

I. Introduction

A. John 14:3-7 . . . "If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also. [4] And you know the way where I am going." [5] Thomas said to Him, "Lord, we do not know where You are going, how do we know the way?" [6] Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me. [7] If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; from now on you know Him, and have seen Him."

B. Pray

II. Jesus is the way, and the truth, and the life

A. In vs 6, Jesus says, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me." Leading up to those words there are two prior statements that when seen as part of a three statement progression reminds us that we know more about God, righteousness, and godly living than we think or admit we know. And as you may recall, I touched on this last Sunday, yet I want to restate this truth once again.

1. The first statement is found in vs 4, but we need vs 3 to understand the reason for vs 4. Therefore, in vs 3, Jesus tells His disciples that He was going away to prepare a place for them and that He would come again and take them to where He was. In vs 4, Jesus said that they knew the way to where He was going. In other words, Jesus clearly states that He knew they knew the way.
2. However, Thomas responded in vs 5, saying, "Lord, we do not know where You are going, how do we know the way?" According to Thomas, he and the rest of the disciples didn't know much if anything about where Jesus was going, which means they certainly did not know how to get there.
3. So now we have two contradictory views of the same situation – Jesus saying the disciples knew the way to where He was going, and Thomas saying they didn't know. And from this I want to make two points.
4. First, as I pointed out last Sunday, there were several occasions leading up to this story in John 14:1-7, where Jesus told the disciples what was going to happen to Him in Jerusalem.
 - a. And my point last Sunday and again today is that we know more than we think we know or will admit we know or we could know

if we wanted to take the time and make the effort to learn what we ought to know. And today I am applying this to what God knows we know about God, His will, and righteousness as applied in practical ways to every area of our lives so that we live godly lives in the home, in the work place, in the community, and in the church.

- b. Therefore, deceiving yourself into believing you are ignorant, or denying responsibility for ungodly, unloving behavior by shifting the blame to someone or something else, or living in denial of what you know is self-sabotaging because God still knows what you know and one day you will have to answer to Him for not living up to what you know.
 - c. And so I urge each of us, be as honest as you can with yourself and with God about what you know. In fact, be so honest that should you not want to live godly in a certain area, admit that to yourself and to God – and in honesty, accept the consequences without complaint. If you do want to live godly in a certain area but are struggling, admit that to yourself and God, and persevere in making worthy efforts to put away the sin and put on Christ-likeness until victory is won.
5. My second point from this sequence of statements is that Jesus remained patient, gracious, and kind in spite of Thomas' effort to correct Jesus with his "No, we don't know" response.
- a. And isn't this just like God? He is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in lovingkindness. He does not keep His anger forever. He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor reward us according to our iniquities. In fact, as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is His lovingkindness toward those who fear Him. As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us. Just as a father has compassion on his children, so the LORD has compassion on those who fear Him. For He Himself knows our frame; He is mindful that we are but dust (Psalm 103:8-14).
 - b. My point here is that just as God deals with us, so Jesus dealt with Thomas and the other disciples. Why? Because Jesus came as the fulness of God in bodily form to show us what God is like in ways we can understand.
 - c. Therefore, rather than condemning or criticizing or becoming sarcastic or derogatory, Jesus simply told them, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through

Me” (John 14:6). And so I urge you, keep looking for God in Jesus so that you will better understand, love, and know God.

