

## The True Way to Heaven

Sunday, May 6<sup>th</sup>, 1990

### 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.”*

I'm speaking today on this subject: “The True Way to Heaven.” I'm going to be reading from the 14<sup>th</sup> Chapter of John. If you would like to follow along in your Bible, I would suggest that you take your Bible and open it to John Chapter 14.

Now, while you are finding the scripture, I have some comments that I would like to make and questions that I would like to ask. When a man dies, when a person dies, shall he live again? Is there really, and do you really believe that there is eternal life beyond this life and beyond the grave? Do you really believe that there is a future state of happiness and holiness called heaven? Do you believe that? I do, I really do.

The Word of God plainly declares that there is not only life after death, but the Word of God declares an eternal life of glory, joy and of peace where there is no death. This note is sounded throughout God's Word. David said, *“I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.”* In the book of Hebrews it says; *“Abraham was looking for a city.”* He had no dwelling place upon this earth. He called no place his home. *“He was looking for a city whose builder and maker is God.”*

The apostle Paul had a lot to say about it. He said, *“For me to live is Christ, and for me to die is gain.”* He also said, *“I'm in a straight betwixt the two; I have a desire to depart (from this present life, from this earth), and to be with Christ.”* He said again, *“I have a desire to be absent from this body and to be present with the Lord.”*

John wrote this, in the Book of Revelation, he said; *“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 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. For the former things, (that are the things of this earth), are passed away. Behold, I make all things new.”*

Now, if the Word of God is true, and it is, then there can be no greater goal than to lay hold on eternal life. If there is life after death, life after this life, and it is what God says it is, then it is a life of joy, a life of happiness and a life of holiness. If it is a life of peace, and a life of glory, then there is certainly no greater goal than to lay hold on eternal life.

In fact, Paul says that two or three times. He says, "Lay hold on eternal life, obtain the favor of God, and attain unto the resurrection of the dead."

You know; even Balaam, the old prophet back in the Book of Numbers said this, "*O let me die the death of the righteous and let my last end be like His.*" He is saying, "I want to die the death of the righteous." Paul said this in the Book of Philippians Chapter 3, I have three desires, three requests, "*O that I may win Christ and be found in Him. O that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection.*" The third desire is, "*O that I might, by any means, attain unto the resurrection of the dead.*"

Let me ask you five serious questions; I want you to listen carefully and then we will get into our scripture. Do you really have enough serious thoughts about death, judgment and eternity to enquire with me into the subject, "The True Way to Heaven?" Do you have enough serious thought and do you believe that you are going to die?

The Bible says, "*It is appointed unto men once to die and after that the judgment.*" The scripture says, "*Don't boast thyself of tomorrow, for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth.*" Do you think about these things? Do you think about them seriously? Do you have enough serious thoughts about them that you will enquire with me into the subject, "The True Way to Heaven" and the true way to peace? Moses was interested. Moses said in Exodus 33, "*Lord, show me Your way. Show me Your glory; reveal to me Your way.*"

The second question: Are your desires for a true knowledge of God and the way of salvation sincere? Are your desires genuine and are you honestly seeking the truth? Are you seeking, with a sincere heart, to know the true way to heaven? Do you really want to know?

The third question: Are you willing to do this? (This is so difficult for most people). Are you willing to surrender your thoughts and listen to God's Word? Are you willing to surrender your traditions? We are so steeped in religious tradition. Are you ready to surrender your preconceived notions to the Word of God? One writer said, "*Let God be true and every man a liar.*" That means you, me, and everyone else. "*Let God be true.*" Do you think on this subject? If you do, are you serious?

Thirdly, are you willing to lay aside what you have always thought about the way to heaven? Are you willing to lay aside what you have been taught in your traditions, thoughts, preconceived notions and just listen to God speak?

Two or three times in the scripture it says, *“There’s a way that seemeth right unto men but the end is destruction.”* In Isaiah 55, Isaiah says; *“Let the wicked forsake his thoughts and the unrighteous man his ways and let him return to the Lord.”*

Here is the fourth question: Are your desires for eternal life honoring and glorifying to God? Are you willing to come on God’s terms? That is what I am asking, are you willing to come to God on His terms? After all, we are the guilty ones. We are the offenders. We are the mercy beggars. God does not owe us anything.

