

## **I Am the Way**

Sunday, July 24<sup>th</sup> 1988

### **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.*

All of you are very familiar with this Scripture. I would like you to turn to the Book of John Chapter 14, verse 6. I'm sure you have read this verse, heard others read it, and have heard it preached from. "*Jesus said unto him, I am the way, the truth and the life, no man cometh unto the Father but by Me.*" The title of my message today: "I AM THE WAY."

I have a question for you, "When a man dies, will he live again?" Do you believe that there is life after this life or life after death? Is there really life beyond the grave? Do you believe that there is a future state of happiness, holiness and peace and rest called Heaven? Do you believe that?

I do, very strongly. I know this, the Word of God plainly declares that there is not only life after death here, but it is an eternal life and a life of glory, joy, happiness, and peace. David wrote, "*I will dwell in the House of the Lord forever.*" David also said this, "*I shall be satisfied, (totally satisfied), when I wake, when I am resurrected from the grave with His likeness.*"

The Apostle Paul wrote, "*I have a desire. I am in a straight betwixt the two. I have a desire right now to leave this life, to depart from this world and to be with Christ which is far better.*" For He said, "*For me to live is Christ and to die is gain. To be absent from this body is to be present with the Lord.*"

John wrote in the Book of the Revelation, "*Behold the Tabernacle of God is with men and He shall dwell with them and they shall be His people. God Himself shall be with them and He shall be their God and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes and there shall be no more death: neither sorrow nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain.*"

The "*former things*" are all of these former things that we dealt with and have been exposed to. The "*former things*" are things such as birth, life, sickness, trial, and sorrow. "*The former things are all passed away.*" "Behold," He said; "*I make all things new, (brand new).*"

So, there is life after death. That is what God's Word says. If the Word of God be true and it is, then there can be no greater goal. What could be your greatest goal, your greatest ambition, and your greatest objective if there is life after death?

If there is a heaven to gain, a hell to shun, there could be no greater goal than to obtain that life everlasting, to obtain that glory which follows.

That is what Paul said in Philippians 3: *"O that I may win Christ and be found in Him, that I may know Him and the power of His resurrected life that I may obtain unto the resurrection of the dead."* That is my greatest ambition!

Do you ever have serious thoughts about these things? Do you have enough serious thoughts about death, judgment, and eternity to ask? Well, which is the true way to heaven? Are you serious enough to ask that, to be concerned about that and to be interested in that?

How can a sinner be saved? How can a sinner find peace with God? How can a son of woman or how can a son of Adam, born of woman, obtain eternal life? How does he obtain life that never dies, life that never ends, life that never cries, and life that doesn't know any sorrow or pain? How does one obtain a life of glory, happiness, rest, and peace? What is the way? How does a man get there?

Well, I do know this; I know this and you know this, I know that everything that calls itself religion today claims to be the way to heaven. That's right; everything that goes by the name of religion claims to be the way to heaven. All religion and all denominations seem to have a claim or corner on God. They claim to have heaven in their hip pocket. Everybody is as sure for heaven as if they were already there.

They cannot all be right because there is a difference. They cannot all be right because they are traveling different ways. They cannot all be right. One will say, "You are saved by making a decision, walking to the front, or shaking a preacher's hand." Others will say, "You are saved by being a member of a different church or being sprinkled as an infant. That includes being sprinkled as a youth, and rededicated as an adult."

Some others say, "You're saved by baptism, by taking the holy sacraments, the other by the last rights and another by going to purgatory and getting prayed out." Some say, "You're saved this way and that way." All have different ways to God.

How many times does God say this in the Bible, *"There is a way that seemeth right unto men but the end is the way of death?"* How many times does God say that? Does He say

it two or three times? There is a way to God, a way to Heaven and a way to life that seems right, which seems logical to men; it seems reasonable.

They say, "You do this and God will do something in return." Others say, "You keep the law and God will take you; if you will be good, you will be an angel some day." God says, "*Your ways are not My ways.*"

I boldly declare unto you today that there is but one way to God, there is but one Way to heaven and it is not the Baptist way, the Methodist way, or the Presbyterian way; it is not that simple. It is not the Catholic way, the Jewish way, or the Protestant way, it is God's Way.

