

# THE WAY

Read Text: John 14:1-6

## I. TWO KEY POINTS ABOUT THE WAY

- We are **on** The Way
- We **are** The Way

## II. WE ARE ON THE WAY—WITH HIM

### A. TWO DIMENSIONS

- Future: the way of destiny—to heaven—**vv 1-6**
- Here and now: the way of living today—**vv 16 ff**

### B. WE ARE ON THE WAY WITH HIM

#### 1. He has sent the Holy Spirit—the Helper

- Sent to live with us now and forever

**14:16**—*I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever.*

- The ‘Comforter’—the Paraclete—who comes alongside us—**παρακαλεω**
- This is the very presence of Christ Himself

**14:18**—*I will not leave you as orphans, I will come to you.*

#### 2. Effect

- a. Palpable sense of His presence
- b. Like the two disciples on the road to Emmaus

**Lk 24:32**—*Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by **the way**, and while he opened to us the scriptures?*

### C. WE ARE ON THE WAY WITH EACH OTHER—FELLOW PILGRIMS

ILLUSTRATION: Eight pictures of *Pilgrim’s Progress*—by John Bunyan, pastor  
350 years of witness—Bedford Baptist Church

1. Evangelist points the Way
2. We come to know the Way of the Cross

#### **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.

3. We encounter hills of difficulty
4. We encounter opposition—like Bunyan in prison [most of the 1660s to mid-1680s]
5. We put on the Gospel Armor
6. We help one another along the way
7. We face dangers all the way to the end
8. We keep our eyes on the goal—Celestial City

**Hymn:** Take my hand, Precious Lord

Precious LORD take my hand  
Lead me on, let me stand  
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn  
Through the storm, through the night  
Lead me on to the light  
Take my hand precious LORD, lead me home

### III. WE ARE THE WAY

#### A. The Church **IS** The Way

1. Six NT passages say this
  - **Acts 9:2**—Saul sought followers of The Way in Damascus
  - **Acts 19:9**—some Ephesian Jews publicly maligned The Way
  - **Acts 19:23**—disturbance arose in Ephesus about the Way
  - **Acts 22:4**—Paul told Jerusalem crowd he had persecuted The Way
  - **Acts 24:14**—Paul to Felix: I worship God as follower of The Way
  - **Acts 24:22**—Felix was well acquainted with The Way
2. Developed from Jesus' teachings about **ὁδὸς**
  - **Matthew 7**—enter through the narrow way
  - **John 14**—I Am the way, the truth, and the life
- a. We **live** the Sermon on the Mount—**Mt 7:13-14**

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

1. The gate of entry **into** the Kingdom is small—through Jesus alone (The Way)
  2. Pathway of successful journey is narrow—morally obedient—doing the Will of the Father
- c. We **follow**—*The Way, the Truth and the Life*—**Jn 14:6**

1. Jesus identifies Himself **as** that WAY of pilgrimage
  - He **IS** the way—we walk *through* Him
  - He is the **GUIDE**—we walk *with* Him—He directs our paths
  - He is the **GOAL**—to walk *to* new life in Christ
2. He had already had identified Himself as the gate

**Jn 10:9**—*I am the gate, whoever enters through me will be saved.*

3. Put another way: Jesus is the True and Living Way

c. Implications

1. The Church **shows** the Way
  - The Way of salvation
  - The Way of ethical living—kingdom behavior
2. People of The Way—must also be like Christ in two ways—**true** and **living**

#### **IV. BEING THE TRUE WAY—IN TWO WAYS**

A. **FIRST PROCLAIMING** the True Way—being prophetic

1. There is only one True Way

a. John 14—*I Am **the** Way*

b. **Acts 4:12**

*Salvation is found in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved.*

c. **Mt 7:14**

3. The gate is **small**—not wide with many options
  4. The road is **narrow**—not a divided highway
2. People do not defy this idea in non-religious life
    - Only one fire exit—not through the wall or window
    - One-way streets
    - ‘Wrong Way’ sign on access road to highway
  3. But they challenge God’s truth vigorously

a. **Proverbs 14:12; 16:25**

*There is a way that seems right to man, but the end of it is the way of death*

b. **II Peter 2:2**

*Many will follow their shameful ways and will bring the way of truth into disrepute.*

