

132. The Gospel of John—14:1-6

"The Only Way to Heaven" Part 2

A message by Pastor Phil Ballmaier
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Find this weeks' sermon audio and video message [HERE](#).

John 14:1-6 (NKJV)

¹ "Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. ² In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. ³ And 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 where I go you know, and the way you know." ⁵ Thomas said to Him, "Lord, we do not know where You are going, and how can we know the way?" ⁶ Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

If I were to ask you to use your smartphone to interview people—to randomly walk around your neighborhood asking them to take part in a survey and allowing you to video the conversation. If they agreed, to answer this question—*"How does a person get into heaven?"*—what do you think most of them would say?

No doubt of those who say they believe in heaven—most would tell you, *"The way to heaven is by being a good person."*

One of the biggest misconceptions I run into when talking to people about going to heaven is that—not only do they believe that heaven is for good people, they also believe that they themselves are basically good and therefore God will accept them into heaven someday.

This should not surprise us because it coincides with what the Bible says in Proverbs 20:6 that most people proclaim their own goodness—or in other words, most people believe that they are basically good people and therefore heaven-bound. The problem is that most people define goodness from fallen man's perspective and not from Holy God's perspective.

Most people come to the conclusion that they are good people and therefore worthy of heaven by looking at others in society.

Of course, they can always find thieves, rapists, murderers and other assorted miscreants and malcontents to compare themselves to—which makes them look like Mother Teresa by comparison—shining examples of virtue and worthiness.

But you see the Bible defines *goodness* as 'moral perfection'—and only God is morally perfect.

Which is exactly what Jesus acknowledged in Matthew 19:17 when He said, *"No one is good but God."*

Most people will say, *"I know I'm not perfect, but I think I'm good enough to get into heaven"*—but God is telling us if you're *not perfect* you're not good enough!

No human being is perfect—*"There is none righteous, no, not one...There is none who does good, no, not any."* (Romans 3:10, 12); *"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God (sinless perfection) ...and the wages of*

sin is death (eternal death—hell)...” (Romans 3:23; 6:23)

In other words, this world is not full of good people that God is treating badly—it’s full of bad people that God is treating kindly. (John 3:16)

Look, with regard to mankind as a whole—some people are obviously better behaved than others but that doesn’t make them ‘good’ (morally perfect) in the eyes of God.

Jesus was the only human being Who was truly good—because He was (and is) the only Human Being Who was/is truly God (the Great ‘I AM’—John 14:6). Jesus at His first coming, didn’t come to judge the world and send people to hell—He entered the world on a search and rescue mission to rescue lost sinners—

Luke 19:10 (NKJV)

¹⁰ for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."

The whole purpose of Jesus coming to the earth, the whole reason He died and rose again was so that people could be saved. Jesus started the work of saving the lost during His earthly ministry (on a limited scale)—in Israel.

But after He returned to His Father and the Holy Spirit was poured out on Pentecost—He has given the work of preaching the Gospel and saving the lost over to His Church. But now the scope of this work would no longer be limited to the land of Israel but would extend to the whole world as He commissioned us to—**“Go into all the world and preach the Gospel to everyone.”** (Mark 16:15—the Great Commission)

When we talk about being disciples of Jesus, those with His heart—we must understand that first and foremost His heart is all about reaching people with the Gospel. I think that the modern church in America has gotten confused about its mission and purpose for being in the world.

For many churches today, they believe the mission of the Church is that of a *social* agency—to help the needy and feed the hungry—to work to bring about social justice—or even to help save the planet from global warming.

But Jesus said clearly that the reason He came to earth was to seek and save the lost—and if that was and is *His* heart then it must be *our* heart’s desire and the main mission of His Church.

The title of this 2-part message is, **“The Only Way to Heaven”**.

As we pointed out in last week’s study—the way to heaven isn’t a path we walk (good works and living a ‘good life’)—it’s a Person we know (John 14:3—**“I will come for you and take you to be with Me in heaven”**).

