

JESUS AND THE PRESENT TENSE

By Bill Pugh

Some of us remember school days. Learning about the various uses of time, past, present and future tenses.

Those who studied Latin learned about the pluperfect tense. In his teaching Jesus used the present, the here and now meaning, of his words.

John, in his Gospel, records seven vital references to who Jesus is, and what He means for us, here, now and forever.

I am the bread of life (John 6:35,41,48,51).
I am the light of the world (John 8:12).

Reflection:

The song we often sing puts it this way:

God gives us a future,
Daring us to go
Into dreams and dangers
On a path unknown.

I am the door (John 10:7,9). I am the resurrection and the life (John 11:25). I am the good shepherd (John 10:11,14). I am the way, the truth, and the life (John 14:6).

Knowing he will suffer death on the cross, he used the future tense to make this wonderful promise to his friends. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and take you to myself, so that where I am, you may be also (John 14:3).

We will face tomorrow
In the Spirit's power,
We will let God change us,
For new life starts now.

Tis 687:1

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