

“Reason To Rejoice”
John 14:28-31

Introduction:

1. For Most Of Us:
 - Christmas Time Is:
 - A Time Of Great Celebration & Joy!
 - Just Think About All The Carols:
 - That We Sing:
 - That Call For Joy!
2. And - There Is Certainly:
 - Good Reason To Rejoice:
 - During This Time Of Year!
 - Because - We Remember The Incarnation & Virgin Birth Of Our Lord Jesus Christ!
 - His Coming From Heaven To Earth:
 - As A Baby!
3. But - As We Turn Back In Our Bibles:
 - This Morning To John 14:
 - We Will Find That Jesus Gives Us:
 - Another Reason To Rejoice!
 - Not Just - His Coming:
 - That We Celebrate:
 - At Christmas!
 - But Even - His Going:
 - Through His Death:
 - On The Cross!
4. And As We Come To The Last Four Verses:
 - Of This Remarkable Chapter:
 - Where The Lord Is Speaking Some Of His Last Words Before His Death:
 - In This “Discourse With His Disciples” In The Upper Room:
 - Where They Were Just Finishing Up The Last Supper At His Last Passover Meal!
 - We Hear Jesus’ Words:
 - 14:28-31 - “Ye have heard how I said unto you, I go away, and come [again] unto you. If ye loved me, ye would rejoice, because I said, I go unto the Father: for my Father is greater than I. / And now I have told you before it come to pass, that, when it is come to pass, ye might believe. / Hereafter I will not talk much with you: for the prince of this world cometh, and hath nothing in me. / But that the world may know that I love the Father; and as the Father gave me commandment, even so I do. Arise, let us go hence!”
5. Jesus Already Told His Disciples:
 - That He Was Going Away!
 - This Was One Of The Reasons:
 - For This Time With His Disciples:
 - On That Night!
 - And So - When Jesus Said:
 - 14:28 - “Ye Have Heard How I Said Unto You, I Go Away!”
 - He’s Just Reminding Them:
 - Of What He Already Told them!
 - Back In 13:33 - Jesus Said:
 - “Little children, yet a little while I am with you. Ye shall seek me: and as I said unto the Jews, Whither I go, ye cannot come; so now I say to you!”
 - And In 14:4 - Jesus Said:
 - “And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know!”
 - So - Even Though They Heard:
 - Jesus Words - About His Going:
 - They Didn’t Understand Them!
 - And So - They Were Understandably Confused And Even Sad!
 - They Didn’t Want Jesus To Leave Them!
6. But - Jesus Also Already Told His Disciples:
 - That He Would Come Back!

- Which Is Why Jesus Added:
 - In 14:28 - “Ye Have Heard How I Said Unto You, I Go Away, And Come Again Unto You!”
- And - In That Very Night:
 - He Even Told Them:
 - How He Would “Come Again” To Them!
 - First - Through:
 - His Resurrection!
 - So That He Could Say In:
 - 14:18 - “I Will Not Leave You Comfortless: I Will Come To You!”
 - But Then - He Would Also “Come Again” Through:
 - His Return!
 - So That He Could Say In:
 - 14:3 - “And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, [there] ye may be also!”
 - But - In Between His Resurrection & His Return:
 - He Would Also “Come Again” To Them:
 - And Manifest Himself Through:
 - His Revelation By The Holy Spirit! As We Saw In 14:21!
- But - Even Though They Heard:
 - Jesus Words - About His Coming:
 - They Still Struggled With:
 - His Going!

7.

- But - His Going:
 - Is What Jesus Says:
 - Is, Perhaps, One Of The Greatest:
 - Reasons To Rejoice!
 - Which Is Why:
 - In 14:28-29 - Jesus Said:
 - “If ye loved me, ye would rejoice, because I said, I go unto the Father: for my Father is greater than I. / And now I have told you before it come to pass, that, when it is come to pass, ye might believe!”
 - So - Because Of Jesus’ Going!
 - Because Of Jesus’ Departure!
 - Even - Because Of Jesus’ Death!
 - We Have:

1.

Reason To Rejoice!

- Even Greater Reason:
 - Than His First Coming - And:
 - Even Greater Reason:
 - Than His Second Coming!
 - Because - *All* Of His Comings:
 - Turn On The Hinges:
 - Of His Going!
 - And - Jesus Wanted His Disciples:
 - To Know This - And:
 - To Believe This - And:
 - To Rejoice In This!
- Because - His Going - Was:
 - For His Glory!
 - And So - They Could & Should Rejoice!
 - But - Once Again:
 - Jesus Conditions Their Joy In Him:
 - Upon Their Love For Him!
 - Several Times In This Chapter:
 - Jesus Talks About Their Love:
 - For Him! To Check & To Test:
 - If They Really Did!

