

# I AM THE WAY, THE TRUTH AND THE LIFE

John 14:6

**1** “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. **2** In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. **3** And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. **4** You know the way to the place where I am going.” **5** Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?" **6** Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

## I. THE QUESTION—BY THOMAS

**Two parts: 1. Where** are you going?—**2. How** can we know the **way**?

### A. THE ANSWER TO PART ONE—WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

1. Beforehand, they *had* known where they were going
  - They *had been going* to Jerusalem—He had told them so
  - But now—in Jerusalem (12:12ff)—where would He/they go from there?
2. But He had *already* told them where He was going from there
  - “. . . to Him who sent me . . .”—**7:33**
3. **Who** had ‘sent’ Him—He had already told them—**11 times**

**Jn 5:23, 30, 36, 37—the Father**

**Jn 6:39, 44, 57—the Father**

**Jn 8:16, 18, 29—the Father**

**Jn 12:49—the Father**

4. Now He *explains* this clearly
  - I go to the Father—**14:12** and **28**  
*12 Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do, he will do also, and greater works than these he will do, because I go to the Father . . . 28 You heard that I said to you, “I go away, and I will come to you.” If you loved Me, you would have rejoiced because I go to the Father, for the Father is greater than I.*
5. Later He confirms this—in His prayer to The Father  
*17:13—But now I come to You; and these thing I speak in the world so that they may have My joy made full in themselves.*

### B. THE PROBLEMS

1. THEY COULD NOT GO WITH HIM!
  - a. **Three** times He told them He was going away—**Jn 7,8,13**
  - b. **Three** times He told them—“where I am going you cannot come”
    1. **Twice** to the ‘Jews’—**Jn 7:34** and **8:21**

## 2. **Once** to His own disciples

**Jn 13:33**—*Little children, I am with you a little while longer. You will seek Me, and as I said to the Jews, now I also say to you, “Where I am going, you cannot come.”*

### 2. THEY DID NOT FULLY UNDERSTAND—ABOUT HIS GOING TO THE CROSS

- a. Four times He told His disciples—who *misunderstood*—but nobody *else* knows this fact yet
- b. So—Peter pushed the issue further—asking Jesus *where* He was going?

**Jn 13:36-37**—*Simon Peter said to Him, Lord where are You going?” Jesus answered, “Where I go, you cannot follow Me **now**; but you will follow later.*

- c. Still Peter and the other disciples did not fully understand what He meant.

### 3. WHY NOBODY COULD GO WITH HIM—TWO ANSWERS

#### a. The ‘Jews’ who rejected Him

- Could not go to heaven—to be with the Father
- Because of their unbelief
- Because they did not *follow* Him

#### b. His own disciples

##### 1. Going **TO** the cross

- a. They **would not**—follow Him in death

**Jn 13:37-38**—*Peter said to Him, “Lord, why can I not follow You right now? I will lay down my life for You.” Jesus answered, “Will you lay down your life for Me? Truly, truly, I say to you, a rooster will not crow until you deny Me three times.”*

- b. They **could not**—die His death on the cross

- Only He could go to the cross
- Only He could make atonement

##### 2. Going **BEYOND** the cross

- a. Only Jesus was capable of making that journey at that time

- He was going into heaven itself
- He went before God in heaven and presented Himself as the sacrifice

**Heb 9:24**—*For Christ did not enter a holy place made with hands, a mere copy of the true one, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us*

- b. He had already told Nicodemus this fact!

**Jn 3:13**—*No one has ascended into heaven, but He who descended from heaven, the Son of Man.*

## **B. THE REST OF THE ANSWER TO PART ONE—LATER YOU WILL BE GO TOO!**

1. JESUS NOW TELLS THEM SOMETHING NEW
  - a. **Later** they *will be able* to go with Him—look again at **13:37**
  - b. In two ways
    1. Eventually—Jesus will take them home
    2. To be with the Father—**vv1-4**
  - c. But right **now**—along the journey—along the Way with Him
    1. The Holy Spirit will come and abide with them—**vv 16ff**
    2. This is the **Spirit of Truth**  
**14:17**—also **15:26**—and **16:13**
2. REMEMBER—THERE WERE TWO PHASES OF JESUS' GOING TO THE FATHER
  - a. **First**—the atonement
    - To Heaven and Hell and back again
    - Then He would stay 40 days—before His Ascension
  - b. **Second**—to Heaven—until His final return
    1. It was necessary—so He could **send** His **Spirit**—**Jn 16:7ff**
      - If I don't go away, the Helper will not come to you
      - But if I go, I will send Him to you
    2. He went away—to intercede—**Rom 8:34**
      - At the right hand of God making intercession
    3. He went away—to prepare our heavenly home—**Jn 14:3**
      - So—now it *is* possible to go with Him
    4. He went away—in order to prepare to return—**Jn 14:3**

