

## ***“I Am The Way, the Truth, and the Life”***

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John 13:31–14:6 [One the most important and beloved passages in the Bible]

**CONTEXT:** Jesus spoke these words on the night before His crucifixion (13:1). Jesus has announced He was leaving and His disciples could not go with Him (13:33-38).

No wonder 14:1 begins, *“Let not your hearts be troubled...”* The disciples needed some reassurance—*“...ye believe in God, believe also in me.”* Didn’t the disciples already believe on Him? Yes, but, He was about to be taken from their eye-sight. Like each of us, sometimes we need to have our faith reaffirmed. Faith is the answer to any problem that may trouble your heart. *“Faith is the victory that overcometh the world.”*

➡ The PROMISE: *“I will come again.”* Jesus is not sending someone for us. Jesus Christ Himself is coming again! This is sure!

➡ **You need three things to get to heaven:**

1. You need the WAY. How are you going to get there?
2. You need TRUTH. There are many false ways—Which is the true way?
3. You need LIFE. Without Christ, you are spiritually dead in sin.

### **I. I am the Way, that you might be SAVED.**

- ➡ Jesus’ statement is absolutely *dogmatic*—The media today would call Jesus’ words an example of intolerant bigotry!
- ➡ The claim of Christ hits at the heart of our pluralistic society. With one fell swoop, Jesus disintegrates all man’s false hopes of multiple ways to heaven, and asserts Himself as the only way to heaven.
  - A. Jesus is not one of many ways—He is the ONE and ONLY way. Any other way will lead a person to *“the lake of fire.”*

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The late Dr. Curtis Hutson worked for the Post Office in Decatur, GA before he was a pastor. One day at the post office he was witnessing to a lady, telling her Jesus was the only way to heaven. The lady said she believed getting to Heaven was similar to how several people arrived at the post office that day—Some had come by bus, some by car and some even walked. She

pointed out that, that no matter how they got there, whatever route they took, they all ended up at the same place. Dr. Hutson replied, "Yes, ma'am, but that's only true if, when you die, you're going to the post office."

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B. Proverbs 14:12—*"There is A WAY which SEEMETH RIGHT unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death."*

➡ Not the way of good works... religion... church membership... philosophy.

- Philosophy says, "Rationalize your way out."
- Science says, "Invent a way out."
- Las Vegas says, "Bluff your way out."
- Militants say, "Fight your way out."
- Materialism says, "Buy your way out."
- Religion says, "Work your way out."
- Jesus says, "I AM THE WAY OUT!"

**Jesus is the way OUT!**

- The way out of bondage
- The way out of condemnation
- The way out of the gutter

**Jesus is the way THROUGH—**

- The way through the valley of the shadow of death
- The way through the wilderness of sin
- The way through the pearly gates

**Jesus is the way IN—**

- The way into the presence of God
- The way into the life more abundant

**Jesus is the way UP—**

- The way up to heaven

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That's what the world dislikes about biblical Christianity—It is an *exclusive* religion—THE way...THE truth...THE life. There is only ONE WAY to heaven. The world entertains the fantasy that everyone can come to God in his own way.

You do not dictate to God the terms that you will come to Him. You must come His way, or you don't come at all!

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- C. Jesus did not come merely to point to the way, but He is come **to be the Way**. One of the early names for Christianity was “*the way*” (Acts 9:2; 19:9, 23; 22:4; 24:14, 22).
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A missionary lost his way in an African jungle. Eventually, he came across a small hut and asked the native living there if he could lead him out.

The native nodded. Rising to his feet, he walked directly into the bush. The missionary followed close behind. For more than an hour they hacked through a dense wall of vines and brush. The missionary asked, “Are you sure this is the way? I don't see any path.”

The native smiled and said, “Bwana, there is no path. In this place, *I am the path.*”

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## II. **I am the Truth, that you might be SURE** (John 8:32).

➡ Truth is not found in the philosophies of the world. Truth is found in a person.

- A. Jesus is the PERSONIFICATION / EMBODIMENT of truth. Jesus did not merely speak the truth—He is the truth.
1. Pilate asked “***What is truth?***” when the personification of Truth was right there in front of him (John 18:37-38).
  2. Pilate turned his back on “*the truth*” and listened to the lies of the multitude.
    - Truth is always *exclusive*... always *narrow*... always *intolerant* of untruth... always *absolute*. It doesn't matter if it is mathematical... scientific... or spiritual truth. Truth is TRUTH!
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The statement, “Truth is relative. There is no absolute truth,” is a contradiction. The claim “there is no absolute truth” is either *absolutely* true or it's not. If it is *absolutely true*, then you have asserted the existence of an *absolute truth*. You cannot say, “I am

absolutely certain there is no absolute truth,” without affirming an “absolute truth.”

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- B. Jesus is the STANDARD of truth... the foundation of truth. When Jesus said, “*I am the truth*,” He was saying any teaching... philosophy... theory that did not line up with Him **is a lie**.
- Evolution is a lie (cf. Mt. 19:4). Evolution is not science, it is “*science FALSELY so called...*” (1 Tim. 6:20).
- C. Jesus is the LIBERATOR of truth (John 8:32, 36).
1. He frees man from the guilt and condemnation of sin (Rom. 8:1-2).
  3. He frees man from the bondage of the law (Gal. 5:1).
  4. He frees man from the slavery of sin (Rom. 6:22).
  5. He frees man from fears that rob us of peace and joy (2 Tim. 1:7).

### III. I am the Life, that you might be SATISFIED.

- A. ABUNDANT life (John 10:10). Life with a capital “L.” Life of “*joy unspeakable and full of glory*.”
- B. The Life Jesus offers is His own life—He is our life (Phil. 1:21; Col. 3:4; Gal. 2:20).
- C. Without Jesus, you have no “life”—you merely exist—like an animal that is only interested in **protecting** itself (be safe)...**pleasing** itself (be comfortable)...and **propagating** itself (have a family).
- Without Jesus as the WAY, I’d be *wandering* with no way to go.
  - Without Jesus as the TRUTH, I’d be *wondering*, not knowing what to believe.
  - Without Jesus as the LIFE, I’d be *withering* in hopelessness and despair.

**SUMMATION:** “*No man cometh unto the Father, but by Me!*” Not by your good works or by your religion... ONLY BY HIM! Jesus was not being arrogant—He is just claiming the TRUTH!

- Without the way, there is *no going*.
- Without the truth, there is *no knowing*.
- Without the life, there is *no living*.

➡ What are you going to do with Jesus' statement? There are only three options: (1) Either Jesus lied, or (2) He was deceived, or (3) He was telling the truth.

(1) If He was lying and knew it, He was the most corrupt, depraved individuals who ever lived. (2) If He was deceived, He was a fool to die for something He really did not believe. (3) That only leaves the third option: He was telling the truth.

At the Hampton Court Palace in England there is a maze built of hedges. In the middle of the maze is a seat where those who are tired of finding their way back out can rest and think things over. There is also a bell there. By ringing the bell the lost person can summon help. A man will come who knows the way out. The way out was simply to follow him. The answer lies trusting and following the man.

### **How can you be saved?**

1. Admit your are lost!
2. Trust the One who is Way.