

June 23, 2013

THE WAY TO THE FATHER

John 14: 1-6

Our FOCUS will be on Christ's declaration in verse 6. Look at John 14:6 **“Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.”**

In the final days before He goes to the Cross, Christ speaks to His disciples about spiritual things. Here, He declares Himself to be:

1. The WAY to the Father.
2. The TRUTH about the Father.
3. The LIFE that is of the Father.

Christ is first the WAY to the Father. Put up **“Jesus saith unto him, I am the WAY. No man cometh unto the Father, but by me.”**

Christ declares Himself to be the ONLY means, (the ONLY way of access) to the Father. If any sinner would worship the Father, if any sinner would fellowship with the Father, if any sinner would honor the Father, it will be (it MUST BE) through Christ. He is the WAY (the ONLY way) for a sinner to come to the Father.

Look at John 14: 1 **“Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.”**

Christ has told His disciples that He must go away. He has told them that He must go to Jerusalem, be taken by the religious leaders and put to death. They are (necessarily) concerned. His words here are intended to teach them, to comfort them, to settle their minds about His impending departure.

The words I have underlined are two IMPERATIVES. They are two commands. Believe in God! Believe also in Me! In reality you CANNOT do one without the other. You CANNOT believe in God and NOT believe in the Christ that He has sent. I.e. BEFORE any sinner is believing in God, that sinner is (MUST BE) believing in the Christ who came at the command and by direction of the Father.

Why is this so? This is so because Christ is the WAY (the ONLY WAY) to the Father.

Jesus answered some who asked Him, **“What shall we do, that we might work the works of God?”**

Look at John 6: 29 **“Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent.”**

Believing on the One ōsentō is the ONLY way to acknowledge the ONE who ōsent Himō. ōSeekingō salvation in the One ōsentō is the BEGINNING of ōseeking afterō the One who ōsent Himō.

Believing on Christ is not something sinners come up with on their own. I.e. Believing on Christ is not something men do of their own volition.

Look at John 6: 44-46 **“No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.**

45 It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me.

46 Not that any man hath seen the Father, save he which is of God, he hath seen the Father.”

Believing on Christ is a MIRACLE of God. Men don't believe on Christ UNTIL God makes Him known (in the Gospel) and UNTIL the Spirit of God makes Him known (in the heart). Before them, the ðChristö in our minds is a counterfeit.

Look at Matthew 11: 27 **“All things are delivered unto me of my Father: and no man knoweth the Son, but the Father; neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal him.”**

In order to know the Father, you have to know the Son. And, the Son can only be known when the Father sends a preacher of the Gospel, and when that Gospel is attended with the convicting and converting power of the Holy Spirit.

You can sit under what men call ðbible preachingö all your life. But, if that preaching is not identifying and distinguishing the Christ of the Scriptures, it is NOT ONLY not helping you, but is IN FACT your biggest hindrance to God's WAY of salvation. What has the Son done that makes it right for the Father to bring sinners to Himself?

Look on in our text at John 14: 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.”**

Christ is speaking of His ðgoingö to the Cross. His work on the Cross would (It did.) ðprepare a placeö in glory for EVERY sinner He represented. He came to fulfill the law on THEIR behalf. He came to satisfy justice on THEIR behalf. He came to put away THEIR sin. He came to establish the ONE righteousness by which God is just to declare THEM eternally righteous. Christ's work on the Cross would (did) GUARANTEE (every) sinner He died for a place in heaven.

Look at verse 3 **“And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.”**

Christ's work on the Cross ðprepared a placeö for every sinner He was given. And, His work on the Cross is what guarantees His return for them to ðreceive them unto Himselfö. They will be in heaven because He ðpreparedö them a place. He fulfilled all the law's requirements and satisfied all the demands of justice on THEIR behalf.

They will be in heaven because He will return and take them to that place that His death ALONE ðprepared themö. His death FOR them is their ONLY right and title to heaven. And, they will (without fail) occupy the place His death ðpreparedö for them.

Look at verse 4 **“And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know.”**

Christ speaks here in anticipation of the disciples being ðtaught of Godö. It is spoken in anticipation of their ðunderstanding (of the scriptures) being openedö after Christ was resurrected. Although they had been told, they (obviously) did not understand that WAY at this time. And, Thomas expresses their lack of understanding.

