

JESUS – THE ONLY WAY

John 14:6

I was talking to a man this week about his salvation. And one of the first things that he said was, “I relate to God in my own way.” And as you might suspect, his way was polar opposite to what the Bible says about salvation. And the scary thing about it was, he was just as comfortable in his belief as he could be.

But this man’s attitude is a perfect picture of the age in which we live, the age of pluralism. Pluralism says, “There are many ways to God. My way is just as good as your way. What really matters is not what you believe, but how you live”. And beloved, this mindset not only prevails in the world, but also in the church. A recent poll by Pew Forum revealed that 57% of those who attend evangelical churches, churches who supposedly preach the same gospel as we do – 57% of those attending these churches believe that faith in Jesus Christ is not the only way to get to Heaven. Now, beloved, that is an alarming statistic. For it is beyond dispute that the New Testament teaches faith in Jesus Christ is the only way to Heaven.

Jesus said in John 14:6, “I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life. No man comes to the Father but by me”. Peter said in Acts 4:12, “Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved”, speaking of the name of Jesus. Paul said in 1 Tim. 2:5, “For *there is* one God and one Mediator between God and men, *the Man Christ Jesus*”. The writer of Hebrews said in Heb. 9:22, “And without the shedding of blood there is no remission”. And he is talking about without the shedding of Jesus’ blood there is no forgiveness of sin. And if 57% of those who are supposed to believe the Bible do not believe the Bible about the way of

salvation, how many other people don't believe it? I can tell you. Almost all of them. Our world is no different now that when it was in the first century. Only a handful followed Jesus then, and only a handful follow Him now. And as John Piper writes, if you are one of those handful, if you stand for the truth that Jesus Christ is the only way of salvation, you will be considered as either arrogant or even hateful, and you will be shot at, either figuratively or literally.

Friends, I'm telling you, this is no light matter! This is nothing that you can take for granted anymore that your sons and daughters and next door neighbors are correct about. And it is nothing that you can afford to waiver upon yourself. Whether you've been saved for 50 years or 50 days, or whether you've never been saved at all, the most important, essential truth that you will ever believe is that Jesus Christ is the only way to Heaven. Let me share with you just why.

First of all, if you are a Christian, your **confidence in the Bible depends upon it**. We've already seen that the Bible is crystal clear on the exclusiveness of Jesus as the way of salvation. But if this is not true, then how can you and I trust the Bible in other matters of faith? We have no authority to look to as a guidebook for our lives. Secondly, the **world mission endeavor depends upon it**. Why go into all the world with the good news of Jesus if people who've never heard really don't need to hear it? If their religion is good enough to get them to Heaven. If there is more than one way to get to heaven, then we are wasting our time and money in taking up a Lottie Moon offering for international missions. We've wasted our time and money in going to Ecuador, and Peru, and New Orleans, and New York, and Vermont, if there are more ways to Heaven other than through Jesus. And the third reason that believing that Jesus is the only way to Heaven is that **the glory of God depends upon it**. Listen to what Paul says in 2 Cor. 4:6:

“For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to *give* the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ”.

It is the precious gift of His perfect Son as a payment for the sins of the world that brings great glory to God. Tell me, what greater sacrifice, what greater display of love could there be. None whatsoever! The night of Jesus’ birth the angel proclaimed, “For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.” And then the whole sky was filled with angels proclaiming, “Glory to God in the highest...” Oh, but if Jesus is just one of many saviors, then God is robbed of all His glory. And friend, that won’t happen! (Is. 48:11)

Now, if you are not a Christian, if you are not saved, **your own eternal destiny** depends upon your belief that Jesus is the only way to Heaven. God says in Acts 16:31, “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved”. That word “Lord” means unique ruler. It means only ruler. And to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ means that you understand that Jesus Christ is the Lord, that He is the only true God in the universe. That all other gods are false gods. Friend, you can’t be truly saved if you come to Jesus as your most convenient option. He must be your **only hope** of Heaven or you will perish. So today, whoever you are, I want you to solidify in your heart that no matter what the world says, no matter how old fashioned and out of touch they claim you to be, you know that there is only one hope for this lost, dying, world, and that hope is Jesus.

Now, as I want to give you a foundation for your confidence in Jesus by taking the rest of our time to dissect Jesus’ claim in John 14:6. Jesus said, “I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life”.

Someone has put it like this. Without Jesus there is no going, no going to Heaven. Without Jesus there is no knowing, the no knowing heavenly truth. And without Jesus there is no living, no living the heavenly life.