- So - Before His Death:
 - He Does To All Of The Disciples:
 - What He Will Do With Peter:
 - After His Death!
 - “Lovest Thou Me?”
 - Do You Really Love Me?
- If You Really Love Jesus:
 - You Will Both Pursue After His Words:
 - And Practice His Words!
 - Even As He Said In:
 - 14:21 - “He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me!”
- But Also - If You Really Love Jesus:
 - You Will Take Pleasure In His Words!
 - Whatever He Says!
 - Even When He Talks About:
 - His Going!
 - 14:28 - “If ye loved me, ye would rejoice, because I said, I go unto the Father!”
 - So - Its Not Only:
 - The Coming Of Jesus:
 - That Gives Us Reason To Rejoice!
 - It Is The Going Of Jesus:
 - That Gives Us An Even Greater:
 - Reason To Rejoice!
 - Especially Since Jesus Says:
 - 14:28 - “For My Father Is Greater Than I!”
 - Now - This Is One Of Those Statements:
 - That Can Be Difficult:
 - If We Only Take It On Its Own!
 - But - We Must Not Forget About:
 - Everything Else Jesus Said:
 - About His Relationship:
 - With His Father!
 - According To 5:17:
 - Jesus & His Father:
 - Do The Same Works!
 - According To 8:19:
 - To Know Jesus:
 - Is To Know His Father!
 - According To 8:49 & 54:
 - Jesus Honors His Father:
 - Even As His Father Honors Him!
 - According To 10:30:
 - Jesus & His Father:
 - Are One - And Are United:
 - In Every Way - Except In Their Distinct Persons!
 - And - According To 14:30:
 - Jesus & His Father:
 - Are Even In Each Other!
 - So - When Jesus Says That:
 - His Father Is Greater Than Him:
 - He Is Not Talking About:
 - Their Nature & Essence:
 - As God!
 - Instead - He Is Talking About:
 - Their Functions:
 - As Father & Son!
 - And - Their Roles:
 - As The Sender & The One Sent!

- Even As Jesus Said Back In:
 - 13:16 - “Verily, verily, I say unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord; neither he that is sent greater than he that sent him!”
- So - To Jesus:
 - His Father Was & Is “Greater” Than Him:
 - Because - In Their Eternal Relationship:
 - Jesus Submits Himself To The Father - As A Son!
- And - That Fellowship:
 - Of Love & Affection:
 - In His Heavenly Home:
 - Was To Be Restored In All Of Its Glory When:
 - Jesus Would “Go Away!”
- And So - His Going:
 - Was For His Own Glory!
 - And - His Disciples Should Have:
 - Rejoiced In This!
 - For Him!
- What A Reason To Rejoice!
 - Jesus Gets To Go Back Home:
 - To Be With His Father:
 - In The Fulness Of Glory!
 - And - This Is Why:
 - We Can Rejoice Even Today!
- But - Tied To This Reason:
 - Is Another Reason To Rejoice!
- Because - His Going - Was Also:
 - For Their & Our Good!
 - And So - They Could & We Should Rejoice:
 - As Well!
 - Because - Jesus Adds:
 - In 14:29 - “And now I have told you before it come to pass, that, when it is come to pass, ye might believe!”
- So Much Of What Jesus Said:
 - To His Disciples That Night:
 - About His Comings & Going:
 - Was Prophecy!
- Starting Back In 13:18:
 - When Jesus Told Them:
 - About His Rejection:
 - “Before It Came To Pass!”
 - Even His Rejection & Betrayal:
 - By Judas - “O speak not of you all: I know whom I have chosen: but that the scripture may be fulfilled, He that eateth bread with me hath lifted up his heel against me!”
 - But Then - In 13:19:
 - Jesus Said The Same Thing That He Does Here:
 - “Now I tell you before it come, that, when it is come to pass, ye may believe that I am [he]!”
- So - Everything Jesus Told Them:
 - About His Rejection & Death!
 - About His Resurrection & Returns:
 - Both To Heaven & From Heaven!
 - He Told Them - So That:
 - They Might Believe!
 - And - That Is What They Would Need Most:
 - In Time In Between:
 - His Going & His Coming!
 - Belief! Faith!
- And So - As We Look Back:

- To Everything That:
 - Has Already Been Fulfilled:
 - That Jesus Told Us:
 - “Before It Come To Pass!”
- It Was All For Our Good!
 - So That You & I Might Believe!
 - And Grow In That Faith!
- But Also - As We Look Forward:
 - To What Is Yet:
 - To Be Fulfilled:
 - It Gives Us Greater Confidence:
 - That What Jesus Said Is Always So!
- And - This Gives Us Reason To Rejoice!
 - Because - The Going Of Jesus:
 - Was Ultimately For:
 - His Glory - And:
 - For Our Good!
 - Through The Fulfilment:
 - Of His Going - We Can Have:
 - Greater Faith & Hope:
 - In Him & His Coming!
 - Jesus Is Our:
 - Reason To Rejoice!
 - But Then - Jesus Also Gives Us:

