

CHRIST, THE WAY TO GOD

JOHN 14:1-6 • TV101B

A television broadcast sermon delivered
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 30TH, 1979

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Transcribed, edited and published
JULY 5TH, 2016

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Zebulon Baptist Church
6088 Zebulon Highway
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John 14:1-6

“Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. 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. 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. And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know. Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way? Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.”

I would like to speak from familiar passages of Scripture; the Scriptures which we have read, or studied, or heard preached all of our lives because I feel like that every time I study and restudy a particular and familiar portion of God’s Word the Lord gives me something new and something beautiful.

Today I want you to turn with me to **John 14**. You know immediately what Scripture I’m going to read, **John 14:1-6**. I am going to speak on the subject: **“CHRIST, THE WAY TO GOD.”**

John chapter 14:1-6, our Lord said to His disciples: *“Let not your heart be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father’s house are many mansions (or dwelling places). If it were not so I would have told you.”*

CHRIST, THE WAY TO GOD

JOHN 14:1-6 • HENRY T. MAHAN

“I go to prepare a place for you and if I go and prepare a place for you I will come again and receive you unto myself that where I am there you may be also. And whether I go, you know, and the way you know.”

And Thomas says unto Him; *“Lord, we don’t know where you are going; how can we know the way?”* And the Lord Jesus said unto him: *“I am the way, the truth, and the life. No man cometh unto the Father but by me.”*

Now, my friend, the disciples were troubled, they were very troubled. Our Lord said, *“Let not your heart be troubled.”*

They were troubled and they had reason to be troubled. If you and I are in the state they’re in or were in; we have a reason to be troubled too. They had a reason to be troubled.

You see, they did not understand what this was all about. Now, they had this conception of the Lord’s kingdom. They believed He was the Messiah; Peter said that, *“We believe that thou art the Christ the Son of the living God. We believe that you are the Son of David. We believe that you are the rightful heir to the throne of David.”*

And they had the idea that the Lord Jesus had come to set up the Jewish kingdom, a mighty and influential, powerful, splendid, and majestic kingdom right here on this earth, a materialistic kingdom, a rich and powerful kingdom, to throw off the bondage of Rome and to be free Jews once again. That’s what they thought.

And then our Lord talked to them about dying. He said, *“I’m going to die.”* And He talked to them about their denying Him and forsaking Him. He said, *“All of you will be offended because of me this night, and the sheep will be scattered.”*

He talked to them not about influence but persecution. He talked to them not about acceptance but rejection. He said; *“They will cast you out of the synagogues. The time will come when the man who kills you will think that he is doing God a service.”* They didn’t understand this.

And oh the mysteries of the Gospel and the mysteries of our Lord’s kingdom and the mysteries of eternal life; they’re never understood by the natural man. *“Eye hath not seen, ear hath not heard, neither hath it entered the heart of men the things that God hath prepared for them that love him but he hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit.”*

And He said to his disciples later, *“I’ve got many things to tell you. But you are not able to bear them now. You can’t understand them. But when the Holy Spirit comes he will guide you unto all truth.”*

These men were troubled. They didn’t understand. And that’s when our Lord said to them: *“Let not your heart be troubled.”* He comforts them. *“Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid. You believe in God; believe in me also, (trust in Me and rest in Me).”*

CHRIST, THE WAY TO GOD

JOHN 14:1-6 • HENRY T. MAHAN

Do like Job, he said: *“Though he slay me I will trust him.”* Job didn’t understand all that was happening to him. Why he lost all of his cattle, his sheep, and his oxen, and all ten of his children were killed.

There was one great tornado that killed all his children, and here he sat broke and miserable and his health was gone. He had boils all over his body and people were laughing at him and ridiculing him. And he had read promises in the Word of God how that they that trust the Lord shall be blessed, and how should they that believe on God would be prospered above all men. This is so spiritually but not always physically.

