

I AM the Way, the Truth, and the Life

John 14:6

Sixth of the great “I AM” statements in John’s Gospel: “I AM the Way, the Truth, and the Life”

The Context: Jesus is continuing His final words to His disciples in the Upper Room (John chapters 13-16). He had just told them that the mark of discipleship is loving one another and had warned Peter of his upcoming denial of Jesus Christ (John 13:34-38). Jesus now turns to all the disciples (including Peter) in order to encourage them (John 14:1-3). He told them they needed to believe in both God the Father and Son and that He was going to prepare a place for them before He comes again for them. Thomas questions Jesus about knowing where He is going and the way to get there (John 14:4-5). Thomas misunderstood, thinking that Jesus was speaking of a physical location on earth and a physical journey. He wanted Jesus to show them (the other disciples and him) the way so that they would have no difficulty in following Him later.

The 6th “I AM” Declaration (14:6): Jesus now declares one of the most profound statements ever uttered. Speaking to Thomas specifically (and the other disciples hearing), “Jesus says to him, I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life, no one comes to the Father, except through Me” (14:6). This magnificent sixth “I am” declaration makes Jesus totally central to any relationship with God, the Creator of the Universe.

The Way: First, Jesus declared that HE IS THE WAY to God the Father. He did not say that He is one of many ways to God, but that He is the exclusive way to God. Mankind in general, and religions (based in other false gods), do not like or believe that Jesus Christ is the only way to God and eternal life. It is not politically correct nor socially acceptable to base salvation in Jesus Christ alone, but Scripture is very clear that He is the only way to eternal life (Acts 4:12).

The Greek word, “way” (Greek #3598) means way; road; path and is used 101 times in the New Testament. Metaphorically it means the way, manner, or means of doing or accomplishing something. Jesus alone is the way (means) of accomplishing salvation from eternal death.

Jesus is the exclusive Way because:

- 1) He is the only One through whom we have access to God (Eph. 2:18; 3:12). He is our access to God by obeying His instructions, imitating His example, and depending on the merits of the Lord Jesus Christ alone. He does not just give us access, but He alone reconciles us to God (2 Cor. 5:18-19).
- 2) He clothes us in His righteousness (2 Cor. 5:21; Rom. 5:17-19; Isa. 61:10).
- 3) He cleanses (washes; purifies) us, sanctifies (makes holy) us, and justifies (declares righteous) us (1 Cor. 6:11; Eph. 5:26-27).
- 4) He has called us out of darkness into His marvelous light (1 Pet. 2:9).

- 5) He is the only sinless example for us to follow (I Pet. 2:21).
- 6) He is the only solution to mankind's sin problem (Romans 5:8; 6:23). He reveals sin, remits sin, ransoms believers from sin, and enables believers to have victory over the practice of sin.
- 7) He takes all those in Him with Him to their new home in heaven (John 14:3). All who receive Him become sons (children) of God (John 1:12). Without question, Jesus Christ is THE WAY!

The Truth: Second, Jesus declared that HE IS THE TRUTH. He is not just an aspect of truth; Jesus is the truth. He is the truth in opposition to all false religions, and in opposition to the Mosaic law which was only a shadow of the truth. As truth, Jesus is the answer to man's ignorance. Apart from God, man is ignorant of his origin, destiny, and the meaning of life. Ultimate truth is not another gadget, or a new formula, but a Person. God, in Jesus Christ, is at once the Cause and the explanation of all things.

The Greek word "truth" (Greek #225) means truth; reality (spoken truth, moral truth, Divine truth, Word/Bible truth, and more). Truth is far more than facts and far more than a moral guide; truth is reality. What seems to be and what is are often not the same. But Jesus, as truth, never changes; He is always the same (Heb. 13:8). Truth is not relative; truth is absolute in Jesus Christ. **We can't change the truth, but the Truth can change us!**

Jesus Christ is truth; in respect to all the promises of God (2 Cor. 1:19-20). He didn't say He would show the truth, teach the truth, or model the truth; He is the truth. Truth personified. Augustine said, "Where I found truth, there found I my God, who is the truth itself." He is the source of all truth, the embodiment of truth, and the One by which we evaluate all truth-claims (John 8:31-32).

The Bible reveals the truth and is absolute truth (John 17:17; 5:19). John Walvoord wrote: The Bible is God's declaratory revelation to man containing the great truths about God, about man, about history, about salvation, and about prophecy that God wanted us to know. The Bible should be trusted just as much as if God had taken the pen and written the words Himself."

The truth is that light which shines into our lives and reveals what we are really like by nature. God has written His truth on our human hearts, in our conscience (Rom. 2:15). As followers of Christ, we are to love and believe the truth, we are to walk in the truth (3 John 1:3-4); and we are to speak the truth in love (Eph. 4:15). Truly, Jesus Christ is THE TRUTH!

