

Gunston Bible Church
Pastor Dave
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The Way, the Truth, & the Life

Key Verse: JOHN 14:1-6

Good morning Gunston, it is always so good to see so many smiling faces out there this morning. We have been talking about the seven "I AM" saying and this morning we are going to concentrate on his saying, "I am the way, the truth, and the life".

As we come to our text we find Jesus with his disciples.

He told them in the previous chapter, "My children, I will be with you only a little longer. You will look for me, & just as I told the Jews, so I tell you now: Where I am going, you cannot come."

Jesus was preparing his disciples for the **Cross, & Resurrection**, & his ascension into heaven.

The disciples were noticeably bothered by this revelation.

So Jesus speaks these words of comfort to them as well as us **today**.

Read **John 14:1-6**

¹ "Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. ² In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. ⁴ And you know the way to where I am going." ⁵ Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" ⁶ Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

⁶ Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

When Thomas looked into Jesus' face & pleaded, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?"

He voiced the deepest need of the human soul.

The fact is that Christ had become the answer to every need in the life of Thomas--& Thomas dreaded the possibility of separation from his source of help.

So he cried, "Lord, how can we know the way?"

You can feel his pain and desperation; you have to remember the disciples had just found the answer to all life's questions. **(Jesus)** he had solved all their problems by providing a way of relief on the pressures of life. Now that they were starting to get comfortable walking with him and learning and growing daily with him. He just dropped a bomb shell on them and let them know he was going away.

The Savior's reply in v.6 was a final answer--not only for Thomas--but for all men, in every age.

⁶ Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

Which leads us to our first point in today's sermon;

1. I AM THE WAY

I am the way, the Pronoun is emphatic, **"I"** and none beside me.

"The Way" he is the only way to get to heaven, he demonstrated it in the doctrine that he taught and it was by his death that he purchased this heavenly inheritance for us.

By his steps he showed the way in which we should go in any situation and or circumstances we may be in.

“**The Way**” is again made prominent, reversing the order which Thomas had used when he said He and only he is the means which men can approach the father.

1 Timothy 2:5, “For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.”

This Jesus Christ was the leader in the road, the guide to the wandering, the preacher to the ignorant, and an example to all to follow.

Imagine a little league baseball team of six or seven year olds learning how to play the game of baseball. Putting yourself in that same situation I am sure you can remember they would much rather just play the game rather than try and learn the rules of playing the game. Now imagine one very imaginative player who thinks they have a much better way to play the game. He would stand at the plate with the bat on his shoulder and try his best to hit the ball as the pitcher threw it. When he did hit it, he would drop his bat but instead of heading toward first base would jump on home plate with both feet and yell “Home Run.”

While this is all happening the fielder catches the ball and throws it to first base and the umpire calls the young man “OUT.” The little man stands his ground, looks up at the umpire and says defiantly, “I’m not out. I just got to home plate before they did, I have a Home Run.”

The umpire tells the young man, yes son you did get to Home plate first but you have to run all the bases first before you get to home plate in order to get a Home run. But it’s too hard that way; my way I get a home run every time.

You can see the humor in the story, and it repeats itself again and again as we continue to have a new generation of little leaguers that have to be taught how to play by the Rules...

So now we can understand how simple that is in little league baseball, what makes us think it is any different with us making our way to our eternal home in heaven?

Just like those baseball players we must run the prescribed bases to get to home plate, God has established the correct path we must take in order to get there... there are no other ways or shortcuts it is only through the way (Jesus) that counts...

Isaiah 53:6 *"All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned everyone to his own way;*

The express purpose for which the Son of Man came into the world was, **Luke 19:10** *"...to seek & to save what was lost."*

Christ, therefore, has become the **"way"** that men might be saved.

We need to realize that Christ is not only **a way** but that Christ is the **Only** Way to be saved.

"I am the way" Jesus said. **"No one** comes to the Father except through **Me."**

There is on mediator, Christ Jesus who gives has given himself as a **ransom** for all.

Now while there are as many ways to Christ, there is only one way to God-- that is through Christ Himself.

Many **Denominations** as well as other religions preach that there are multiple ways to God. This is not a popular doctrine among non-Christians but still it remains a fact.

If **Liberalism** had its say, it would tell us that there are many ways to the Father: such as--the way of nature, social gospel, charity.

If **materialism** had its say it would tell us that the way to the Father is through: The improvement of one's environment until personal satisfaction was reached.

If **Universalism** had its say it would tell us we don't even need to find a way to the Father because everyone will eventually be saved.

Even the outspoken reverend **Jesse Jackson** made a comment where he said that men can reach the Father by many different paths--including those of Mohammed, Buddha, Confucius, or Jesus Christ. That there were multiple paths to God.

Saints , please pay attention, that is **not in my Bible** in fact remember the sermon I preached a few weeks back about Jesus was the door or the gate.

All of these who try to climb into the fold by some other way are thieves & robbers.

John 10:1 (ESV), *“Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber.*

There is only one way to the Father: it is through Christ.

He is the only way to be saved.

