

The Way, the Truth and the Life

Prayer

John 14:1-11 CEV

Jesus said to his disciples, "Don't be worried! Have faith in God and have faith in me. There are many rooms in my Father's house. I wouldn't tell you this, unless it was true. I am going there to prepare a place for each of you. After I have done this, I will come back and take you with me. Then we will be together. You know the way to where I am going." Thomas said, "Lord, we don't even know where you are going! How can we know the way?" "I am the way, the truth, and the life!" Jesus answered. "Without me, no one can go to the Father. If you had known me, you would have known the Father. But from now on, you do know him, and you have seen him." Philip said, "Lord, show us the Father. That is all we need." Jesus replied: Philip, I have been with you for a long time. Don't you know who I am? If you have seen me, you have seen the Father. How can you ask me to show you the Father? Don't you believe that I am one with the Father and that the Father is one with me? What I say isn't said on my own. The Father who lives in me does these things. Have faith in me when I say that the Father is one with me and that I am one with the Father. Or else have faith in me simply because of the things I do. I tell you for certain that if you have faith in me, you will do the same things that I am doing. You will do even greater things, now that I am going back to the Father. Ask me, and I will do whatever you ask. This way the Son will bring honor to the Father. I will do whatever you ask me to do. Jesus said to his disciples: If you love me, you will do as I command. Then I will ask the Father to send you the Holy Spirit who will help you and always be with you. The Spirit will show you what is true.

Jesus said in verse 6, "I am the way, the truth and the life!"

I Am

Did you notice the fact that Jesus said: "I am"?

(Paraphrase from Wikipedia)

I Am that I Am is a traditional common English translation of the response God used in the Hebrew Bible when Moses asked for his name in Exodus 3:14. Hayah means "to be" or "to become" in Hebrew; "ehyeh" is the root word derived from "Hayah" and is to be translated in English Bibles as "I will be" (or "I will become"), for example, at Exodus 3:14. Ehyeh asher ehyeh literally translates as "I Will Be What I Will Be" or "I Will Become What I Will Become", according to accurate translation of the Hebrew language. However, in the great majority of English Bibles, in particular the King James Version, this phrase is rendered as I Am That I Am"

Ehyeh-Asher-Ehyeh (often contracted in English as "I AM") is one of the Seven Names of God accorded special care by medieval Jewish tradition.¹

It is interesting to me that Jesus says: "I am" – seven times in the New Testament.

So What?

This simply means that Jesus was saying that which I will become at the culmination is the way the truth and the life.

The Way

Jesus is the ONLY path to the Father. Jesus became the sacrifice for our sins. He became the way for us to be once again in right standing with the Father.

Peter confirms this in Acts 4:12 CEV where he says: "Only Jesus has the power to save! His name is the only one in all the world that can save anyone"

This may sound exclusionary and politically incorrect, but Jesus is the only way, there is no other religion, faith, philosophy or belief system that will bring you to eternal life with the God of the Universe.

When we think of the conversation between Moses and God in the burning bush, God says: "I am that I am" God is referring to Jesus, just as Jesus is referring to God.

John 14:11 CEV says: "*Have faith in me when I say that the Father is one with me and that I am one with the Father*"

John 14:19-21 CEV says: "*In a little while the people of this world won't be able to see me, but you will see me. And because I live, you will live. Then you will know that I am one with the Father. You will know that you are one with me, and I am one with you. If you love me, you will do what I have said, and my Father will love you*"

So how is Jesus the way to the Father?

Well first of he reveals the Father to us. Remember John 14:7-9

If you had known me, you would have known the Father. But from now on, you do know him, and you have seen him

John 1:18 says:

No one has ever seen God. The only Son, who is truly God and is closest to the Father, has shown us what God is like.

* See also (Matthew 3:1- 12; Mark 1:1- 8; Luke 3:15-17) where John points the way to Christ

Jesus ties his existence and our faith to the Father.

John 12:44,45

In a loud voice Jesus said: Everyone who has faith in me also has faith in the one who sent me. And everyone who has seen me has seen the one who sent me

Jesus opens the way for us back to the Father. In other sermons we have talked about the work of the cross in our Justification, Redemption, Propitiation, Expiation and Reconciliation.

