

# John 14:6

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**INTRODUCTION** – Several weeks ago Keith Anderson quoted an article in Christianity that listed four basic beliefs that Evangelical Christians hold and the first belief is ... “The Bible is the highest authority for what I believe”. Another basic belief of that Evangelical Christians hold is ... “Only those who trust in Jesus Christ alone as their Savior receive God’s free gift of eternal salvation”. We could look at numerous scripture passages to support this belief, but this morning I want to focus on John 14:6.

The last night Jesus was with his disciples before His crucifixion, He celebrated Passover with them, washed their feet, predicted His betrayal, instituted the Lord’s Supper and finally told His troubled disciples in John 13:33, “... *Where I am going, you cannot come.*”

Simon Peter asked Him in John 13:36, “... *Lord, where are you going? Jesus replied, “Where I am going, you cannot follow now, but you will follow later.*”

Then after telling Peter that he would deny Him three times Jesus tells His disciples in John 14:1-4, “*Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. In my Father’s house are many rooms (mansions); if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. You know the way to the place where I am going.*”

But in John 14:4-5, “*Thomas said to him, “Lord, we don’t know where you are going, so how can we know the way?”*”

Jesus does not rebuke Thomas; rather He simply replies to his question with the greatest revelation about himself. In John 14:6, “*Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”*”

## **PRINCIPLE #1 – I AM THE WAY**

It’s important to note that Jesus did not say, “I’ll show you the Way.” He said, “I am the Way.” The whole Bible teaches us that no one can reach God the Father and Heaven in their own efforts. The Bible teaches us that we can never do enough good deeds to get to heaven. We can never go to church enough, pray enough, give enough, or sacrifice enough to get to heaven. We are all sinners. We all have fallen short of perfection, and the only living and true God is holy and demands perfection.

Romans 3:23, “*All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.*”

Romans 6:23, *"The wages of sin is death (eternal separation from God), but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ."*

The Bible teaches that the Lord Jesus Christ is eternally God. He left His eternal glory and eternal riches in heaven and became poor, coming to earth as a sinless human being to provide a way for us to get to heaven when we die. He provided us a way to heaven by living a sinless life and dying on the cross to pay the penalty for our sin. He died in our place as our substitute bearing the wrath of God against our sin in His own body.

Romans 5:8, *"God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."*

All a sinful person has to do to benefit from Christ's death on the cross is place their faith in Christ's death and physical resurrection from the dead as payment for their sin and receive Him as their personal savior. In other words, they must admit the fact that they need God's forgiveness, and accept the fact that God's forgiveness is found only in the Lord Jesus Christ.

John 1:12, *"But to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God."*

When a person places their faith in Christ's death on the cross and physical resurrection from the dead as payment for their sin and receive Him as their personal savior, God removes from them the guilt and punishment of their sin forever. Listen to these verses ...

Isaiah 43:25, *"I, even I, am he who blots out your transgressions, for my own sake, and remembers your sins no more."*

Isaiah 44:22, *"I have swept away your offenses like a cloud, your sins like the morning mist...."*

Psalms 103:10-12, *"God does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him; for as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us."*

Colossians 2:13, *"When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins."*

Hebrews 10:17, *"... Their sins and lawless acts I will remember no more."*

According to the Bible, the sins of the person who places their faith in Christ have been placed behind God's back (Isaiah 38:17) and cast into the depths of the sea (Micah 7:19). They are all forgiven and all gone.

Jesus said, *"I am the way."* He also said in John 10:9, *"I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved."*

The Philippian Jailer asked Paul and Silas in Acts 16:31, *"... Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"* They replied, *"Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved. ..."*

**THEME – JESUS SAID, "I AM THE WAY AND THE TRUTH AND THE LIFE. NO ONE COMES TO THE FATHER EXCEPT THROUGH ME."**

## **PRINCIPLE #2 – I AM THE TRUTH**

Because man's intellect has been corrupted by our sin nature, in our unconverted state, we are ignorant about the truth concerning God.

Romans 1:21-23, *"... although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles."*

The Lord Jesus Christ, God in the flesh is the truth. Jesus did not say, "I have come to tell you the truth about the Father." Nor did he say, "I have come to point to the truth about the Father." He said, "I am the truth."