The Life: Third, Jesus declared that HE IS THE LIFE. He is not just a phase of life or an aspect of life; He is life. As I said last week, the word, "life" (Greek #2222- zoe) means literally life (physical and/or spiritual), and is used 135 times in the New Testament. All life comes from (is derived from) God's self-existent life. As the life, Jesus is the answer to man's mortality. One of the greatest falsehoods of all time is the allegation that belief in God and Christ (Christianity) is simply a psychological escape hatch for defeated, frustrated, and disillusioned individuals for which God is a figment of their imaginations. All of man's efforts to negate the problem of

mortality are pathetic. It is with much fanfare and enthusiasm, mankind celebrates every new breakthrough of new cures, surgical procedures, vaccinees, or other medical and/or scientific advancements. But will mankind ever abolish death? NO; until Jesus raptures all believers, we will all go to the grave at an appointed time.

Furthermore, even though individuals may experience a physical death, if they have believed in Jesus, then they will live. He calls believers forth to new life. Death is not ignored by Jesus, but death is denied an ultimate significance. Death is not the last word, and we know this only through Christ, and we experience this only through faith in Christ. If we are united with Jesus Christ in faith, then we will live again. We will be raised and summoned into new life, and, in part, we will experience this new life even now (2 Cor. 5:17). If any individual believes in Christ, then that person will never perish eternally.

Because He lives, we live; because He is life, we have eternal life. Both God the Father and the Son have life in Them (John 5:26). Thus, we will go to the grave shouting and singing, Victory in Jesus (1 Cor. 15:57).

The Interrelationship between way, truth, and life: Jesus, in making this “I am” declaration, was summarizing and connecting many of the revelations about Himself that He had previously spoken to the multitudes and disciples. He told them (and us) that He is uniquely THE way, the only way; He is uniquely THE truth, the fullness of truth; He is THE life, the source of life. Others can show the way, can impart truth, and can point to life outside of themselves. But He is the way to which they point, the truth imparted is summed up in Himself, He is the life to be received. Jesus Christ is the sole answer to the human problems of sin, ignorance, and mortality. As the way, Jesus is the answer to man's sin; as the truth, he is the answer to man's ignorance; and as the life, he is the answer to man's mortality. He is the way that has brought us truth and life. He is the way to God because He is the truth from God and the life from God.

No man cometh to the Father but by me - To come to the Father is to obtain his favor, to have access to his throne by prayer, and finally to enter his kingdom. No man can obtain any of these things except by the merits of the Lord Jesus Christ. As the way leading to the Father, He is the truth teaching the knowledge of the Father and the life that animates all who seek and serve the Father. He is the complete and total solution by which mankind is able to be forgiven, enlightened, and can receive eternal life. If the claims by Jesus Christ of being the way, the truth, and the life are false; then Jesus is the greatest liar, deceiver, and blasphemer that ever lived.

Some Additional Thoughts: Spurgeon wrote these words (somewhat revised and summarized by me), when speaking on “no man cometh to the Father but by Me” (John 14:6b):

The reason why man cannot come to God as he did in the garden is, that God is the same, but man is changed; man is unholy and impure. While God is love; God is infinitely just and holy. So long as guilt lies unforgiven, God is also ready to punish, nay, he must punish or else cease to

be. Consequently, no man can come to God as a sinner; It is an utter impossibility for any man to come to God in worship, save through Jesus Christ.

Man's notion that his acceptance with God in some measure depends upon his own actions is false. Some believe that if a Christian falls into sin, God will cast him out of his family. and I say it follows as a necessary influence, that the acceptance of a Christian must on that theory, depend on good works; so that in coming to God he comes through his own good behavior, and not through what Jesus did. There is no part of the Christian's experience in which a Christian can deal with God otherwise than through Christ. At the beginning it is all through Christ; in the middle it is all through Christ; and in the end it must be the same. If it were possible for thee, my brother, to be clean rid of sin, yet thou couldest not come to God except through Christ.

Jesus, Jesus, Jesus, the path for the sinner and the way for the saint. No road to God even for the holiest man; no road to God's acceptance, but through Jesus. In ourselves, is there anything that can commend us to God? Is not the very fact that when in our good state we come boldly, and when in our low state we come timidly, proof that there is lurking in us a secret suspicion that we are to come to God by something that is in us? Oh! if we could but learn this truth and stand to it, that our acceptance with God depends upon nothing that we do or can do, nothing that we can think, or feel, or be, but depends wholly and entirely and solely upon what Jesus is, and what He has done, and what He has suffered. Those arms that are nailed to the cross are wide open, as if they would show thee that they can receive the biggest of sinners. Remember: "Just as I am, without one plea; But that thy blood was shed for me, And that thou bidd'st me come to thee, O Lamb of God, I come."