

Series: John
Title: The Way
Text: John 14: 3-6
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John 14: 4: And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know.

After the cross, the Lord Jesus was going to the Father. He has taught us that the way to the Father is through faith in him. But Thomas and the others did not understand our Lord. Though the Lord had told them he was going to the cross then to the Father, they still did not understand. Like them, how little we understand and how full of unbelief we are, too.

John 14: 5: Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way? 6: Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

Thomas asked, Lord, how can we know the way? The Lord Jesus said, "*I am the way...no man cometh to the Father but by me.*"

Subject: The Way

In order to go from one place to another we need a way: a road, a path. In order to come to God the Father, to find acceptance with God and enter into heaven, we must come God's way. Christ declares "*I AM the Way—no man cometh to the Father but by me.*" He is the great I AM—the Son of God. And he is the Way to the Father—"no man cometh to the Father but by me"

Why must Christ be the Way? We sinned in Adam and sin and death passed upon us. We are guilty in Adam. We were conceived in sin and come forth sinners. Our sin-nature is yet sin.

But God is holy. He cannot accept a sinner until he be made holy and righteousness as God. God's holy justice demands the soul that sinneth must die. God's holy character demands we must be perfect to be accepted of holy God. Before sin entered, Adam had direct communion with God. But after sin entered, Adam lost that access to holy God and so did all Adam's children.

Isaiah 59:2: But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid *his* face from you, that he will not hear.

So our sin is the reason Christ is the Way.

Proposition: Christ is the Way to the Father—no man cometh unto the Father, but by the Lord Jesus Christ. So let's behold Christ the Way.

THE ORDAINED WAY

The Lord Jesus Christ is the ordained way. He is the appointed way. God the Father ordained and appointed Christ to be the one Way to the Father.

Before the world was made, in the eternal council, in sovereign grace God ordained the Way. He chose his Son, Christ Jesus, to be the Way—Christ our Wisdom says,

Proverbs 8:23: I was set up from everlasting, from the beginning, or ever the earth was.

1 Corinthians 2:7: But we speak the Wisdom of God in a mystery, *even* the hidden *wisdom*, which God ordained before the world unto our glory:

1 Peter 1: 20: Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you, 21: Who by him do believe in God,...

The Hebrew writer said, "Christ glorified not Himself to be made a high priest." Likewise, the Lord glorified not himself to be made the Way. "But He who said to Him, You are my Son, today have I begotten You."

God the Father ordained Christ to be the Way for a specific people, for those God chose in his Son: chosen by grace. They are those for whom Christ became Surety. God's elect are the people Christ entered covenant to redeem. The people in whom Christ would reveal himself. God set all things in order in Christ before as yet sin entered and death by sin.

Ephesians 1:4: According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:

So the Lord Jesus is the ordained Way, the Way appointed by God for chosen sinners.

THE ONE AND ONLY WAY

Seeing that God the Father chose his Son to be the Way, therefore, the Lord Jesus is the one and only way. Notice the definite article, Christ said, "I am "THE" Way—no man cometh to the Father BUT BY ME." There are not many ways to God, only one Way.

Sinners have sought out many inventions. Everyone turned to his OWN WAY. There is a way that seems right to man but they all end in death. They end in death because no matter the religion or denomination man's ways are all the same, by the merit and work of the sinner. There are only two religions: the way of Cain and the way of Abel. Man's way is the way of Cain. Cain brought the fruits of the cursed ground. A sinner who comes to God in his own works is bringing the dead fruit of his sinful, cursed flesh. God will not receive it. It comes short of the glory of God. Therefore, man's ways all end in death.

But Christ has been the one way from the beginning. Every sinner who God saved came to God in this one and only Way. Adam and Eve were the first to come this one way. The preincarnate Way came to Adam and Eve. Christ is the one and only Way. He is the one Mediator between God and men. It could have been no one else that sought them out and saved them.

And to show a picture of himself, the Redeemer provided an innocent lamb to die in their place, picturing Christ satisfying justice for his people by his own blood. He brought them to confess their sin to him. Then he covered their nakedness in the skins, picturing Christ's righteousness imputed to those who he gives faith to believe on him.