In Ephesians 4 it says this: "*There is one body; there is one Spirit and there is one hope of your calling. There is one Lord; there is one faith; there is one baptism and there is one God and Father.*" Therefore, there can only be one Saviour, one Mediator, and one Atonement. There's only one way to God. Our God is one. He is not several, nor is He several ways; He is one.

You see; this is what the Lord Jesus is saying in that text that I read to you a moment ago. The disciples said to Him, "*Lord; we don't know where you are going; how can we know the way?*" Where was He going? He was going back to the Father. They said, "*We don't know the way.*" He replied, "*I am the way, the truth and the life; no man cometh to the Father, but by Me.*"

It doesn't matter if I am a Baptist preacher, or a Presbyterian preacher, Methodist or a Catholic preacher, whatever I am. There is the only Way to God. I have no right to declare any other way. I have no right to offer you life, salvation, heaven, forgiveness or any other way; God gives it.

That is through the merit of His Son and is through the representation of His Son, which is through the sacrifice of His dear Son. This is through the labor, dying and the doing of His Son. It is through the intercession of His Son who said, "*I am the way, the truth and the life. 'No man, (it doesn't matter who he is, moral or immoral), cometh to the Father, but by Me.*"

What gave birth to this statement? What is the background? I try to tell you this, find out who is talking? Find out to whom He is talking to, and try to find out what He is talking about. Then, you can interpret Scripture.

Our Lord had just told His disciples in Chapter 13 that He was going away. He said, "I am going away." He said, "*Whether I go; you cannot follow.*" Now, "*I'm going but you can't go with me now.*" You see, that is what He said to them, "*You can't go with me now; howbeit you will go with me later, but not now. Where I am going and what I am going to do, you can't go.*" Isaiah says, "*He trod the winepress alone.*"

He put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself. By Himself He purged our sins. He said, "*You can't go with Me.*" Peter said, "Why can't I go with you; why can't I follow you?" Peter then said, "I will die for you." He thought he would. Our Lord replied to Peter, "No, no; you won't die for Me; I will die for you. You won't die for Me, in fact, Peter, you will deny Me, and you will betray Me. Before the cock crows, you are going to deny Me three times."

When He said that, they were all troubled. Do you see that in Chapter 13 the last verses? They were all troubled in heart and troubled in spirit. Peter was their spokesman. Peter was their hero. Peter was usually the one who expressed the opinion of the whole lot. Peter said, "I'll die for you" and the Lord turns and says, "You won't die for Me; you will deny that you ever knew Me."

They had a right to be troubled. When they saw the frailty of the flesh and the weakness of the flesh, they had a right to be troubled. I will tell you this, if we consider God's Holiness, God's immaculate Holiness, and our sinfulness, we will be troubled. When we consider the justice of God, the strict justice of God, the unchanging justice of God, which says; "*God will by no means clear the guilty.*" When we see our guilt, we ought to be troubled.

When we consider our unfitness for God's presence, unfitness for God's presence, then we can see that no man can approach the presence of God. "*God dwells in a light to which no man can approach.*" Oh, we will be troubled.

When we consider the certainty of death, judgment and eternity, we ought to be troubled. These poor disciples were troubled; they were heartsick. The disciples were bowed down, crushed and depressed. That is where we take up John 14:1, when He says; "*Let not your heart be troubled.*" Do you see that?

Do you believe in God? You should believe in God, for God is, God was, and God forever shall be. Do you believe in God? Well, "*believe also in Me.*" Christ said, "*Believe in Me.*"

Don't believe in yourself. Everybody says, "Believe in yourself." Don't you do that either! Don't you put any confidence in your flesh, my flesh or anybody else's? Don't you believe in yourself; you will fail.

Don't believe in your works, you will fail. Don't believe in your works, don't believe in your merit, and don't believe in your church. Do you believe there is a God? Do you believe God is, then believe in Christ? Moses wrote of Him. Moses wrote the first five Books of the Bible. He wrote about Christ.

*"Abraham saw His day and rejoiced. He was glad."* The Scripture says, *"Isaiah saw His day and spoke of Christ."* Christ is that prophet of who Moses wrote. Christ is that Priest after the order of Melchizedek. Christ is that King to reign over God's heritage.

The Samaritan woman was so frustrated and so confused when she talked to the Lord. She said, *"When the Messiah comes, He will tell us all things."* He said, *"I that speak to thee am He."* "I am He and I am your Messiah and I am your Representative. I am your Ransom. I am the express image of God," Christ said to her.