Look at John 14: 5 **“Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way?”**

Of course, Christ answered Thomas in verse 6. And, although none of the disciples (at that time) knew all that Christ meant, they would know (when God taught them). The anxiousness of the disciples is mirrored in every sinner who is still ignorant of who Christ is and what He has done to save and eternally bless every sinner He died for.

(Outline) Christ is not only the WAY to the Father. He is also (the) TRUTH about the Father. Look back at John 14: 6 **“Jesus saith unto him, I am THE TRUTH, no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.”**

ðNo man comes to the Fatherö, but by (the) TRUTH that is found in the Person, doing and dying of CHRIST alone. I am speaking of (the) TRUTH that does two things. First, the TRUTH identifies the Father and distinguishes Him from all idols.

ðNaturalö men can know many TRUE things about the true and living God. They can and do look at creation and see that the Creator is wise, and powerful and faithful. Psalms 19 says, **“The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork.”**

ðNaturalö men can and do look at Providence and conclude that God governs as He will. They can and do agree with the conclusion of King Nebuchadnezzar.

Look at Daniel 4: 35 **“All the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing: and he doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou?”**

This heathen king was brought (providentially) to the RIGHT conclusion. He spoke the TRUTH. And, ðlostö men can agree with him in that TRUTH.

Yet, in all this knowledge and understanding of TRUE things about God revealed in Creation and in Providence, men (by nature) STILL fall short of (the) TRUTH. They fail to see what (truly) IDENTIFIES God and DISTINGUISHES Him from idols. They fail to value how God can remain Just and STILL deal mercifully with fallen humanity.

Their failure (in this area) is a failure to understand the ðpreaching of the Crossö.

Look at 1Corinthians 1: 18 **“For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.”**

There are always two groups of sinners in the world. In this context those groups are contrasted as those who ARE ðperishingö and those who ARE ðbeing savedö. Both groups are identified by their doctrine (which is their Gospel). Their GOSPEL identifies their Christ. And, their CHRIST identifies their God.

Look at 2 John 9 **“Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son.”**

Are you, am I among those that ðare perishingö? Or, are we among those that ðare being savedö? Men are known by their DOCTRINE. They ARE identified and distinguished by what they believe about Christ. Which ðChristö are you looking to?

Is your hope in that (imagined) ðChristö, who died for ALL, but, whose death did not REALLY save anyone, UNLESS you make His death effectual by YOUR contribution of faith, or ðgood worksö, or reformation of life?

OR! Is your hope in the Christ of the Scriptures, who satisfied the law and justice of God and ACCOMPLISHED the complete salvation of every sinner He died for by His obedience unto death ALONE? The TRUTH (the Gospel) identifies Christ. And, in turn, Christ identifies the God who justifies the ungodly based on the finished work (imputed righteousness) of Christ ALONE. So, the FIRST thing TRUTH does is IDENTIFY and DISTINGUISH the true and living God from the idols of menö imaginations.

The SECOND thing (the) TRUTH does is to overcome the ðwisdom of the world and the wiseö in the matter of salvation; and to deliver sinners from the BONDAGE of self righteous preaching. The ðpreaching of the Crossö is the sword of destruction to the ðwisdom of the wiseö (the ðwisdom of this worldö).

Look at 1 Corinthians 1:19-21 **“For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent.**

20 Where is the wise? where is the scribe? where is the disputer of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world?

21 For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.”

This whole context of this scripture is about salvation. It is about those who ðare perishingö and those who are ðbeing savedö (i.e. those who have been delivered from perishing). The subject is salvation. The contrast is salvation according to the ðwisdom of the worldö and salvation according to ðthe wisdom of Godö.

The ðwisdom of the worldö concerning salvation is this: GOD will if YOU will. God WILL save you IF. He will save IF you will DO (something). He will save you IF you will BELIEVE (something). He will save you IF you will CHANGE your ways. This ðwisdomö keeps sinners looking WITHIN for at least some part of their acceptance with God. And, that looking within is

BONDAGE. The greatest need of sinners is to be SAVED from ðthe wisdom of this worldö in the matter of salvation.