The reconciliation of Jesus is shown to us by Paul: in the book of Hebrews 10:19,20

My friends, the blood of Jesus gives us courage to enter the most holy place by a new way that leads to life! And this way takes us through the curtain that is Christ himself

Jesus is our high priest, mediator, intercessor and advocate before the Father. We are justified through him.

Let's look at some scripture about this:

Hebrews 7:20-25 CEV

God himself made a promise when this priest was appointed. But he did not make a promise like this when the other priests were appointed. The promise he made is, "I, the Lord, promise that you will be a priest forever! And I will never change my mind!" This means that Jesus guarantees us a better agreement with God. There have been a lot of other priests, and all of them have died. But Jesus will never die, and so he will be a priest forever! He is forever able to save the people he leads to God, because he always lives to speak to God for them.

1 John 1:1-4

My children, I am writing this so that you won't sin. But if you do sin, Jesus Christ always does the right thing, and he will speak to the Father for us. Christ is the sacrifice that takes away our sins and the sins of all the world's people. When we obey God, we are sure that we know him. But if we claim to know him and don't obey him, we are lying and the truth isn't in our hearts

1 Timothy 2:5

There is only one God, and Christ Jesus is the only one who can bring us to God. Jesus was truly human, and he gave himself to rescue all of us

Romans 8:33,34

If God says his chosen ones are acceptable to him, can anyone bring charges against them? Or can anyone condemn them? No indeed! Christ died and was raised to life, and now he is at God's right side, speaking to him for us

Jesus the Great "I Am" is the ONLY way to God. Jesus is the Way!

Let's turn our focus now to how Jesus is the Truth and what that actually means...

The Truth

Jesus is full of grace and forgiveness. He has made us right once again with the Father. Yet there is a misconception floating around the churches that when Jesus came back the law of God was abolished. Nothing could be further from the truth...

Stay with me now, because I am going to explain it and how it relates to the truth of Christ.

First, I want to establish something right off... Turn with me to Matthew 5:17,18

"Don't assume that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. For I assure you: Until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or one stroke of a letter will pass from the law until all things are accomplished.

Now let's look at psalms 119:142: NKJV *"Your righteousness is an everlasting righteousness, And Your law is truth."*

Jesus sets out with authority to clarify the scriptures and the law. You can see him doing this in Matthew 5:22, 28, 32, 34, 39 & 44)

Jesus speaks with authority and in so doing makes himself equal with the Law of God. He becomes synonymous with the standard of righteousness.

Before we move on to how Jesus could do this... Let's briefly look at what truth is... Even Pontius Pilate asked this question. Turn with me to John 18:38

Pilate asked Jesus, "What is truth?"

(Paraphrase – Wikipedia)

Aletheia (Ancient Greek: ἀλήθεια) is truth or disclosure. It is a Greek word variously translated as "unclosedness", "unconcealedness", "disclosure" or "truth". The literal meaning of the word ἀ-λήθεια is "the state of not being hidden; the state of being evident" and it also implies sincerity, as well as factuality or reality.

When Jesus speaks about truth in the scriptures here he is describing a reality that is factual and absolute.

You might ask how Jesus could do this...

The answer is in John 1:1-3

In the beginning was the one who is called the Word. The Word was with God and was truly God. From the very beginning the Word was with God. And with this Word, God created all things. Nothing was made without the Word. Everything that was created

Jesus is the Word. He came to reveal the Word to us. He IS Truth!

One more point of truth here...

There is a tendency for people to abuse the grace of Christ, thinking that all is forgiven, that we don't have to work out our salvation with fear and trembling... Well, here is a reality check for you.

1 Corinthians 15:21-24

Just as we will die because of Adam, we will be raised to life because of Christ. Adam brought death to all of us, and Christ will bring life to all of us. But we must each wait our turn. Christ was the first to be raised to life, and his people will be raised to life when he returns. Then after Christ has destroyed all powers and forces, the end will come, and he will give the kingdom to God the Father.

Our Grace is in Christ. In him we live and move and breathe. The Holy Spirit is bringing about the likeness of Christ in us, yet at some point the work will be complete, because Jesus gives the Kingdom of God over to the Father... Open your heart to the truth of the Holy Spirit and allow the likeness of Jesus to be brought about in your life. Today embrace the Logos, the living Word of God, the Son and bring about his truth in your life.