The Bible says that God is true (Romans 3:4), so when Jesus said that He was the truth, He was making Himself equal with God. He was claiming to be God in the flesh. This was not an unusual claim for Jesus. Jesus had said to the Jews in John 8:58, *"I tell you the truth, Jesus answered before Abraham was born, I AM! At this, they (the Jews) picked up stones to stone him, but Jesus hid himself, slipping away from the temple grounds."*

On another occasion Jesus had said in John 10:30-31, *"I and my Father are one. Again the Jews picked up stones to stone him, "I have shown you many great miracles from the Father. For which of these do you stone me?" "We are not stoning You for any of these," replied the Jews, "but for blasphemy, because you, a mere man, claim to be God."*

Jesus told His disciples in John 14:9, *"He that hath seen me has seen the father."*

What truths do we learn about God the Father through his incarnation in Jesus Christ? We see that God the Father is a personal being with a mind, emotions and will. He is not an impersonal force in the universe. We see that God is holy because Jesus was sinless. We see that God is compassionate, loving, gracious, merciful and kind. We see that God is powerful. We see that God is sovereign over the wind, the sea, the demons, disease, the animal kingdom, and death. Because of Jesus' life on earth we do not need to be ignorant about God's character.

**THEME – JESUS SAID, “I AM THE WAY AND THE TRUTH AND THE LIFE. NO ONE COMES TO THE FATHER EXCEPT THROUGH ME.”**

**PRINCIPLE #3 – I AM THE LIFE**

Jesus Christ’s claim to be “the life” means that he claims to be the one who sets everyone who believes on him free from death. Christ promises to give eternal life to all who will come to Him. Jesus said in John 3:16, *“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”*

John 10:27-30, *“My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life. And they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand.”*

John 11:25, *“I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; And whoever lives and believes in me will never die.”*

The Apostle John said in 1 John 5:11-12, *“And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.”*

When a person places their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ’s death and physical resurrection from the dead as payment for their sin and receive him as their personal savior, He gives them his life, eternal life, and they will never perish.

**THEME – JESUS SAID, “I AM THE WAY AND THE TRUTH AND THE LIFE. NO ONE COMES TO THE FATHER EXCEPT THROUGH ME.”**

**NO ONE COMES TO THE FATHER EXCEPT THROUGH ME.**

Contrary to what many people in our world think, there are not many roads to heaven. There is only one. The Lord Jesus Christ. This doctrine is also taught several other places in the New Testament. Peter told the Jewish Leaders who crucified Jesus in 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.”*

Paul told the Corinthians in 1 Corinthians 3:11, *“... No one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ.”*

Paul wrote Timothy and said in 1 Timothy 2:5, *“... there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.”*

These exclusive statements make some unbelievers mad. J. Vernon McGee said that when he quoted this verse in a Bible Study, a woman said, "That's terribly narrow minded." He answered by saying, "Yes, it is, but that is the way truth is. I find the phone company terribly narrow minded too. If you want to call someone up you must dial the exact numbers, in the exact order given; they will not allow any deviation.

My math teacher in elementary school was terribly narrow minded too. She insisted that 2 plus 2 equals 4. It didn't make any difference what you had two of apples or two cows or two dollars - she always insisted that 2 plus 2 equals 4. She was dogmatic about it.

The bank I do business with is terribly narrow minded too. Only in my case they insist that 2 minus 2 equals 0 and they are dogmatic about it.

One of the characteristics of truth is that it is dogmatic.

Jesus didn't say He was a way, or one of many ways, or even the best way to get to the Father. He said He was the only way to God the Father. In other words, if you want to know God the Father, if you want to spend eternity in heaven after you die physically on earth, either you go through the Lord Jesus Christ, or you don't get in the door.

I don't know who you think Jesus was. Perhaps you think he was a good moral teacher. Or just a great religious leader. Unfortunately, Jesus didn't give you those options. Jesus claimed to be God in the flesh. He said in John 14:6, "I AM THE WAY AND THE TRUTH AND THE LIFE. NO ONE COMES TO THE FATHER EXCEPT THROUGH ME."

Christian author C.S. Lewis said it best in his book Mere Christianity, "I am trying here to prevent anyone from saying the really foolish thing that people often say about Jesus: 'I'm ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don't accept His claim to be God.' That is the one thing we must not say. A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic -- on the level with the man who says he is a poached egg -- or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God, or else a madman, or something worse. You can shut Him up for a fool, you can spit at Him and kill Him as a demon; or you can fall at His feet and call him Lord and God. But let us not come with any patronizing nonsense about Him being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to." (pp. 55-56)

There is no middle ground. Either you are in a relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ, or you're not. Either you are born again, or you're not. Either you are saved, or you are lost. The Apostle John said in 1 John 5:11-13, "*God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.*"

The question is, do you have the Son of God living in you?

**SPECIFIC APPLICATION** – If you are a believer in Jesus Christ, thank God that your sins are blotted out, swept away like a cloud, buried in the deepest sea, placed behind God’s back, removed from you as far as the east is from the west, totally forgiven and forgotten. Thank God that you have eternal life and the assurance of going to heaven when you die.

If you are not a believer in Jesus Christ, I challenge you to put your faith in him today. Receive Him as your Lord and Savior today.