Heaven is an exclusive place—only children of God get to live there—those who have been born into the family of God by receiving Jesus as their Savior. In these days of tolerance and inclusiveness—it’s important to know that God is very *intolerant* of sin and those who practice it—and will exclude them from heaven.

1 Corinthians 6:9-10 (NLT2)

⁹ Don’t you realize that those who do wrong will not inherit the Kingdom of God? Don’t fool yourselves. Those who indulge in sexual sin, or who worship idols, or commit adultery, or are male prostitutes, or practice homosexuality,¹⁰ or are thieves, or greedy people, or drunkards, or are abusive, or cheat people—none of these will inherit the Kingdom of God.

But anyone who will repent of their sins and receive Jesus as their Savior and Lord—they will instantly be forgiven and adopted into the family of God as a child of God.

Heaven *is* an exclusive place, only for children of God—that's true.

But the good news is, that God is inviting everyone to come to Him and become a child of God by faith—and Jesus said, "...*the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out.*" (John 6:37b)

In our passage this morning (John 14:1-6) Jesus makes a very intolerant and exclusionary statement in verse 6—"*I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.*"

In other words, there are not many roads that lead to heaven—there is only **one-way**, through Jesus who died on Calvary's Cross to pay for our sins.

At first glance, that statement seems to include 3 separate statements—"I am the way"; "I am the truth"; and "I am the life." However, the dominate idea is that Jesus is "**the Way**" (based on Thomas' question in verse 5)—with "truth" and "life" being subordinate to that main idea.

In other words, Jesus is the *way* to heaven—accessed through *truth* resulting in *life*. Let's elaborate on each of those concepts for the rest of our time.

Jesus Is The Way

Matthew 7:13-14 (NKJV)

¹³ "Enter by the narrow gate; for wide *is* the gate and broad *is* the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. ¹⁴ Because narrow *is* the gate and difficult *is* the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.

"Enter by the narrow gate...[the narrow way]" (verse 13a)

In the Greek a verb form is used that conveys a sense of urgency—"do it *now!*" is the idea. It's not enough to stand back and admire or appreciate the gate—a person must enter it if they are to be benefited by it.

Jesus is the narrow gate. He is The Door of salvation—don't 'admire' Him—enter through Him!

John 10:9 (NKJV)

⁹ I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved...

Acts 4:12 (NKJV)

¹² neither is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

Again, Jesus is the 'narrow gate'—the narrow way.

You see in contrasting the *narrow* way with the *broad* way—Jesus isn't contrasting religion with atheism, materialism, hedonism, or secularism. In other words, He isn't contrasting religion with non-religion—He's contrasting *true* religion with *false* religion.

Both of these roads claim to lead to God—the wide gate isn't marked *"This Way to Hell"*—it's labeled *"This Way to Heaven"*—the same as the narrow gate. But you see Jesus is warning us to beware because, unlike the narrow gate which *does* leads to heaven—that's not where the broad gate leads to.

You see Satan is a master at religious deception—
even disguising himself as an angel of light to deceive.

He knows most people will never be atheists and therefore he accommodates them with religious lies and deceptions. As such he's the one who paints *"This Way to God and Heaven"* over his broad gate—and as Jesus said, *"there are many who go in through that gate"*.

So, here in these verses Jesus is contrasting true faith with false faith.

The narrow gate represents Jesus and the Cross—whereas the broad gate represents the false religion of the Scribes and Pharisees who were preaching a system of outward rituals, sacrifices, ceremonies, and good works as the way to God and heaven.

Therefore, the broad way is the path of human achievement—and the narrow way is the path of divine accomplishment. (Explain)

Jesus Is The Truth

Jesus is the truth of God, sent from the Father into a world filled with the Devil's lies.

In the Bible God's truth is also referred to as 'light'—even as Jesus is called the "True Light".