The ðwisdom of Godö is that He has ALREADY saved a people of His choosing. And, He has saved them by the doing and dying of Christ ALONE. Sinners don't DO anything to get this salvation or keep it. God is just to save and finally bless sinners on the basis of Christ's finished work (His righteousness imputed) ALONE.

ðThe wisdom of Godö is the wisdom of ðChrist crucifiedö. Look at 1 Corinthians 1:22-24 “ **For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom:**

23 But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness;

24 But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God.”

ðChrist crucifiedö is not just that Christ died, was buried and rose again. These, (of course), are FACTS included in ðChrist crucifiedö. But, ðChrist crucifiedö is about how Christ died, was buried and rose again ðACCORDING TO THE SCRIPTURESö. It's about what He ACCOMPLISHED in His death for every sinner He was given. It is about what His resurrection DECLARES of His death.

ðChrist crucifiedö is the TRUTH of God (i.e. ðthe wisdom of Godö) that confronts the ðwisdom of the worldö.

That is why ðChrist crucifiedö is (the) TRUTH that ðsets men freeö. Until a sinner sees and embraces ðChrist crucifiedö (the TRUTH of His life and death), that sinner is in BONDAGE.

Look at John 8: 30-32 “**As he (Christ) spake these words, many believed on him.**

31 ¶ Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed;

32 And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”

Initially, the Gospel addresses sinners who are in BONDAGE. But, it is a BONDAGE none of us recognizes.

Look at John 8: 33 “**They answered him, We be Abraham's seed, and were never in bondage to any man: how sayest thou, Ye shall be made free?”**

What is this BONDAGE?

Look at John 8: 34 “**Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin.”**

ðCommitting sinö is something from which every regenerate (every believing) sinner has been delivered.

Look at 1 John 3: 9 “**Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.”**

How are sinners delivered from this BONDAGE?

Look at John 8: 35-36 “**And the servant abideth not in the house for ever: but the Son abideth ever.**

36 If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.”

Every son and daughter of Adam is born in BONDAGE. None of us knows it. But, it is still true. And the ONLY way to be delivered from this BONDAGE is by the preaching of ðChrist crucifiedö. It is to understand the COMPLETENESS and SUFFICIENCY of the salvation Christ has worked out for every sinner He was given.

Christ is the TRUTH about the Father that IDENTIFIES and DISTINGUISHES Him as a just God and Savior. And, He is the TRUTH that delivers His sheep from BONDAGE (i.e. from the worship of a ðgodö of their imaginations).

(Outline) Now, letø look at the last point in our message. Christ is the LIFE that is of the Father.

Look back at John 14:6 “Jesus saith unto him, I am THE LIFE: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.”

No man lives the life given by the Father, but by Christ. This is Spiritual life which wonø be FULLY realized until final glory.

Look at Psalms 17: 15 “**As for me, I will behold thy face in righteousness: I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with thy likeness.**”

Look at Colossians 3: 1-4 “**If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.**

2 Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.

3 For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.

4 When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.”

These verses are speaking of Spiritual life (eternal life) which will be FULLY realized by each of Christø sheep in Final Glory. But, this life is manifested; it makes its debut in each of Godø elect in time in Regeneration.

Every sinner chosen in Christ before the foundation of the world and redeemed by Christ on the Cross, will (in time) be ðborn againö. They will be ðquickenedö (made alive) by the Spirit in regeneration. They will be ðraised to walk in newness of lifeö. This is all scriptural language concerning the new birth.

Look at 1 John 5: 10-12 “**He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son.**

11 And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.

12 He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.”

God GAVE His elect this (eternal) life in Christ ðbefore the world beganö. But, that life is MADE KNOWN in time in Regeneration.

“He that hath the Son hath life.” Who HAS the Son? The sinner abiding in the ðdoctrine of Christö has the Son. Remember 2 John 9, **He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son.”**

The sinner DELIVERED from ðcommitting sinö has the Son. Remember 1 John 3: 9 **“Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.”**

Who has the Son? It is the sinner whose WHOLE ðseekingö is to be ðfound in Christö.

Look at Philippians 3: 7-9 **“But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. 8 Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ, 9 ¶ And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:”**

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