4. Historical options of other ‘ways’ that are ‘good’ but not right

- The ‘way’ of the Qumran Community
- The *Halakah* of the Rabbis
- Tao (way) of Taoism
- Eightfold way of Buddhism with four noble truths

5. We must stand unapologetically for The One True Way

a. To do less—is irresponsible to the lost persons around us

- Positively—We must show them the right way—the way of life
- Negatively—We must warn of destruction—result of disobedience

b. To do less—denies the Truth within us

- The Spirit of *Truth* abides in us—**Jn 14:6**
- To deny this Truth is to **quench the Spirit**

c. To do less—is to be disloyal to the Lord who bought us

**II Pe 2:1**—*But there were also false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the sovereign Lord who bought them—bringing swift destruction on themselves.* .

B. **SECOND FOLLOWING** the True Way—being True to Him—being Genuine

1. Don’t have a myopic view of the Kingdom

a. It is not just about ‘getting’ saved—it is about *living* it out

- It is not just about the ‘gate’—but also about the ‘road’

*Small is the gate **and** narrow the road that leads to life*

b. Not just about getting into the Kingdom—but how we live there

*Seek first His kingdom **and** His righteousness*

2. It is about **personal** identity with Christ—walking obediently

a. Our obedience defines our love

- Three times in **John 14**—**verses 15, 21, 23**—Jesus says

*If you love me, you will obey what I command*

b. Our **obedience** defines our **relationship** with Him—**Jn 15**

1. If we obey Him, we will abide in His love—**verse 10**

2. If we abide in Christ, we bear fruit—**verse 5**

*I am the Vine, you are the branches; he that abides in me, and I in him, the same brings forth much fruit; for without me, you can do nothing.*

c. **Practicing** His words—and not just hearing them—**Mt 8:24-27**

*Therefore, everyone who hears my words **and puts them into practice** is like a wise man who built his house on the rock . . . But everyone who hears my words **and does not put them into practice** is like a foolish man*

## **V. BEING THE LIVING WAY—IN FOUR WAYS**

A. CLAIMING salvation or ourselves the new and **living way**—**Heb 10:19-20**

*Therefore, brothers, 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.*

1. The old way—was a **dead-end**

- Legalistic following of rituals and ceremonies
- Perpetual sacrifices without power to save

2. The new way—we are made **alive** through Christ Himself

- The Lord of all creation sacrificed His own body for us
- Once for all—people—sin—and time
- Powerful to save

3. Result—thoroughly and permanently redeemed

4. APPLICATION—we must not return to empty rituals and superstitions

B. EXERCISING obedience with a **living faith**

1. We are made alive by grace through faith

- God's righteousness justifies us through our faith

2. So we live by **faith**

a. Several passages say—the just live by faith

- **Hab 2:4, Rom 1:17, Gal 3:11**

b. But this also means that we **live** by the power of faith

- This is a *living* faith that empowers every step

3. So we **see** things from a different perspective—God's view

- We walk by faith, not by sight—**II Cor 5:7**

4. The result—doing **mighty** things—Jesus tells us in **John 14**

**Jn 14:12**—*I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these.*

C. WE SHOW OTHERS the **living way**—the pathway of life

1. We share Christ with others
2. But we go beyond just telling them—we **show** them
  - By blessing them—not cursing them
  - By leaving life—not destruction—in our wake

D. WE CLAIM AND SHOW OTHERS a **living** hope

1. Our claim

**1 Pe 1:3-4**—*Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a **living** hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade—kept in heaven for you*

2. Show others not just by *saying* it—but by *actually* showing them

- Living as those who have hope—positive attitude
- Not lives of despair, dejection and depression

6. THOMAS—A MAN TRANSPARENT BEFORE GOD

**Jn 11**—Courage—stood by Jesus in the face of possible death

**Jn 14**—Confusion—[or courage to say what everyone else was thinking?]

- Confused about his destiny and the way Jesus was going
- But courageously spoke the mind of those who were silent

**Jn 20**—Understandable doubt

- Needed certain proof of the resurrection
- But not unlike the 11 who did not believe the women’s report

**Jn 20**—Certain belief—“*My Lord, and my God.*”

The promise—**Jn 20:29**—*Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.*