Job didn’t understand it but he did say this: *“Though he slay me I will trust him.”* And that’s what the Lord is saying to the disciples here. He is saying: *“You believe in God; believe also in me, (rest in me, and trust in me).”*

Then David, these were the last words of David: David’s life was an enigma, a powerful man, a godly man, *“a man after God’s own heart,”* a man who started out slaying his ten thousands and then his own son killed one of his other sons and then another son tried to throw him off of the throne and won the hearts of the people from his father.

David became an outcast. And when all of this occurred and when he was on his death bed just before he died he said: *“Although my house be not so with God: God hath made with me an everlasting covenant, ordered in all things and sure and this is all my salvation and all my desire, although he made it not to grow.”*

I believe the Lord, I believe him. That’s what our Lord is saying here to the disciples, He is saying: *“Let not your heart be troubled.”* “You don’t understand, I know. You can’t understand; you can’t put this all together.” How the finite minds of a man comprehend the infinite mind of God?”

How can we in our foolishness and ignorance even hope to comprehend the infinite, infallible, all-wise mind of God, and purpose of God, and ways of God? You can’t do it. So, we must walk by faith and not by sight. Our sight is not that good; it doesn’t reach that far either way, just about as far as I can see.

I can’t see 4,000 years back and 2,000 years ahead. I can’t see that far. I can’t see into the past, I can’t see into the eternal councils of God. I can’t see into the secret chambers of God’s will and wisdom. I can’t see into the future.

I must not walk by sight. I must continually walk by faith. I hear people say, “Put out the fleece.” You be careful of signs and wonders. Our Lord said: *“No signs shall be given but that of the word of God.”*

CHRIST, THE WAY TO GOD

JOHN 14:1-6 • HENRY T. MAHAN

“Blessed are they that have not seen and yet have believed. This evil and adulteress generation seeketh after a sign.” Prove God! God doesn’t have to be proved; God is God. Who needs to be proved? Ourselves! *“Prove of your own selves whether you be in the faith?”*

God doesn’t have to be proved: “Prove there is a God.” God doesn’t have to be proved. “Prove the Gospel to me.” No, God doesn’t have to be approved. I’ll tell you who must be approved and that’s us.

And our Lord said: *“I go to prepare a place for you.”* Now, my friend; by nature and birth we don’t have a place. I take that back; we have a place, it says: *“When Judas hanged himself he went to his own place.”*

And if we die in our sins that’s our place too, separated from God in darkness, and evil, and corruption forever and ever; that’s our place.

But by nature we don’t have a place in God’s presence. You know, the average person is thankful that the Lord said this to His disciples, *“I go to prepare a place for you.”* They think that He is talking about going up there and laying some golden streets and putting up a few buildings and putting a wall around it and a few gates of precious stone.

No sir! The preparation of the place is the place of acceptance in the sight of God almighty. And that took His obedience: By one man’s disobedience (Adam) I was made sin. By the obedience of another (Christ) I was made righteous.

So, Christ prepared a place of acceptance, a place of righteousness, a place of holiness, a place of glory, and a place of eternal rest in the presence of God by His obedience and by His death and by His intercession.

That’s preparing for me a place. I’ve got no place by nature. And this place the Lord is talking about preparing is the place in God’s favor.

You know, when man fell, he fell out of favor with God. We are not born in God’s favor. We are born, *“dead in trespasses and sin. The wicked go astray from the womb speaking lies. We are conceived in sin and shapen in iniquity and brought forth speaking lies.”*

Our place is the place of destitution, despair, distress, and damnation. Christ said: *“I’m going to prepare a place for you.”* And the preparation of that place is by His obedience, His death, His burial, His resurrection and His intercession.

And the Lord says, *“I go and prepare a place for you.”* You know, one time He said: *“If I don’t go away the Holy Spirit will not come.”* When the Lord speaks of going away He is speaking of His death, His death, His burial and His resurrection.

CHRIST, THE WAY TO GOD

JOHN 14:1-6 • HENRY T. MAHAN

He is saying: “If I don’t go away the Holy Spirit won’t come because if I don’t go away the Holy Spirit has no reason to come. He doesn’t have any Gospel to reveal. He doesn’t have any blood to apply. He doesn’t have any salvation to give.” Christ accomplished that by His death.