2. ***Reason To Rely!***

- Upon Him - Even As He Was:
 - Going To Be With His Father:
 - In Heaven!
 - And - We See These:
 - “Reasons To Rely” On Him:
 - In 14:30-31 - Where He Talks About:
 - The Claims That Both:
 - The Devil & His Father Have On Him!
 - In 14:30 - Jesus Reassures His Disciples:
 - That The Devil:
 - Has No Claim & No Hold:
 - On Him - In Any Way!
 - “Hereafter I will not talk much with you: for the prince of this world cometh, and hath nothing in me!”
 - Now - Even Though Jesus Will:
 - Continue His “Talk” With His Disciples:
 - In The Following Chapters!
 - It Will Be Nothing Like:
 - His “Talks” With Them:
 - In The Past!
 - Because - The Devil:
 - Who He Describes Here As:
 - “The Prince Of This World!”
 - Will See To It That His Time With Them & His Talk To Them:
 - Is Curtailed!
 - And - At That Time:
 - When The Devil Comes To Him:
 - Through His Own Agents:
 - Like Judas & The Soldiers & Even The Priests!
 - It Will Seem To The Disciples:
 - That All Of The Darkness:
 - Of Hell Itself Will Have:
 - Come Upon Jesus Like A Flood In A Storm!

- And - Any Faith That They Had:
 - Could Easily Be Swept Away:
 - By Fear!
- But - They & We Can:
 - Still Rely Upon The Lord:
 - Because - That “Prince Of This World!”
 - “Hath Nothing In Me!”
 - Now - This Can Certainly Mean:
 - That The Devil Has:
 - Nothing “On” Jesus!
 - Just Like - If Someone Is Truly Innocent:
 - Of A Crime - Even Though Arrested - The Accuser Has:
 - Nothing “On” Them!
 - But - With Jesus - It Goes Even Deeper!
 - The Devil Has:
 - “Nothing In Me!”
 - Jesus Says!
 - Absolutely Nothing!
 - No Claim Over Jesus!
 - No Claim In Jesus!
- Now - The Devil May Have Something:
 - In Everyone Else In His World!
 - But - Not In Jesus!
 - And Though The Devil:
 - May Be The “Prince Of This World!”
 - When It Comes To Jesus:
 - His Rule Ends There!
 - Because - Jesus Is Not Part:
 - Of The Devil’s Domain:
 - In Any Way!
 - And So - Even Though:
 - In Just A Few Hours Time:
 - That Very Night - It Might Seem Like:
 - Darkness Of The Devil:
 - Will Have Overcome:
 - The Light Of The World!
 - The Truth Is:
 - “The Prince Of This World Cometh, And Hath Nothing In Me!” (Jesus Says!)
 - No Strength Over Jesus!
 - No Sway Over Jesus!
 - And Absolutely Nothing:
 - In Jesus!
 - After All - As Jesus Said & Proved:
 - Time & Time Again:
 - He Is Not Of This World!
 - And - This Is Why:
 - You Can Rely On Him!
 - And - This Is Even Another Reason:
 - To Rejoice In Him!
 - The Devil Has No Claim:
 - On Or In Jesus!
 - BUT - Jesus Says In 14:31 - BUT:
 - His Father Does!
 - His Father Has Every Claim:
 - In Jesus!
 - 14:31 - “But that the world may know that I love the Father; and as the Father gave me commandment, even so I do!”
 - Here We Find What God The Father:

- Does Have In Jesus!
 - And That Is - His Heart!
 - And - All Of His Heart!
- His Heart Of Love!
 - "I Love The Father!"
 - Jesus Says!
 - The Father Has:
 - The Love Of Jesus:
 - In A Way That Noone Else:
 - Ever Can!
 - And - This Heart Of Love:
 - Is What Motivated Jesus:
 - In All Of His Comings & Goings!
 - And Even Though:
 - This Is The First Time In The Gospel Of John Where Jesus Comes Out:
 - And Says He Loves His Father:
 - Everywhere Else - He Shows His Love To His Father!
 - In All Of His Words & Works!
 - The Prince Of This World:
 - May Have Nothing In Jesus:
 - But His Father:
 - Has Everything In Jesus!
 - His Heart Of Love!
 - But - At The Same Time:
 - He Also Has:
- His Heart Of Loyalty!
 - Jesus Also Says:
 - "As The Father Gave Me Commandment, Even So I Do!"
 - Isn't This The Way:
 - Jesus Tells Us:
 - To Know Whether Or Not:
 - We Love Him?
 - 14:15 - "If ye love me, keep my commandments!"
 - Well - Jesus Practices What He Preaches:
 - When It Comes To His Love:
 - For His Father!
 - He Loves Him - So:
 - He Keeps His Commandments!
 - Whatever God The Father:
 - Told Him To Say:
 - Jesus Said!
 - And - Whatever God The Father:
 - Told Him To Do:
 - Jesus Did!
 - And So - Jesus' Loyalty:
 - To His Father:
 - Sprang From His Heart:
 - Of Love For His Father!
- And So - The Prince Of This World:
 - Had Nothing In Jesus!
 - But His Father:
 - Had & Has Everything In Jesus!
- A Heart Of Love & Loyalty:
 - That Was Completely & Constantly:
 - Committed To His Father!
- And - What This Means To Us:
 - Is That - Jesus Wants The Entire World:
 - That Is Under The Power & Control:

