

“Jesus: The Way, the Truth, and The Life”

John records an amazing saying of Jesus. Shortly before Jesus went through the suffering in Gethsemane, the overnight trials, and the agony of the Cross, He promised His disciples that He was going to prepare a place for them. Thomas asked Him, “How do we know the way?” Jesus replied, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No man cometh unto the Father but by Me” (John 14:6).

All religions do not teach essentially the same thing. They differ in key areas. For example, Buddhism denies the existence of a personal God, while Christianity affirms that there is a God, and that He is knowable. How can both be true? They are not. Further, Jesus’ disciples did not invent or make up the claim that He is the exclusive way to God. Jesus did!

When Jesus says that He is the Way, then **He is the only access to Heaven**. He is the only way to eternal life. There is a great gulf between mankind and God. Jesus bridges that chasm. He did not come to merely show us how to live better lives, or to find self-esteem, or to answer life’s difficult questions. He came to save sinners. He offered Himself as a sacrifice, to become to perfect atonement for our sin.

When Jesus says that He is the Truth, then **He conveys the only accurate knowledge of God**. Today, there are many religious claims and ideas. It can all be quite confusing. Some say that Heaven is on earth. Some say that only 144,000 are going to Heaven. Some say that Heaven is merely a state of mind--perhaps aided by drugs. Jesus instead declares the truth that Heaven is a place, prepared for Christians, where they will enjoy eternal fellowship with Him. So Jesus tells us that He is the only accurate Truth in which to trust. We are sinners, in need of a Saviour, and He is the only Saviour available.

When Jesus says that He is the Life, then **He is the only means of a relationship with God**. John 5:39-40 is the rebuke to the unbelieving scholars of His day. Many spend hours in the Word of God, but then refuse to believe the Saviour of which they speak! John asserts in John 1:14, “In Him was life.” There is no real life--no spiritual life--apart from Jesus Christ. People are very religious (as the Athenians were in Acts 17), but spiritually dead. But believers find their life in Christ, and He gives guidance, disciplines us, and rules in our lives. Paul reminds us, “For me to live is Christ.”

Some reject this “narrow” position. But if we understand what the Scriptures teach about the depravity of mankind, the issue, as R.C. Sproul puts it, “is not why is there only one way, but why is there any way at all?” [*Objections Answered*, p. 43]. God loved us, and provided the way, and Jesus is it.

Ultimately, the proof that Jesus was indeed “the Way, the Truth, and the Life” is that He rose from the dead. No other great historical figure has done this. Their memories may live on, but they have no transforming power as does Jesus Christ. Mohammed lies in his grave, as does Buddha, Marx, and Lenin. Their ideas motivate many, but they are absolutely unable to live in the lives of their followers. Only Jesus can, and does.

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