## **C. THE ANSWER TO PART TWO—HOW DO WE KNOW THE WAY?**

- ❖ Jesus answers 3 questions about how to go where He is going
  - The **direction**—the **WAY** to get there—the **bearings** of the trip
  - The **boundaries**—the **TRUE WAY**—the **signposts** for the journey
  - The ultimate **destination**—the **LIFE**—being with the Father

## II. I AM THE WAY

### A. INTRODUCTION

1. Remember the ultimate destination—is heaven—to be with the Father
  - a. Like Jesus—who was leaving to be with the Father
  - b. We also will leave to be with Him

*In My Father's house are many mansions*

2. So Jesus shows us **THE WAY**—which gives us THREE things
  - The **means**—**how to get on** the right path
  - The **direction**—**where** to go
  - The **manner**—**how to walk** along the path

### B. EXPLANATION OF THREE ASPECTS

1. **THE MEANS**—how we get on that pathway

- a. We must **believe** in Him

*14:1—You believe in God—believe also in Me*

*Jn 5:24—Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life.*

- b. We walk **through Him**—He is the the entryway—“I AM the door”—**Jn 10:7**

2. **THE DIRECTION**—where we are going

- a. Jesus knows the way—because He has been there—He is the Guide
- b. So we **walk with Him**—in the Spirit—along His way
- c. These are the pathways of our **calling**
- d. Jesus says to each of us—“**follow Me**” into the pathways that I direct you

3. **THE MANNER**—how we walk along the Way

- a. Jesus has set the example already
- b. We walk **the way He walks**—we **obey** Him and follow His example

### C. JESUS HIMSELF—*IS THE WAY*

1. Jesus is the *destination*
  - a. He is *one* with the Father—**v 10**
  - b. To be with Jesus is to be with the Father

2. He is the way to get to the Father

**Heb 10:19-20**—*Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a **new and living way** opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body.*

#### **D. THE IMPORTANCE OF THE JOURNEY ITSELF**

1. We can be with God *now*
2. The journey is *part* of the final goal!

#### **E. THE WAY—IS OUR IDENTITY—AS THE CHURCH**

1. The New Testament Church—was known as ‘The Way’
2. Biblical evidence—4 places in Acts
  - Ephesus—disturbance arose about **The Way**—**Acts 19:23**
  - Paul persecuted **The Way**—**Acts 22:4**
  - Paul later identified himself with **The Way**—**Acts 24:14**
  - Felix was acquainted with **The Way**—**Acts 24:22**

### **III. I AM THE TRUTH**

#### **A. THE TRUTH IS—R-I-G-H-T**

- **Real**
- **Irrefutable (Fact)**
- **Genuine**
- **Honest**
- **Total**

1. What is **REAL**—what **really exists**
  - a. This deals with ‘is-ness’ and ‘is-not-ness’
    - God is the ultimate Reality
    - This is how He identifies Himself—His very name = I AM
    - God **exists**—other gods do not exist
  - b. God is the Real Thing—i.e. God is ‘true’

**Jn 17:3**—*This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only **true** god, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.*

2. What is **IRREFUTABLE (FACT)**—what we **know**
  - a. This deals with **accuracy** and **certainty**
  - b. Like mathematical equations and scientific facts are ‘true’

- c. We know God's certain facts by three things
    - Natural revelation—bears witness to God's power and glory
    - Biblical revelation—His Spirit has told us the facts
    - Jesus Christ—He *is* the Truth—Who has *revealed* the truth
3. What is **GENUINE**—what has been **tested** and **proven** to be the real thing
- a. Our perception *should* be consistent with reality and facts
  - b. But this is not always the case—sometimes people make mistakes
  - c. They can be *sincerely* wrong—yet not *dishonest* about it
  - d. Their sincerity does not make their perceptions right!
  - e. Their sincerity and opinions do not define reality and truth
  - f. Jesus is **objective reality** beyond our own perspective—He has **proven** to be the real thing
4. What is **HONEST**
- a. The moral dimension
  - b. Truth is—not wrong/false—not a misrepresentation of reality
  - c. Truth mirrors **reality**—of what is genuinely good and right
  - d. Truth is a **Moral** quality—it tells us what is **right**—and **wrong**
  - e. Jesus is the Truth—as the Light of the World

*Jn 3:19-21—This is the verdict. Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. Everyone who does evil hates the light and does not come into the light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. But he who lives by the truth comes into the light so that it may be seen plainly that what does has done has done through God.*