According to Jesus' own words there is not a person alive today, no matter how pious or religious they might be--who will be in heaven w/o coming through Jesus Christ.

Christ is the Open Way to be saved.

"I am the way" says Jesus.

Without the work of Christ at Calvary there would be no "way" to heaven.

He is not only the pathfinder, but He is the path along which He invites us to walk

He has done all that is necessary in order that we might arrive safely.

In Jesus' answer to Thomas & to all men not only did he say he was the way he also said;

2. I AM THE TRUTH

When Jesus declared, "**I am the truth**", He gave expression to one of the most profound concepts found in scripture.

In those words He claimed to be the expression of the absolute truth about:

Trans: In essence Jesus claimed to be; Truth embodied in the Incarnate Word.

"I am the truth".

Christ is the truth because He is the self-revelation of God that has been manifested.

The Truth, as he is the source of Truth and communicates that truth for the salvation of men.

He is the light that has come into the world.

Being the perfect revelation of the Father He combines in Himself & manifests all divine reality.

He embodies what men ought to know & believe of God. And what they should do as God's children.

John 17:17 (ESV) says, "Sanctify them in thy truth, your word is truth."

Psalms 119:160 (ESV), "*The sum of your word is truth, and every one of your righteous rules endures forever.*"

John 8:32 (ESV), “And you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.”

The truth does not waiver or change, it remains the same. Because he clearly leads the way, we can follow without fear of going the wrong way.

Trans: When Jesus said, "I am the truth" He was also claiming to be:

Truth embodied in the inspired Word.

Jesus is the "Word" spoken of in John chp. 1.

He is both the living Word of God & the written Word of God.

He is the Word of the O.T. as well as the witness of the N.T.

Jesus said in

John. 5:39 , “You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me,”

Christ's truth is embodied in the inspired Word of God, both O.T. & N.T. for He is the Word.

The Holy Spirit taught the apostles directly through inspiration & speaks to us just as directly when we open the Word of God.

Is He speaking to you today?

Do you know the truth?

Do you know the Son of God?

Thinking about Jesus as the Truth reminds me of the story I heard about how a bunch of young kids were discussing the text about how we are to be the salt of the earth.

One after the other gave their interpretation of what it meant to be the salt of the earth because we as Christians are called to be that salt.

One said that salt imparts a distinct flavor; another said that salt is used to preserve things from Decaying.

Finally one little girl said very innocently that **salt creates Thirst.**

Think about it for a minute, salt just like the word of God when ingested should create a thirst within you.

Now ask yourself **what are your thirsting for today?**

Transition: Jesus told Thomas, "I am the Truth".

Lastly, let us consider Jesus words:

3. I AM THE LIFE

I am the Life, as the author and giver of eternal life and the purchaser of it by his sacrificial death, he who by his doctrine shows us the way to it, and by his Holy Spirit begins it and carries it on to perfection, reminding us of all that he taught.

We cannot follow Jesus in our own strength; nothing we can do in and of ourselves can bring us into God's presence.

By this term "**life**" the Lord Jesus intended to convey something far more than temporal life.

He was offering: Abundant Life

John 10:10 (ESV)

10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly

Romans 6:23, (ESV)

“For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

The abundant life of which we are speaking has come from heaven itself by way of the incarnation, into the clouds & depressions of our terrestrial atmosphere.

It is the eternal germ which Jesus has planted in the hearts of His redeemed people to spread forever.

It is a quality of life that can cope w/any situation, under any set of circumstances.

It is the life that says, "I am strong **because** Jesus Christ is strong."

In fact one of my favorite verses is I can do all things in Christ who strengthens me.

"I am **free** because Jesus Christ has freed me."

"I am **alive** because Jesus Christ has recreated me to a life of holiness & purity."

It is an abundant life because it is lived by following the footsteps of Jesus.

It is also a: **Triumphant Life.**

John 1:4-5 *"In him was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it."*

Sin and holiness can never stay together very long.

If you would be truly happy you must be truly holy, and the secret is bound up with this triumphant life.

Paul knew this kind of life for he could say **Romans 8:2**, "*through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life has set me free from the law of sin & death.*"

It is a life that can say, "I am no longer in bondage to sin & death for Christ has set me free."

"I am triumphant and have **already won** the battle because Jesus has already won it for me."

Conclusion:

Jesus said, "**I am the way & the truth & the life.**"

Way "speaks of a connection between two persons or things, and here the link between **God and sinners**"

Truth "reminds us of the complete **reliability** of Jesus in all that he does and is"

Life "stresses the fact that mere physical existence matters little. The only life worth the name is that which Jesus brings, for he is **life itself**"

There is no alternative path Jesus alone is the only authorized path to God
When one takes away Jesus, then all hope is gone

"He is the **only way**, the total demonstration of deity to the world, and the one in whom alone is eternal life to be received"

Acts 4:12 (ESV), "*And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.*"

The same promise is still given today to all the faithful.

No matter how hard times may get for us and how confused we may become, we must always trust in God and in His promises.

Will you let Jesus be the way for you?

What's holding you back? Let it go, **go all in!**