Abel came this one Way. He came with the blood of a lamb picturing faith in Christ the Lamb. All the patriarchs followed in the same one Way. The prophets proclaimed the one and only Way. The apostles all came to the Father by the one and only Way. Multitudes, every sinner God ever received even until the last one, all come to God this one and only Way.

There is one cure for sin. One ransom from the fall. One robe of righteousness. One Redeemer and one redemption. One Mediator between God and men. One name by which we must be saved. One gospel with this one Way set forth. One Spirit by whom we must be born-again and brought into the Way. One faith in the one and only Way. As Christ said, "*I am THE Way, no man cometh to the Father but by me!*"

THE NEW AND LIVING WAY

The Lord Jesus is the new and living way.

The old covenant foreshadowed the way. But it was not a living way. Christ is the new and living way. He presented himself as the spotless Lamb of God. God laid on him the iniquity of all his chosen people.

2 Corinthians 5: 21: He hath made him sin who knew no sin that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

By laying down his life in place of his people, Christ put away the sin of his people, making us the righteousness of God in him. Only the high priest could enter the vail into the holy place. So when Christ

cried it is finished that veil split from top to bottom declaring the old covenant is fulfilled. Christ is the New and Living Way who has entered into God's holy presence with his people on his breastplate.

Hebrews 9:12: Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption *for us*.

Hebrews 10: 12: But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God; 13 From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool. 14 For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.

When the Spirit of God regenerates us and writes this good news on our hearts, declaring our sins have been remitted so that there is no more offering for sins then...

Hebrews 10: 19: Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, 20: By A NEW AND LIVING WAY, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, HIS FLESH; 21: And *having* an high priest over the house of God; 22: Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.

That is when old things pass away and all things become new. It is when the new and living Way is revealed in our hearts. That is when our old idol conceptions of God pass away. That is when our old imaginations of how we must save ourselves by our works pass away. That is when our old way of living to ourselves—in all our vain religion—passes away and we begin living unto God through faith in his Son. These old things pass away by the revelation of the new and living Way, the Lord Jesus Christ. Christ declared, "Behold, I make all things new." (Rev. 21:5)

So the Lord Jesus is the ordained way. He is the one and only way to the Father. And Christ is the new and living Way.

THE HOLY WAY

The Lord Jesus is the holy way.

Isaiah 35: 5: Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. 6: Then shall the lame *man* leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing: for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert. 7: And the parched ground shall become a pool, and the thirsty land springs of water: in the habitation of dragons, where each lay, *shall be* grass with reeds and rushes. 8: And an highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it; but it *shall be* for those: the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err *therein*.

Chosen sinners are made holy by the Lord. We are sanctified into the Way, set apart into the Way, made clean and translated into the Way by the Lord—and the Way is Christ. God the Father sanctified us in Christ by divine election. The Son of God sanctified us by his blood when he perfected us forever. The Spirit of God sanctifies us when he creates a new holy heart within. And Christ is the Holy Way into whom we are translated in the new birth.

The unclean shall not pass over this way. We do not make ourselves clean and holy. We only enter the Holy Way by a new holy man being created within which is born of the irresistible power of the Holy Spirit. He creates a new holy man within “which AFTER GOD is created in righteousness and true holiness”. It is the righteousness and holiness of Christ (Eph. 4:22-24) God makes us meet—God makes us holy—Christ Jesus, who is our Holiness.

Colossians 1: 12: Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: 13: Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated *us* into the kingdom of his dear Son: 14: In whom we have redemption through his blood, *even* the forgiveness of sins:

We follow after holiness by following after Christ, by running the race looking to Christ Jesus the Author and Finisher of faith. When our sins beset us, they shall not overcome us. God gives more grace granting repentance. He does it to keeping us partaking of "HIS HOLINESS"—of Christ's holiness.

His continual pardoning grace for Christ's sake, being kept by God despite our falls, being kept knowing Christ is our Sanctifier and our Sanctification is how we are taught Christ is our Holiness. He is the Way of Holiness who keeps us separated into the Way.

As he did the first hour, when Christ recovers us, he renews a watchfulness in our walk. He increases our faith in Christ by showing us again our dire need of Christ. He grows us in the grace and knowledge of Christ so that we learn more and more that Christ is All unto us, who keeps us in the Way partaking of "HIS HOLINESS"

THE SAFE WAY

The Lord Jesus is the safe and secure way.

