bible says, my friends, give all that stuff to him so the question is this: are you overwhelmed today?

The last question is this, are you prepared to go up? The answers to all of these questions, my dear friends, in some way will involve the Lord Jesus Christ. If you're prepared to go up, that means you've got Christ. If you're not going to be overwhelmed, you need Christ. If you're going to be saved, you need Christ. "What are you saying, Preacher? Are you saying to me that Jesus is the answer?" Yup. I know you've heard it all your life but it's the truth: Jesus is the answer. Now, the choice is up to you and I. What's your choice?

Father, thank-you for your many blessings this morning. I've tried my best, Lord, to share the Word of God as you gave it to me, to realize that Jesus has the hook-up that he's the one that knows how to hook us up to eternal life; He knows how to hook us up to whatever we need to have. Father, I pray and ask that those who need to come and talk for a few moments to Jesus Christ, I pray that they do that. There's some folks here that are overwhelmed by a lot of pressure, they've got a lot of stuff that's got them weighed down, some of it is financial, some of it is family stuff, some of it has to do with their health, Lord, some of it has to do with other situations. But, Father, I pray that they come and talk to you for the Bible teaches us to be careful about everything but with prayer and supplication with thanksgiving that I request and make known to God and the peace of God that passes all understanding shall keep our hearts and our minds through Christ Jesus. There's some people here today that needs peace, they need it bad. I pray, God, they come and talk to you about that. Some people need to be saved and I pray that they come, Lord, to you about that. We'll show them from the Word of God how to trust Christ as their Savior. I pray, God, that this is a great day to get saved, on the day of the resurrection that we celebrate. I pray, God, that they come, whatever their needs are and help us to respond. Please Lord. We've got time. We didn't come to get out, we came to get in for it is through your Son's name that we pray, Jesus. Amen.

Let's all stand and turn to page 448 in the white hymnal.