- B. For the rest of today’s teaching time, I want to focus on Jesus’ statement, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life, no one comes to the Father but through Me.” And I want to focus on this statement because I see it as one of a number of short yet exceedingly profound statements found in the Bible.
1. For example, it is similar to John 14:1, where Jesus said, “Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me.”
 2. We looked at that statement last Sunday, and at that time I tried to show just how profound it was by expanding it to give you a fuller picture of what it means to believe in God for the purpose of preventing or remedying an anxious, troubled heart.
 3. Today, I want to present an expanded version of “I am the way, and the truth, and the life,” so that we can see it and therefore hopefully understand it in a fuller rather than limited way.
- C. The most common understanding of “I am the way, and the truth, and the life, no one comes to the Father but through Me” has to do with Jesus being the sacrifice for sin and the fact that we cannot be saved from the penalty of sin and receive the gift of eternal life apart from believing in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.
1. Now without question, Jesus is God’s provided way to eternal life. We know this from John 3:16, which says, “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.”
 2. And without question, Jesus is the one and only Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world (John 1:29).
 - a. However, Jesus is not just any Lamb. He is the unblemished and spotless Lamb whose blood is the only blood pure and therefore precious enough to satisfy God’s judgment on sin and sinners (1 Peter 1:18-10).
 - b. For this reason the scripture says, 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” (Acts 4:12).
 - c. John confirms this in 1 John 5:10-12, “The one who believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself; the one who does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has given concerning His Son. [11] And

the testimony is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. [12] He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life.”

3. Truly, eternal life through Jesus Christ, and only Jesus Christ, is so marvelous that the scripture says it is an indescribable gift from God! (2 Corinthians 9:15).
- D. However, Jesus is not only the way of eternal salvation, He is also the way of present salvation from the power and practice of sin in this life. And Jesus is the truth necessary for living a godly life now. And Jesus is the life which results from living a godly life now.
1. So if you primarily think of these words in John 14:6 as stating Jesus is the way of salvation, you are seeing only part or half of who Jesus is when He says He is the way, and the truth, and the life. And it is this other half that I want to focus on today.
 2. And please keep in mind that what I am about to say takes nothing away from the penalty paying side of God’s saving work through Jesus Christ. It simply completes the picture or expresses the fuller intentions of God in sending Jesus to earth to become the sacrifice for sin and make the way for us to be reconciled to God and live with Him forever.
- E. Therefore, one of the aspects of Jesus being the way is that He was and continues to be the only perfect way. For example,
1. He is perfectly righteous – which means He was perfectly sinless, though He was tempted in all the ways we are tempted. In other words, He faced, head on, the power of temptation, the challenges of rejection, the hypocrisy of the religious leaders, the emptiness of the religious system, and the cruelty of people – toward each other and toward Him. He faced the foolishness of His disciples, abandonment, injustice, false accusations, torture, and a painful death.
 - a. And it is the fact of His perfection in the face of all these things that provides us with a very practical example of how we can live and are to live in this sinful world.
 - b. You see, just like Him, we are empowered and assisted by God to walk in the light, and to walk by the Spirit, and to live according to God’s Word so that we are progressively being conformed to the likeness of Jesus in order to live as He lived.
 2. It is also His perfection in the face of temptation and tribulation that enables Him to know – in practical and real world ways – the truth

- about God and godly living, and to aptly proclaim that truth in ways we can understand and apply to how we live each day in this world.
- a. For example, He learned and therefore understands how hard and challenging it can be to obey God when life is at its worst, for though He was God in human flesh, He learned obedience from the things which He suffered (Hebrews 5:8).
 - b. And in like manner, He understands the challenge of trusting God and remaining godly when your well-being is being attacked in unkind, unjust, painful, or even cruel ways. We learn this from 1 Peter 2:21-23, which tells us that Jesus left us an example so we would follow in His steps – for though He committed no sin, nor was deceitful in any way, He was reviled – yet He did not revile in return, and He was tortured– yet He uttered no threats, but kept entrusting Himself to God who judges righteously.
3. My point here is simple – because of His perfection in the face of temptation and tribulation, Jesus is able to lead us and help us walk in the way of life that is abundant! And it is abundant because it is blessed by God with blessings beyond what we ask for or can imagine (Ephesians 3:20).
4. There are scriptures beyond John 14 that give support to Jesus being the way in these very practical ways for both present and eternal salvation. For example:
- a. Psalm 25:8-9 . . . Good and upright is the LORD; therefore He instructs sinners in the way. [9] He leads the humble in justice, and He teaches the humble His way.
 - b. Proverbs 12:28 . . . In the way of righteousness is life, and in its pathway there is no death.
 - c. However, Proverbs 14:12 . . . There is a way which seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death.
 - d. And if you want to read a NT portion that shows the inseparable link between godly living today and eternal salvation tomorrow, read Ephesians 4:17-32.
- F. Moving on to Jesus' statement that He is also the truth, we see that His truth is essential for both eternal salvation and godly living today.
1. Jesus makes this point clear at the end of His sermon on the mount, where He said: "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter. [22] Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name

cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?' [23] And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; Depart from Me, you who [have practiced and continue to] practice lawlessness' " (Matthew 7:21-23).

2. Therefore, Jesus is the truth – and to live according to His truth is to experience salvation today from the power and practice of sin and salvation for eternity from the penalty of sin. And here again, there are other scriptures that affirm this truth. For example:
 - a. 1 Timothy 2:3-4 . . . God our Savior . . . desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.
 - b. Psalm 43:3, "O send out Your light and Your truth, let them lead me; let them bring me to Your holy hill and to Your dwelling places.
 - c. Yet we ought not read these words without also recalling Psalm 24:3-5, which asks and answers the question: "Who may ascend into the hill of the LORD? Who may stand in His holy place? [4] He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who has not lifted up his soul to falsehood and has not sworn deceitfully. [5] He shall receive a blessing from the LORD and righteousness from the God of his salvation.
 - d. John 8:31-32 . . . Jesus said to those who had believed Him, "If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; [32] and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free."
 - e. John 18:37 . . . Pilate said to [Jesus], "So You are a king?" Jesus answered, "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."
3. My point here is that Jesus is the truth – for eternal salvation and for present salvation from the power and practice of sin.
 - a. And because He is the truth, we can know how to live a godly life in this present world, under the current conditions, and in our personal situations.
 - b. And the wonderful thing is, He not only knows the truth and speaks the truth, He perfectly lived the truth, and in so doing is the perfect practical example for us in learning how to live according to the truth He proclaims.

G. After saying He is the way and the truth, Jesus concludes by saying He is the life.

1. Jesus said as much in John 10:10, “The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.” And lest we forget the two sides the same coin which we have been talking about from the beginning, let me remind you that when Jesus speaks of coming so we can have life and have it abundantly, He is speaking of both present life and eternal life.
2. The life which Jesus is and which He gives includes a number of things, but for the sake of time I will mention just two.
 - a. Jesus said in John 14:27, “Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful.”
 - (1) As the life, Jesus not only lived in peace, He is peace, and He has made peace with God on our behalf, and He gives us His peace.
 - (2) Therefore, we have peace with God because He is the life, and we can have peace within regardless of the circumstances because He is the life, and we can learn to live in peace with one another because His is the life.
 - b. And as He is peace and is our peace, Jesus is also joy and our joy. We read this in John 15:11, “These things I have spoken to you so that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be made full.”
 - (1) As the life, Jesus is joy, He models joy, and He gives us His joy so that we can be filled with joy.
 - (2) Now it is my opinion that the joy we have – because of and in Jesus – must be preceded by or else go hand-in-hand with the peace we have from and in Jesus.
 - (3) I say this because where there are things like discontentment, unhappiness, envy, covetousness, and resentment, there can be no joy of the nature and extent Jesus is and Jesus gives.

III. Conclusion

- A. To sum up, Jesus is the way, and the truth, and the life – and we cannot come to the Father – in this life or in the next – apart from coming through Him. If you understand this, then such words as “He is all I need, all I’ll ever need” and “He is my all in all” are not just short, easy to memorize phrases, but statements laden with profound truths that we can ponder for hours and experience in practical ways in daily living.
- B. Might this be why Paul wrote: “I consider all things to be lost in view of the surpassing value of knowing (personally and intimately) Christ Jesus my Lord?”