Jesus came to earth as the truth of God to light fallen man's way back to God.

John 1:4, 9 (NKJV)

⁴ In Him was life, and the life was the light of men...⁹ [He] was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world.

John 8:12 (NKJV)

¹² Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."

Of course, Jesus is also called 'the Word of God'—who came into the world to teach us truth in the form of God's Word—

John 8:31-32 (NKJV)

³¹ Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed.
³² And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

John 17:17 (NKJV)

¹⁷ Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.

That is a very important statement by Jesus—that His disciples are privileged to know the truth.

Of course, we are living at a time when there are a lot of people who feel like Pontius Pilate who, when Jesus said to him—*‘I have come to bear witness to the truth’*, sarcastically responded—*“What is truth?”* and walked away! In other words, Pilate back then like many today believed there was no such thing as ‘truth.’

He didn’t believe anyone had a ‘corner on truth’, that anyone possessed ultimate or absolute truth.

Maybe he subscribed to the philosophy that whatever people want to believe becomes *‘their truth’* and that’s it!

Well, not really, you see there is such a thing as ultimate or absolute truth—but it only comes from God in the form of *revelation*.

Now this is important to us because Christianity claims to be a *revealed* truth—a revelation is something that is made known to us by God. The entire Bible is supernaturally revealed truth—but when we talk about the truth that unlocks the door of salvation—we’re talking about the Gospel!

John 10:9 (NKJV)

⁹ **I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved...**

So, the Lord Jesus Christ is telling us that He, and He alone, is the Door that leads to salvation. But listen, any door that leads to something of great value is going to be locked! And likewise, the door leading to salvation is locked and needs a ‘key’ to open it.

➤ **What is the key that unlocks the door and allows a person to enter into Christ and find salvation?**

➤ It is the Gospel!

So, the Gospel is to salvation what a key is to a lock.

However, we all know that a key won’t unlock a door if it’s somehow gotten bent or twisted—the key must be straight and true if it’s going to be used to open a door—and the same is true with the Gospel!

If the Gospel has been twisted, distorted or perverted in any way neither will it be able to unlock the ‘door’ that leads to salvation—and Satan knows that only too well!

So, Satan has worked very hard over the centuries to twist and distort the Gospel of Jesus Christ to keep the door of salvation locked to people so that even if a person believes with all of their heart—a false Gospel will not open the door of salvation to them.

Satan’s lies masquerading as God’s truth won’t save anyone—**only the true Gospel can open the door** of salvation and allow them to enter into Jesus and be saved!

Jesus said to the Pharisees earlier in John Chapter 8 that they were of their father the devil—*“he (the devil) is the father of lies...there is no truth in him.”*

As the father of lies—his number one lie is to try to pervert the Gospel so that people, although believing, will not enter into salvation—even as he assures them that they have entered and are saved.

2 Corinthians 11:3-4 (NKJV)

³ But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. ⁴ For if he who comes preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or if

you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different Gospel which you have not accepted-- you may well put up with it!

Galatians 1:6-8 (NKJV)

⁶ I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different Gospel, which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the Gospel of Christ. But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other Gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed.

Jesus warned us (Matthew 7:15) to beware of false teachers who come dressed in sheep's clothing looking like true shepherds.

He said they're like spiritual *traffic cops* who stand in front of the narrow way that leads to heaven (Christ and the cross) blocking it while they 'wave' lost people down the roadway—down the path that they claim will lead to God but instead leads to destruction (Matthew 7:13-14).

Jesus Is The Life

John 1:4a (NKJV)

⁴ In Him was life...

When John says, "*In Him was life*", he is not talking about *physical* life—he already covered that in verse 3.

The Greek word used here is *Zoë* which refers to *spiritual* life.

The word '*bios*', from which we get "biology", is the Greek word for *physical* life.