Do you believe God? *"Do you believe in God, then believe Me?"* Christ is the express image of God. Christ is the revelation of God. He said, *"I have manifested thy name, to the men which Thou hast given Me."* Believe on Him.

Here, you have a man, the God-Man, God in human flesh speaking to you. He is telling you, *"Don't let your heart be troubled."* God seems so far away. God seems so high above. God seems so eternally beyond us, even in our imagination or conception He is eternally beyond comprehending. Where is God? He is looking right at you. Christ said, *"Believe Me; I am come that you might have life and have it more abundantly."*

Listen to what else He said, *"For in My Father's House are many mansions."* Where is it Lord? *"It is in My Father's House."* It is in heaven above. It is in the *"Place He hath made."* In the certainty of it, He says; *"In My Father's House,"* (in My Father's presence, there are for sure many mansions). Not ought to be, might be or could be; it's a mystery. No sir; there are many, many mansions. There are enough, and there is plenty enough room and no vacancies. Every house will be filled.

He said, as far as permanence is concerned; *"There are many dwelling places."* That is the permanence of it. David said, *"I will dwell."* I'm not going to visit that place, it is my home and *"I am going to dwell in the presence of the Lord forever."*

He said, *“If this were not true, I would have told you. Let not your heart be troubled.”* They were troubled over the future; they were troubled over their sinful hearts; they were troubled over the prospects of denying their Lord and failing Him. He said, *“Don’t be troubled.”*

*“Do you believe God, then believe Me? In My Father’s House presence are many dwelling places. If it were not so, I would have told you.”* He is going to tell us where He is going. He told them, *“I go and whether I go, you can’t come.”* Now, He is going to tell them where He is going. He says, *“I go to prepare a place for you in My Father’s House.”*

Here is the key! *“I go.”* The church didn’t go, the martyrs didn’t go, the priest didn’t go, Mary didn’t go, the law didn’t go, you didn’t go and the evangelist didn’t go. Christ said, *“I go.”* No one goes with Him. *“I go.”*

Where are you going Lord? *“I go to Jerusalem to be cursed and spit upon. I go to Jerusalem to be tried and denied and lied about. I go to Jerusalem to bear the shame and the spittle of the Roman soldiers. I go to the cross as your Substitute and Representative, sin offering and atonement. I go to the cross and I go alone; you cannot come with Me.”*

*“I go to the cross and then I will go to the tomb and lie there as your Scapegoat and your Justifier. I will arise and I will go back to My Father and I will not go into the holy place made with hands, but I will go into Heaven itself and there I will make an atonement, a mercy seat, a propitiation and a covering for you. ‘I go to prepare a place for you.’ ”*

*“Our Forerunner has entered in within the veil and sat down.”* It is not a matter of the Lord sending carpenters to build houses; the Lord prepared a place for us. *“Who is going to stand in God’s presence? Who shall ascend into His holy place, He that has clean hands and a pure heart who has never lifted up his soul to vanity who has never spoken deceitfully?”*

Well, that leaves out every son of Adam. It doesn’t leave out the Son of God, the Lord Jesus. Because of whom He is and what He did, He Himself can prepare a place for us. *“For of God He is made unto us wisdom, righteousness, sanctification and redemption.”* He has entered into the presence of God and made atonement for His people.

Alright; watch this as I move on, *“And if I go, to prepare a place for you and to prepare you for the place, I will come again; I will receive you unto Myself.”*

Now, this is our confidence and our assurance that our God and Father and our Saviour shall not fail. *“All that My Father giveth Me shall come to Me, and him that cometh to Me, I will in no wise cast out. For, I came down from heaven not to do My will, but the will of Him that sent Me: And this is the will of Him that sent Me that of all which He hath given Me, I shall lose nothing but raise it up again at the last day.”*

The disciples stood on that hillside when our Lord ascended and went back to Heaven. The angels of God appeared to them. The angels said, *“Ye men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus which is taken up from you into heaven shall so come in like manner as you have seen Him go.”*

Look closely at John 14:4, He said, *“And where I go, you know.”* He just told them *“I go to prepare a place for you and if I go, I will come again.”* Now, He says to them, *“Where I go you know and the way you know.”*

Did they know the way? Do we know the way? We should. It is clear here in His teachings; it is clear through the Word of God. *“Thou shalt call His name Jesus; He shall save His people from their sins. The Son of Man is come to seek and to save the lost. This is a faithful saying; Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. He who knew no sin was made sin for us that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him. Christ suffered the Just for the unjust, to bring us to God. I am the Door and by Me if any man enter in he shall be saved, going in and out and find pasture. I am the Bread; I am the Water. Where I go you know and the way you know.”* Do we know the way?