Isaiah 35: 9: No lion shall be there, nor *any* ravenous beast shall go up thereon, it shall not be found there; but the redeemed shall walk *there*:

No lion or ravenous beast can harm us in the Way. The devil goes about like a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour but only by Christ's permission. And Christ will not permit him to separate us from Christ.

Having Christ as our great Shepherd—leading, guiding, protecting—the redeemed of the Lord shall "*walk there*." There is a calm to those who believe on Christ. We walk and do not make haste because we believe the Lord Jesus when he promises none shall pluck you out of my hand. In Christ the Way we are safe and secure. He purchased his people with his precious blood. We cost him too much to let us be plucked out of his hand. His glory is connected with our salvation. Christ is glorified and all the attributes of the triune God are glorified in him in the salvation of his people. Therefore, he shall not allow one to perish. God printed the names of his chosen in the Lambs book of life before the world was made. By Christ's mighty hand not one shall ever draw back to perdition but shall preserve in faith, "believing to the saving of the soul." (Heb. 10:39)

"He who begins a good work in them will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ." (Phil. 1:6)

The Lord Jesus shall in the end "present each one faultless before the presence of His glory" (Jude ver. 24) He shall say to the Father "Of those whom you have given me I have lost none." (John 17:12) Due to our own sin and unbelief we may become wounded. But our Physician is at hand with the balm of Gilead to heal. He who forgives all our sins, heals all our diseases (Psa. 103:3). We "are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time" (1 Pet. 1:5). Christ is the safe way.

THE JOYFUL WAY

Since all this is true of Christ, Christ is the joyful way.

Isaiah 35: 10: And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads: they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Moses said, "Happy *art* thou, O Israel: who *is* like unto thee, O people saved by the LORD, the shield of thy help, and who *is* the sword of thy excellency! and thine enemies shall be found liars unto thee; and thou shalt tread upon their high places" (Deut 33: 29).

In the many pursuits of unregenerate sinners—for wealth and honor and applause—there is no inward peace, no calm, no settled ease of conscience, no hope of immortality. Their past accuses. Their present gives no rest. Their future gives anguish, a fearful looking forward to judgment.

But Zion's pilgrims "*sing in the ways of the Lord: for great is the glory of the Lord.*" (Psa. 138:5) By the Spirit of God making us behold Christ laying down his life in our behalf and now reigning and ruling and

working all things together for our good, we "bless the Lord at all times: His praises are continually in our mouth." (Psa. 34:1) We praise Christ because he "brought up out of the horrible pit, and out of the miry clay, and set our feet upon a rock, and established our goings." (Psa. 40:2) Oh we sorrow and sigh at times—but not as those who have no hope—our present joy is a foretaste of that great and perfect joy that awaits when Christ brings us into glory with him.

THE NARROW WAY

All this being so Christ is the narrow way.

Matthew 7: 13: Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: 14: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.

Christ is the narrow way, the straight gate, which leadeth unto life and few there be that find it. Sinners in their natural state have no desire to go to God, much less to come God's way. Even if a natural born sinner seeks A way, it is not God's Way. It is a way that seems right to man but ends in death.

But the blessings of God's grace does not make those in the narrow way look down on those in the broad way. Grace and mercy make us "have compassion on the ignorant, and on them that are out of the Way." (Heb. 5:2) We say to you what Moses said to his father-in-law, "We are journeying to the place of which the Lord has said, I will give it you: come with us, and we will do you good; for the Lord has spoken good concerning Israel." (Num. 10:29) Christ's says, "*Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction but strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.*" Oh that his word would come in the power of his Spirit—"enter ye in at the straight gate!"

How narrow is the Way? Christ said, "*I am THE WAY...no man cometh to the Father but by me!*" Enter into the Way by believing on the Lord Jesus Christ. And when God has made us receive Christ through faith, as we "received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him; rooted and built up in him, stablished IN THE FAITH, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving." (Col. 2:6, 7)

Brethren, as Christ looked to the joy set before him, look to the joy set before us, look to Christ. Only a few more miles, a few more hills and valleys and—"the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads: they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away."

Amen!