So, John is saying that not only is Jesus the Founder of all physical life (verse 3)—but He is also the Fountain from which all spiritual life flows as well—

John 4:14 (NKJV)

¹⁴ but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life."

Fifty-four times in his gospel John talks about the *life* that Jesus gives.

Again, the Greek word he uses for life is *Zoë*, a word that means *spiritual* life, *eternal life*—or in other words—the life of God. The Bible defines *Zoë* life as a dynamic life—a fruitful life—a joyful and fulfilled life.

It's a life that Jesus Himself said was *abundant* (John 10:10) and David in Psalm 23 described as *overflowing*.

But here's the problem—if I were to go around asking people to define the concept of '*life*'—for many it would be a little hard to nail down.

Most people today would probably try to define life in terms of a *quality of living*. They would say that life is about achieving a certain level of happiness based on success in their chosen career field which brings them affluence, material possessions and possibly even fame.

But this abundant life that Jesus spoke of isn't *external* as many believe and teach—it isn't an abundance of money or possessions or earthly success.

This life is *spiritual* in nature—as Jesus said in John 6:63, "*The words I speak to you are spirit and life*".

Look, money can buy you *things* but not happiness, *books* but not wisdom. Money can buy you a quality of *living* but not a quality of *life* (the first being outward, the second inward). In fact, Jesus warned us against trying to define our lives in terms of our possessions when He said,

"Take heed and beware of covetousness for one's life doesn't consist in the abundance of the things they possess." (Luke 12:15)

You see, eternal life (Zoë) isn't just a *quantity* of life—it's a quality of life.

The thing that makes eternal life so wonderful and so appealing is not its '*quantity*' (never ending) but its '*quality*' (richness and fullness). Eternal life wouldn't be appealing if it simply meant "*life stretched out into eternity*" or "*life that never ends*".

In that regard, 'life' wouldn't be desirable if that life was painful, hopeless and empty—like being paralyzed and not being able to move or feed yourself or even get out of bed.

That wouldn't be *living* it would be existing—a miserable existence that wouldn't be a blessing but the biggest curse imaginable if prolonged forever (people in hell will live forever but that won't be a blessing). What makes the eternal life that Jesus gives so appealing and desirable is that it is never ending life in all of its fullness, richness, joy, and blessing—because it's the life of God in us!

The only way for you to have this life (Zoë—eternal life)—is to invite Jesus (the Life) to live inside of you. (Explain)

The instant a person receives Jesus as their Savior (by faith)—at that instant they are born of the Holy Spirit and become partakers of God's divine nature (life). (2Peter 1:4)

The only way to heaven is Jesus, "The Way, the Truth, and the Life!"

If you would like to know more about what it means to be a Jesus-follower—please reach out to us. It would be our greatest privilege to lead you into a saving relationship with Jesus Christ.

Reach out to us [here](#).

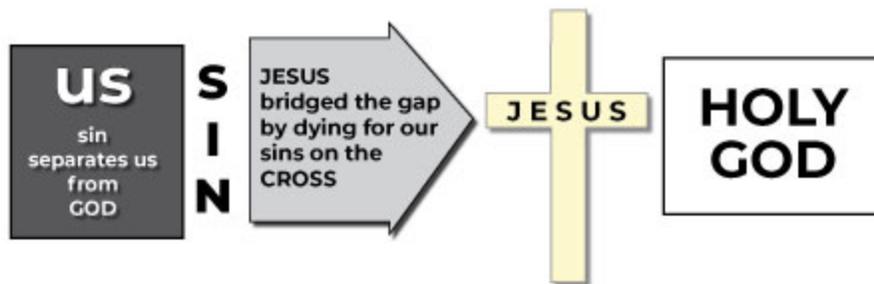
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THE WRONG WAY TO GOD



"I AM the Way, and the Truth, and the Life. No one comes to The Father except through Me." *John 14:6*

THE ONLY WAY TO GOD



"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." *John 3:16*