Why is this? Well, first of all, without Jesus there is no going to Heaven because of the horrible curse of sin. Friends, we live in a world whose conscience has been seared as with a hot iron with respect to sin. A few months ago I saw a picture of a homosexual dressed in a devil's suit at some sort of rally. This man had the biggest grin on his face you've ever seen. And he was holding a sign that joked and mocked about hell. Pimps all over the world sell little children into sex slavery without blinking an eye. Hackers steal your identity and then steal your life savings and revel in their cleverness. Young adults move in together, sleep together, and sleep like a baby without a twinge of guilt.

But before we say, "Preach on to those sinners, preacher", let us look into the mirror for a moment. Coffee shops are full of professing Christians every morning that crucify one another with malicious gossip. Every night professing Christians settle down to watch a glut of moral filth pouring into their homes through their TV sets, things that would embarrass them to no end if Jesus were sitting there watching it with them. But they forget that He is there! Professing Christians cheat on their income tax, they cheat on their wives and husbands either literally or through pornography, and they cheat on their bosses by laziness and taking things home from work that no one will ever need or ever miss. Christian teenagers cheat on tests, and drink behind their parent's back and lie to cover it up. Years ago someone hit the nail on the head. They said, "Sin is in", and friends, sin is still in! Like a dense fog in the early morning, sin blankets this world and totally blinds us as daily we rush straight toward the pits of death.

Here's what the Bible has to say about sin: Psalm 5:4-5: "For You are not a God who takes pleasure in wickedness, Nor shall evil dwell with You. The boastful shall not stand in Your sight; You hate all workers of iniquity". Psalm 11:5: "The Lord tests the righteous, but the wicked and the one who loves violence His soul hates". Friends, these are not my words, they are God's. Proverbs 15:8 says, "The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the Lord". Proverbs 15:26 says, "The thoughts of the wicked is an abomination to the Lord". And the word "abomination" means to hate with indignation. God hates the thoughts and even the offerings of the wicked.

Well, who are the wicked? For one, the disciples. In Matt. 17:17 Jesus called them a faithless and wicked generation. For another, the apostle Paul. Paul wrote to the Romans, "O wretched man that I am!" (Rom. 7:24). He wrote to Timothy that he was the chief of sinners (1 Tim. 1:15). And if for some reason this is not hitting close to home just yet, Solomon wrote in Ecc. 7:20, "For there is not a man on earth who does good and does not sin". Isaiah writes, "For we are all as an unclean thing, and all of our righteousness is as filthy rags..." (Is. 64:6). Friends, I am wicked and you are wicked. We are all wicked to the core. And our wickedness comes with a price. Romans 1:18 says, "For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men..." That's what we all deserve, the unmitigated wrath of God, eternal torment in hell forever and ever.

But, praise God, He loved us so much that He sent His only Son Jesus to bear His wrath for our sins when Jesus died on the cross. Romans 5:8 says, "But God demonstrated His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us". And in one of the sweetest verses in the Bible, Isaiah says, "He shall see the labor of His soul and be satisfied...." (Is. 53:11). Glory be to God, God was satisfied with the suffering of His Son

for our sins! And beloved, that's the reason that Jesus said, "I am the Way". For His death was God's only provision for our sins. The hymn writer said it perfectly, "For on the cross where Jesus died, the wrath of God was satisfied".

I ask you, is the wrath of God still hanging over your head this morning? Do you know for certain that you've turned from your sins and cried out to Jesus as your only hope of salvation, trusting Him alone to save you? If you go to Heaven you must, for Jesus is the only way.

So, without Jesus there is no going. There is no going to Heaven. But Jesus also said, "I am the Truth", and without Jesus there is no knowing. How vast is the universe the God has made! It is infinite in its scope. And sometimes I get amused at the attempts of men to grasp the knowledge that only can come by revelation. Just this week some of you perhaps read about the Hubble telescope sending back new photos of the outer edges of the known universe, and scientists claiming that they may find some interesting facts concerning the early morning of the universe around 13 billion years ago. Well, they could save themselves a lot of trouble if they would only heed the words of Paul, who when speaking of Christ in Col. 2:3 said, "In Whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge". If they would inquire of Jesus, they would understand that He created the universe only about 6 to 8,000 years ago, and they would give Him the glory for all that they discover and not attribute it to random chance. And they would know the truth that they so earnestly seek.