This is where most religionists miss it. You see; *“the Way”* is not a doctrine. *“The Way”* is not a religion; *“the Way”* is not a profession; *“the Way”* is a Person. Thomas said, *“Lord; we don’t know where you are going. How can we know the way?”* How can we know the Way?

Our Lord looked at him and said, *“Thomas; I am the way.”* *“That is what I have been telling you, ‘I am the way. I go; where I go you can’t come.’ Not now, but you will come later because ‘I go to prepare a place for you.’ I go to Jerusalem; I go to the cross. I go to the tomb, and I go to the right-hand of God.”*

*“I go to the mercy-seat of glory. I go to be the sacrifice, the atonement and righteousness. I go as the Forerunner to prepare a place for you.” “If I go to prepare a place for you, I will come back. My reward is with Me. I will come back and receive you unto Myself. Where I am there you may be also.”*

Now, *“You know where I go and you know the way.”* Thomas said, *“We don’t know where You are going and we don’t know the way.”* That is my generation. They will try every way to God but *“the way.”* They will adopt and bow to and accept any religion, but the Person of Christ.

After you preach all of these things, after you preach the inability of the flesh, the inability of the law, *“No man is justified by the law in the sight of God. We are justified by faith. For by grace are you saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works lest any man should boast.”*

Christ said, *“Come unto Me all ye that labor and are heavy laden; I will give you rest. Christ is the way, the truth and the life. No man comes to the Father but by Him.”* You say, *“I don’t know the Way.”* That is what Thomas said, *“We don’t know the way.”* He said, *“Thomas; I am the way.”* How can we know the Way to pardon? How can we know the Way to God? How can we know the Way to heaven? Well, Jesus Christ said; *“I am the way.”*

Our Lord came back to Bethany after Lazarus had died and Martha ran out to meet him. She said, *“If you had been here, my brother wouldn’t have died.”* He said, *“Your brother will arise again.”* She said, *“I know that. I know he will rise again in the resurrection on that great day.”* He said, *“Martha, I’m the resurrection; I’m the life. He that believeth on Me though he were dead, yet shall he live. He that believeth on Me shall never die, for I am the resurrection and I am the life.”*

You see; it is not our doing, it is His doing. It is not our righteousness, it is His. It is not our faithfulness it is His. It is not our sacrifice it is His. He is the Way that God in His wisdom has purposed. He is the Way that God can be Just and Justifier. He is the Way that we can be righteous in Christ.

The answer is not in the law, or in the church. In Christ, I am righteous. He is the Way that we can be justified. *“Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”*

He is the Way that we are accepted. He is the Way! He is not a way; He is the Way. He didn’t just make a way; He Himself is the Way. In other words, we are in Him. When He came down to this earth, we walked this earth in Him. When He went to the cross, we went to the cross in Him. When He died, we died in Him under the judgment of God’s wrath, and under the law and under God’s Justice.

When He was buried, we were buried. When He arose, we arose. The Scripture says, *“Every believer is seated with Christ on the right-hand of God.”* You see; He is the Head and we are the body. Where the Head is, the body can’t be too far behind. Christ is not bodiless just as we are not headless. When God the Father considers Christ, He considers the Head and the body, Christ and the church, Christ and His sheep and Christ and His elect. We are in Him. Do you see that?

He is the Way. He didn’t make a way. Somehow, He is the Way. He is the Heir; we are only joint-heirs with Him. *“He is the Bridegroom and we are the bride.”* He is the Heir but we are the joint-heirs. Do you see that? Do you see that it is in Him? *“I am the way.”*

My church membership is just a joy that I have in Christ. Baptism is just a confession of my position in Christ. Taking the Lord’s Table is remembering what Christ did for me. These are not sacraments. These are not saving graces; these are not things that redeem us.

Obedience and good works don’t save; they are the benefits and blessings with my relationship with Him.