We have looked at how he could do this... now how is Jesus the truth?

First of Jesus always proclaimed the Word of the Father which in itself is truth

In John 17:17 Jesus speaks to the Father saying:

Your word is the truth. So let this truth make them completely yours

In John 1:1 Jesus is the Word.

In the beginning was the one who is called the Word. The Word was with God and was truly God

Jesus then tells us in John 8:31 CEV

You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free

If Jesus is the Word and the Word is truth and the truth shall set you free then you are free because of Jesus!

John 8:36 CEV

If the Son gives you freedom, you are free

The Life

When we say Jesus is the life this is not immediately apparent or may be confusing to some, because Jesus was speaking to his disciples about his impending death. Yet as we have been reading he is also claiming to be the source of all life. Can you imagine the conundrum the disciples were in trying to reconcile these diametrically opposed or rather totally opposed concepts?

In John 10: 17-18 we see Jesus saying: *“The Father loves me, because I give up my life, so that I may receive it back again. No one takes my life from me. I give it up willingly! I have the power to give it up and the power to receive it back again, just as my Father commanded me to do”*

Here we see Jesus speaking once again with the authority of the Son of God. He is declaring his authority over life and death. Jesus was on board with the Father’s plan. He clearly and authoritatively gave us this promise...

John 14:19-21 NKJV

“A little while longer and the world will see Me no more, but you will see Me. Because I live, you will live also. At that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you. He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him.”

Jesus was revealing his ultimate plan... He did not come to bring social reform to the Jewish community as they had hoped for in their messiah king, but to bring them deliverance from something of greater magnitude. Jesus came to bring deliverance from the chains of sin and death. Jesus great mission was to give us a life of freedom in eternity.

What kind of life is Jesus offering us?

John 10:10 HCSB – LIFE of ABUNDANCE

A thief comes only to steal and to kill and to destroy. I have come so that they may have life and have it in abundance.

John 15:9-12 HCSB– LIFE of JOY

“As the Father has loved Me, I have also loved you. Remain in My love. If you keep My commands you will remain in My love, just as I have kept My Father’s commands and remain in His love. “I have spoken these things to you so that My joy may be in you and your joy may be complete. This is My command: Love one another as I have loved you.”

John 14:27 CEV – LIFE of PEACE

I give you peace, the kind of peace that only I can give. It isn't like the peace that this world can give. So don't be worried or afraid

Ephesians 3:19 HCSB – LIFE of LOVE

...to know the Messiah’s love that surpasses knowledge, so you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Now the big question... How does one tap into this life?

- We must be born again – John 3:3 ESV
 - *Jesus answered him, “ Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.*
- We must be born of Living Water and the Spirit - John 3:4-6 ESV
 - *Nicodemus said to him, “ How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother 's womb and be born?” Jesus answered, “ Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.*
- We must be filled by the rivers of living water – John 7:37-38 ESV
 - *On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, “ If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, ‘Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.*
- We must be regenerated by the Spirit – Titus 3:5,6 ESV
 - *he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior,*

Full Circle:

Jesus in declaring himself the "I Am" was declaring the truth that he is the only way to God the Father. He is the only true measure of righteousness. He is saying that he is our life. He is declaring that he is the God of Creation.

- Jesus is the ONLY Way
- Jesus is the Word and the Word is Truth therefore Jesus is Truth
- Jesus is the life because without his sacrifice there is no atonement with the Father. In him we live and move and breathe.

"I am the way, the truth, and the life!" Jesus answered. "Without me, no one can go to the Father." As the kingdom of God will be given back to the Father, getting to be with the Father is essential for eternal life. Christ has made this possible by showing us the way, giving and clarifying the truth and providing a path to eternal life. The rest is up to you.

He is the way the truth and the life but Matthew 7:13,14 ESV tells us clearly that we have a choice to believe and to accept him or not.

"Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few."

Jesus has done it all for you. All you have to do is believe in him

I will close with this passage:

John 3:16,17 HCSB

For God loved the world in this way: He gave His One and Only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send His Son into the world that He might condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through Him.

I say again... Jesus is the way the truth and the life!

Prayer