- Of The Devil - Who Is:
 - "The Prince Of This World!"
- He Wants The Entire World:
 - To Know That There Is Someone:
 - Who Is Not Under His Power & Control!
 - And That Is Jesus!
 - And So - Through Jesus Christ:
 - There Is A Way Out:
 - Of The Devil's Domain!
- Because - The Devil:
 - Has Nothing In Jesus!
 - No Claim At All!
 - But - God The Father:
 - Has Everything In Jesus!
 - He Has His Heart!
- And - That Is Why:
 - You Can Rejoice In Jesus & Rely On Jesus:
 - Even More!
 - Because - When You Come To Him:
 - The Devil Has Nothing More:
 - In You Either!
 - He May Be A Powerful Accuser:
 - Against You! But:
 - In Jesus You Have An Even Greater "Advocate With The Father, Jesus Christ The Righteous!"

Conclusion:

1. But - This Is Not Everything That:
 - We Find In 14:31! In Fact:
 - It Is Said & Written In Such A Way:
 - That The Last Words Are Closely Connected:
 - With The First!
 - Look At 14:31 Again:
 - "But that the world may know that I love the Father; and as the Father gave me commandment, even so I do. Arise, let us go hence!"
 - According To This Verse:
 - What Did Jesus Want The World To Know About His Relationship With His Father?
 - Two Things:
 - His Love & His Loyalty!
 - And Though Those Two Things:
 - Can Stand On Their Own In This Verse:
 - Jesus Also Uses The Word "That" - Just Before:
 - And At The Very Beginning:
 - Of The Verse!
 - So - "In Order That" The World:
 - Might Know About Both:
 - His Love AND His Loyalty:
 - To His Father:
 - WHAT?
 - This Is Where Jesus Adds:
 - "Arise, Let Us Go Hence!"
2. It Is Through:
 - Jesus & His Disciples:
 - Leaving & Going From:
 - The Fellowship & Relative Safety:
 - Of The Upper Room - That The World:
 - Might Know About:
 - His True Love & Loyalty To His Father!

- It Is Through:
 - Getting Up From The Table - And:
 - Going Out Into The Night:
 - That - You & I Were Able To Know:
 - The Extent Of Jesus Love:
 - Not Only For His Father, But Also For Us!
3. At That Time:
 - It Was The Time:
 - For The Glory Of Jesus & The Glory Of His Father:
 - To Be Revealed:
 - In Its Fullest Display!
 - Only When Jesus Arose:
 - Did His Going:
 - Fulfill His Coming!
 - So That - His Father:
 - Could Be Both:
 - “Just And The Justifier Of Him Which Believeth In Jesus!” (Romans 3:26)
 - Only When Jesus Arose:
 - And Went From That Room:
 - Could God’s Wrath Upon Our Sin:
 - Be Satisfied Through:
 - His Love & Sacrifice!
 - Only When They Arose:
 - And Left The Comforts:
 - Of That Place - To The Discomforts Of Another:
 - Could The Eternal Purpose & Plan Of Redemption:
 - Be Finally Accomplished!
4. And So - “In Order That” The World:
 - Might Know About:
 - Jesus Love & Loyalty To His Father:
 - Jesus Said - With Resolve:
 - “Arise, Let Us Go Hence!”
 - And - His Going:
 - Gives Us All The Reason We Need:
 - To Rejoice In Him & To Rely On Him:
 - Until He Comes Again!
5. So - As We Sang Earlier This Week:
 - And - As We Will Sing In A Moment:
 - Rejoice, rejoice, O Christian,
 - lift up your voice and sing,
 - Eternal hallelujahs
 - to Jesus Christ the King!

Grace Baptist Church
Stephen Elmer, Pastor
4245 North 200 West
Greenfield, Indiana 46140
317-326-2362
www.sermonaudio.com/wordofgrace
www.growatgrace.org
pastor-elmer@hotmail.com