And how desperately we need to know moral truth in the world today. Almost every week we read of some law or judicial ruling that has turned righteousness and plain common sense on its head. Case in point: On January 1st of this year a law passed by the California assembly was to have gone into effect. It would

have given any student, kindergarten through high school, the liberty to choose which gender they felt most comfortable claiming to be, with all the rights and privileges included. That means if an 11th grade boy walked into school one morning and decided he wanted to use the girl's bathroom along with all the girls, no one could stop him. Or he could go out for a girl's athletic team as well. Well, thankfully a group filed a protest in court and the law will not be implemented until legal challenges are completed. But can you see where godlessness in our culture is taking us? Why cannot the California assembly see the truth? Because the majority of them reject the Lordship of Jesus Christ. For Jesus said, "I am the truth".

Why are so many marriages breaking up all around us? Because either husband or wife or both do not understand the truths about marriage that Jesus taught. Why are we drowning in debt, as individuals, families, and as a nation? Because we do not practice the truths of stewardship from Jesus. Why is there war among families, neighbors, nations, and even in churches? Because we have not followed Jesus' truths about loving one another. Why are so many of us still bound in addictions and sin after we are saved? Because we've not claimed Jesus' truths concerning deliverance, for Jesus said, "Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed" (John 3:36).

So here's the mammoth question: how do you and I learn the truth from Jesus? Turn to John 16:7-11. Jesus said that we will know the truths concerning what is wrong and what is right and the judgment at the end of time by the Helper, the Holy Spirit, Whom He would send. And He sent the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, 40 days after His ascension into Heaven. But now look at vs. 13. Beloved, there is nothing under the sun that is outside the realm of God's truth. All truth is God's truth, it is Jesus' truth. And Jesus gives it to us through the Spirit when we ask Him.

But having said that, there is a repository for Jesus' truth that we must tap into. Ps. 119: 142 says, "Your law is truth". vs. 151 says, "...All Your commandments are truth". And vs. 160 says, "The entirety of Your word is truth..." Here is where Jesus speaks His truth to you. They are His words, and they are perfect truth.

So Jesus is the Way – without Him there is no going. Jesus is the Truth – without Him there is no knowing. But Jesus is also the Life – without Him there is no living. Friends, there is a great misconception in the world today concerning eternal life. Most people will tell you that eternal life is what you live in Heaven; you live eternally with God the Father and Jesus. And that is true, but eternal life has to do just as much with quality as it does quantity. And when Jesus says, "I am the life", He is talking about being the source of a life of a different dimension than the physical, that which you can see, touch, taste and feel. He is talking about a spiritual life.

You see, most people live for all the pleasure they can squeeze out of every waking moment. Like Paul wrote to Timothy, they are lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God. And as far as their benefit is concerned, whatever they accomplish on this earth will be buried with them. They're born, they live, they die, they suffer in hell forever. In fact, the Bible says that these people never really live at all. God says in Eph. 2:1 that they are dead in trespasses and sins. Walking dead men.

But not so with the ones who have the life that Jesus gives! When you have the life that Jesus gives you have a life that is infinitely more noble and rich than a life without Him. Because you live life in the realm of the supernatural. You see and hear and perceive the things that God is doing in this world, things of which unsaved people are clueless. For the Bible says that the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God (1 Cor. 2:14). And when you have Jesus' life He allows you to actually be a co-

laborer with Him in His supernatural work of redemption, and there is no greater joy known to man.

When you have the life that Jesus gives you have joy in the midst of sorrow because you know that weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning (Ps. 30:5). And you have this joy because you know that God is in control, and all things work together for good for those who love the Lord. When you have Jesus' life you are content with the things that you have, even if you don't have much, because as Paul writes to the Colossians, you are complete in Him (Col. 2: 10). And when you have Jesus' life within you, as your friends grow old and fear the grave, you grow old

with the peace of God in your heart and declare, "O death where is your sting? O grave, where is your victory?" And when you have the life of Jesus, you actually look forward to the day that you will cross over into eternity and meet Jesus, Who gave you life, and with Whom you'll live forever more.

So I ask every single one of you today, where are you on your spiritual journey, your journey to eternity? Have you claimed Jesus Christ as your way to the Father? Have you met Him face to face, turned from your sins, and trusted Him as your Savior and Lord? Or are you still under the cloud of wrath? If you've never trusted Jesus, you can be saved today if you will just come to Him and ask Him to save you by faith alone. And if you are saved, are you living the supernatural, spiritual life that you received at your new birth? If not, beloved, the time to start is now! For the glory of God, I pray that you will.