“And if I go and prepare that place for you I will come again and receive you unto myself (not just to a materialistic future-world, not just to gladness and happiness and freedom from sickness and sorrow and death) that where I am there you may be.”

Have you ever thought much about *“that where I am, there you may be also?”* Where is Christ? Well, I will tell you one thing; He’s at the right hand of God, that’s right. *“He sat down on the right hand of God.”*

The right hand; do you know what the right hand is to a king? It’s a place of love, acceptance. It’s a place of honor and it’s a place of glory. And Christ sat down at the Father’s right hand, having finished his work of salvation.

And you know; we who have died in Him and who were buried in Him and arose in Him are also, *“seated with him in the heavenlies.”* Where Christ is there you may be also.

Where is Christ? He’s at the right hand of God. Where is Christ? He’s exalted above every name given; a name above every name in heaven, earth and hell. Where is Christ? He’s eternally glorified. And brethren; every one of His people are in Him. And where He is there we are also.

Then He says: *“And the way you know.”* And one of them said, *“Lord, we don’t know the way; we don’t know where you are going, how can we know the way?”*

That’s when He gave my text and this is what I want us to think about now for the rest of the time. The Lord Jesus Christ said, *“I am the way, the truth, and the life. No man cometh to the Father but me, but by me.”* (‘I am the way to the Father, I am the way to this place I’ve prepared, I am the way to where I am, I am the truth about it and I’m the life of it;’). *“And no man cometh to Father but by me.”*

Now, my friend; this whole situation in which we find ourselves, this whole state of inability and state of corruption, and state of sin, and that’s where we are and you say; “I’m dissatisfied with my world,” well God is too.

This world is a world of sin; this world’s system is contrary to God, in opposition to God, and truth, holiness, love and life always has been and always will be.

And this whole thing that started in the Garden of Eden, when our father Adam fell. In Adam all died, in Adam sin and death passed upon all men; in Adam judgment and condemnation came upon all men.

CHRIST, THE WAY TO GOD

JOHN 14:1-6 • HENRY T. MAHAN

God created one man and that man was Adam. The word Adam means man, the Hebrew word for man. And every man was created in Adam and we stood in Adam and we fell in Adam. God never created you or me; He only created Adam. You and I came from Adam. You see, we were born by natural generation.

Even Eve came out of Adam. God didn't form Eve from the dust of the ground like He did Adam. He formed Eve out of Adam. Adam was the first man. Adam was the man God made according to the Word of God.

He made him in His own image. He made him holy and upright. Eve came out of him. And you and I came out of him. We came from the seed of Adam. The first son came, Abel, and all the rest of them born in between.

And we inherited an evil nature. When Adam sinned, you see, Adam lost three things:

First of all: He lost life! God said: *"If you eat of the forbidden tree you will die."* Well, Adam didn't die physically, not right at that moment; he lived another 700 or 800 years but he died spiritually, he lost spiritual life.

"God created Adam in his own image. He breathed into Adam the breath of life and he became a living soul."

He walked with God and he knew God. He didn't know anything about sin. He didn't even know he was naked. He had no experience with sin. He knew nothing of shame, he knew nothing of guilt, he knew nothing of lust, he knew nothing of anger and he knew nothing of hate.

After he fell he knew shame because he ran and hid. He knew fear because he hid. He knew hate because he blamed what he did on the woman whom he was supposed to love. He even lies; he began to tell God a lie. Do you see that?

What happened to this man? The divine life went out, the light went out; he died. You see, God cannot lie. Man can because man doesn't have the divine life, the holy life and the life of God. That light went out in the Garden of Eden.

Man has a sinful nature. God cannot lie. God cannot sin. God cannot hate. You see, God is holy and man is unholy. Everything about man is in opposition to God, the true, divine, life of God and the holy life of God.

Secondly: And man not only lost life but he lost the truth!