5. What is **TOTAL**—CERTAIN—ABSOLUTE!
- a. Truth is NOT relative—not just what *we* think it is
  - b. It is an objective quality—it either IS –or IS NOT—no in-between
  - c. So God's word—not *our* perception—is the final reality and fact

**EXAMPLE—RIGHT (TRUE) PATH—USING GPS WHEN LOST [Alabama/Houston]**

## **B. JESUS IS THE TRUTH—HE DOES ALL THESE THINGS**

1. John testified—Jesus speaks the words of truth
- God is True—and Jesus speaks His words—

**Jn 3:31-34**—*The one who comes from heaven is above all. He testifies to what he has seen and heard, but no one accepts his testimony. He who has accepted it has certified that God is truthful. For the one whom God has sent speaks the words of God, for God*

2. Jesus confirmed this—to the Pharisees [about being the Light of the World]

**Jn 8:26**—*I have many things to speak and to judge concerning you, but He who sent Me is true—[trustworthy]; and the things which I heard from Him, these I speak to the world.*

3. Jesus' purpose—to bear witness to the truth—He told Pilate

**Jn 18:37**—*You say correctly that I am a king, For this I have been born, and for this I have come into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice.*

### **C. WHAT JESUS' TRUTH DOES FOR US**

1. It **puts** us on the right path—to the Father
2. It **keeps** us on the right path—steers us right
3. It **sets us free**—from the wrong path and the wrong destiny

**Jn 8:31-2**—*If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine, and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.*

- Freedom from the necessity of sin
- Freedom from the penalty of sin—death
- Freedom from distractions/detours—that sidetrack us on our journey to the Father

## **IV. I AM THE LIFE**

### **A. JESUS IS THE SOURCE OF ALL LIFE**

1. All things were made by Him—**1:3**
2. In Him was life—that life was the light of men—**1:4**

### **B. JESUS IS THE SOURCE OF NEW LIFE**

He gives resurrected life

**Jn 5:21**—*For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so the Son also gives life to whom He wishes.*

### **C. JESUS IS LIFE ITSELF—BEYOND THE RESURRECTION**

**Jn 11:25-6**—*I AM the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies; and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die.*

### **D. THIS LIFE HAS TWO ESSENTIAL QUALITIES**

1. Never ending—everlasting—eternal life—**Jn 3:16**
2. Abundant life—here and now

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

## E. JESUS' TRUTH CONNECTS THE WAY AND THE LIFE

### Sermon on the Mount—Mt 7:13-14—the narrow way to life

*Enter through the narrow gate, for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the way that leads to life, and only a few find it.*

## V. NO ONE COMES TO THE FATHER BUT THROUGH ME

### A. POSTMODERNITY—IS NOT SO NEW!

1. Definition: truth is relative—truth is socially constructed—whatever you believe is truth/right
2. This is not a new idea—look at Pilate's question

**Jn 18:37-38**—*“You are a king, then!” said Pilate. Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. In fact, the reason I was born and came into the world is to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me.” Pilate said to Him, “What is truth?” [!!!]*

### B. THE EXCLUSIVENESS OF THE GOSPEL

1. The world is correct—there **are** many pathways out there—many choices
  - But only **one** leads to **life**—and to the **Father**
  - *All* others are false ways
2. The **either-or** choice of the Gospel

**Jn 3:36**—*He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.*

3. The linguistic absoluteness of this passage—the **definite article**!

**THE WAY—THE TRUTH—THE LIFE**

4. Jesus *explicitly* excluded all other options!

**Nobody** comes to [Life and] the Father—**except** through Jesus

5. Affirmed by apostolic witness—by Peter

**Acts 4:11-12**—*He is the stone which was rejected by you, the builders, but which became the chief cornerstone. And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved.*

6. So—when Jesus said, “**Enter through the narrow gate,**” this applied to two ‘I AM’ statements

**I AM the Door (Jn 10)**—He is the **gate**(way) to the sheepfold and eternal life

**I AM the Way (Jn 14)**—the exclusive—one and only—narrow pathway Home to the Father



7. Our way to the Father—begins with the Cross—then follows Christ

**If anyone would follow me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.**

### **THE WAY OF THE CROSS LEADS HOME**

**I must needs go home by the way of the cross,  
There's no other way but this;  
I shall ne'er get sight of the gates of light,  
If the way of the cross I miss.**

**The way of the cross leads home,  
The way of the cross leads home,  
It is sweet to know as I onward go,  
The way of the cross leads home.**

**I must needs go on in the blood sprinkled way,  
The path that the Savior trod,  
If I ever climb to the heights sublime,  
Where the soul is at home with God.**

**Then I bid farewell to the way of the world,  
To walk in it never more;  
For the Lord says, "Come," and I seek my home,  
Where He waits at the open door.**