He believed the devil's lies and refused God's truth and has been doing that ever since. You tell a man a lie and he will believe it a whole lot quicker than he will the truth. That's what Christ said; (I'm talking about spiritually now, we are not talking about naturally or physically, I am talking about spiritually).

CHRIST, THE WAY TO GOD

JOHN 14:1-6 • HENRY T. MAHAN

Christ said, *“Let another come in his own name and him you will receive. I come in my Father’s name and you receive me not.”* Tell a man a lie about God and he will believe it, a natural man, not a believer, but a natural man will believe a lie quicker than he will the truth about God.

He lost the truth of God. He can’t comprehend the truth of God. The truth of God, the wisdom of God is what, *“foolishness with man?”* That’s what God says, He said, *“My thoughts are not your thoughts.”* *“There’s a way that seemeth right unto man and the end is death.”* Isn’t that what the Scripture says, *“The end is death?”*

The way that seems right to a man is reasonable and logical, it seems right to that man, but tell him what God says and he doesn’t think that is right. He’s got his own mind made up. He lost the truth and he lost the way to God.

God put him out of the Garden and shut the door. He put a flaming sword so he couldn’t get back to the tree of life and live on forever in the condition he’s in. That’s what we lost, *“the way, the truth, and the life.”*

In Christ all three of those things are restored. In Adam we died, in Christ we are made alive. Christ is the truth of God and Christ is the way to God.

Now, I want to look at those individually just for a moment; are you with me? Christ said: *“I am the way, I am the way.”* He didn’t say, *“I am a way.”* He didn’t say, *“I’m a good way.”* He didn’t say *“I’m a sincere way.”* He didn’t say, *“I’m a special or convenient way or even a simple way.”* He said, *“I am the way, I am the door, by me, if any man enter in he shall be saved.”*

Christ is the way to God, not one of the ways; He’s the only way. *“No man cometh to the Father but by me.”* That’s for sure. That is the truth. If I know God it will be through Christ. If I love God it will be through Christ. If I walk with God it will be through Christ. If I ever see God it will be through Christ.

All right; Christ says: *“I am the way.”* Now, when we talk about a way, you presuppose two things, two points, where I am and where I’m going. When we talk about a way we are talking about two points, where I am and where I’m going. Well, where am I and where am I going? Where do I want to go?

Well, Christ is the way from ruin to righteousness. *“As by one man’s disobedience we were made sinners. By another man, (Christ Jesus) we were made righteous.”* From ruin to righteousness Christ is the way.

And then, from death to life, Christ is the way. *“The wages of sin is death but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”* So, Christ is the way from death, spiritual death.

Now, I’m going to die physically and you are too. *“It’s appointed unto men once to die”* and every man who has ever lived has died except Enoch and Elijah and they were translated, taken to be with God without dying.

CHRIST, THE WAY TO GOD

JOHN 14:1-6 • HENRY T. MAHAN

Even our Lord died. And Christ is the way from spiritual death to spiritual life. And Christ is the way from enmity to peace, *“having made peace through the blood of his cross.”*

Christ is the way from guilt; *“What the law saith it saith to them that are under the law that every mouth may be stopped and all the world become guilty.”*

Christ is the way from guilt to pardon and He’s the way from condemnation to acceptance: *“There’s no condemnation to them who are in Christ. We are accepted in the beloved.”* And Christ is the way from hell to heaven.

Now; watch this carefully; don’t leave me now, this is the heart of the Gospel: Our Lord said: *“I am the way,”* the only way and I am the way from ruin to righteousness. And He says: *“I am the way.”*

He didn’t say, “I’ll show you the way.” He didn’t say, “I’ll make a way.” He didn’t say, “I’ll provide a way; He said: *“I am the way.”* This is where most people miss the Gospel. Christ doesn’t point to a way and say, “walk in it.” He says” *“I am the way.”*

Would you have wisdom? *“Christ is our wisdom.”* Christ Himself is our wisdom. Would you have righteousness? *“Christ is our righteousness.”* He’s not just an example; He is our righteousness with God. We are righteous in Him. We are holy in Him.

Would you have peace? *“Christ is our peace;”* that’s what the Scripture says. He is our peace, Himself. He didn’t just make a way of peace or provide a way of peace or assure us of peace; Christ is our peace.

Would you have holiness? Christ is our holiness. Would you have life? Paul said: *“When Christ who is our life shall appear then shall we appear with him.”* He is my life. *“He that hath the Son of God hath life. He that hath not the son of God hath not life.”*

You don’t find life at the front of the church, or in church membership, or in waters of baptism, or in the experience behind the barn; life is in Christ.

Would you have hope? *“Christ in you is the hope of glory.”* You don’t miss this. *“I am the way. No man cometh to the Father but by me.”* Christ said, *“I am the way.”* Thomas said, *“Lord; show us the way.”* He said: *“I am the way.”*

He didn’t point to a law, a doctrine, a tradition, a ceremony, or either a way of walking. He said, pointing to Himself: *“I am the way.”*

You see; a branch, here’s a vine and a branch grows out of the vine. And you cut the branch off from the vine, what happens to the branch? It withers and dies and you burn it. The vine goes on living.

CHRIST, THE WAY TO GOD

JOHN 14:1-6 • HENRY T. MAHAN

Well, a branch will go on living as it is securely, vitally, joined to the vine. So, the life of that branch is the vine, it is the vine. And the life of that branch is in its intimate, personal, relationship with that vine.

Christ said, *“I’m the true vine and you are the branches. I am the head and you are the body.”* I can lose a hand and go on living, a leg, not my head. This is where the life, this is where the government; this is where all of it is. Cut that off and I’m gone.

Christ is my head. We are the body. Union with Christ, this is what I’m saying friend; don’t miss it: *“He of God is made unto us wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption.”* Christ is everything.

You say: “Well, preacher, what shall I do?” Do? Do nothing but believe on Christ. “But preacher, I tell you; I’m going to go home and pray.” I hope you do; I believe that you will; you ought to but that’s not the Gospel. The Gospel is Christ.

“Well, I’ll tell you; I’m going to be baptized and join the church.” I hope you do; you ought to, you are commanded to if you are a believer but that’s not the Gospel. The Gospel is Christ.

“Well, I’m going to quit doing the things I’ve been doing and start worshipping and serving God.” I hope you will. I believe you will; you are commanded to but that’s not the Gospel, Christ is the Gospel.

And don’t you get that confused with the Gospel either. I’m redeemed by Christ. Christ is the way, not allegiance to Christ or following an example of Christ, or talking about Christ; He Himself is the way.

And I’m in that way as He’s in me and I’m in Him by faith. He is the Gospel; *I am the way to God. Seek ye the Lord while he may be found.*” Not the Lord’s doctrine, the Lord’s people, the Lord’s church, but the Lord Himself. *“Let Israel hope in the Lord for with the Lord there’s mercy.”*

I’ve got to be vitally in a living relationship, joined to the Son of God. Doctrine won’t save. It won’t do to die by. It might do to live by but it won’t do to die by. Christ is the Gospel. He said: *“I am the way, I am the truth.”*

What do you mean, *“I’m the truth;”* I’m truly man and truly God? *“I am the truth,”* truly prophet, priest, and king, the only one. *“I am the truth;”* I am the sum and substance of every promise; every promise is in Christ and fulfilled in Christ.

Everything God has is vested in Christ, turned over to Christ. This world’s been turned over to Him. *“He’s the Lord of the living and the dead.”* Christ is the truth; He’s the truth of every type, shadow, and example, in the Old Testament. Christ is the truth in opposition to every error!

CHRIST, THE WAY TO GOD

JOHN 14:1-6 • HENRY T. MAHAN

Christ is the life, *“I am the life.”* *“We know that the Son of God hath come and has given us an understanding that we may know him that is true.”* He is true; He is the truth and He is the life.

“This is the true God and this is eternal life.” Christ is the way to God. He is salvation. Salvation is not a plan, and it’s not a proposition, it’s a person. I hope you know him!