I hear people arguing about the way to heaven. They think and argue that God owes them heaven. They say that heaven wouldn’t be heaven without them. I will tell you this, *“God must be just and justifier. God must be a just God and a Saviour.”* God must glorify and honor His law and His justice. He must honor His true attributes and character if He saves you. He has laid down some terms and are you willing to come to God on His terms, on God’s terms? The matter is not what we think; it is what does God require?

The fifth question: Are your desires for God and eternal life permanent or is this just a passing fancy? I know people get an interest in religion. They get interested in certain seasons of the year. You have Easter and Christmas. People get an interest in religion and the things of religion. They get interested in the Bible when they get sick or somebody dies. They get religious when a baby is born or there is a wedding. This is when people get interested in religion. What I am asking you is this, Are your desires for God and a relationship with God, and to know the true way to heaven, permanent? Is this something that is a passing fancy?

I will tell you this; it better be permanent. James said this, in James 1: verses 5, 6, and 7; *“If any man lack wisdom, let him ask of God who giveth wisdom. Let him ask in faith, nothing wavering.”* If you ask Him for knowledge, wisdom, a revelation of God’s gospel and way, be careful that you are not wavering. Be careful to be sincere and to mean it. Make sure this is not just a passing fancy that you are enquiring into at the moment. For it says, *“He that is wavering; He that is uncertain is like a wave of the sea; He’s driven with the wind. Let not that man think that He shall receive anything of God.”*

*“God looks on the heart”* and He doesn’t play games with men. He said, *“You will find Me when you seek Me with all your heart.”* I mean this now, when we go into this subject; *“The True Way to Heaven,”* do you have some serious thoughts about it? Are you sincere in wanting to know and are we willing to lay aside our own thoughts? Are we willing to lay aside our own traditions and preconceived notions and listen to the Word of God? Are we willing to come to God on His terms?

Let Him lay down the terms. We are seeking the mercy. A man who commits a crime and who stands before a judge doesn't lay down the terms; the judge lays down the terms. If this man is willing to receive mercy on the terms that the judge lays down, then who is the judge of the earth? I'm sincere; there is no passing fancy with me. I want to know God and Jesus Christ whom He hath sent.

I know this; I know that everything today that calls itself religion claims to be the way to God. I hope, that in the years that you have listened to this program, at least you noticed a little difference. There is a whole lot of difference and I hope you have noticed a little bit. We are not playing games. I'm not entertaining people on the way to hell. We are not putting on a show here, selling things, seeking support, building schools, buildings and churches. We are not holding telethons and all that foolishness. I am trying to teach people the Word of God. I know that everything that is calling itself religion today claims to be the way to God and the way to heaven. They can't all be right because they are so different.

Our Lord defines the way to heaven. If you want to know, you listen to me for a few moments. Take your Bible and turn to John 14:6. You are familiar with this verse; you have read it so many times and I have. Our Lord says, "*I am the way, the truth, and the life. No man comes to the Father but by Me.*" That is pretty plain isn't it?

What was this all about? What had been said? To whom was He speaking? What is this all about? He just flat-out and plain declares, "*I am the way, the truth and the life. No man, (Baptist, Catholic or Jew), cometh to the Father but by Me.*" You may be male or female, old or young. You may be intelligent or not so intelligent. Christ says, "*You are not coming to the Father, except by Me.*"

Here is what it is all about. Back in Chapter 13, the Lord had told His disciples that He was going away. He said, "*I go away, and where I go, you cannot come.*" You cannot follow Me at this time. He said, you will; "I'm going away but you cannot follow Me at this time." They didn't understand what He was talking about. What was He talking about?

He was talking about going to Jerusalem; He was going to the cross; and He was going to the grave. He was going to heaven to be on the right hand of God where He made an atonement, where He entered the Holy of Holies and obtained eternal redemption. He said, "*You cannot go with Me now.*" You can't go to the cross with Me. The scripture says, "*By Himself He purged our sins.*" Christ is saying, you can't go to the grave with

Me, *“He walked the wine press of God’s wrath alone.”* He paid the debt alone. He is saying again, *“You can’t go with Me now.”*

Do you remember when He said, *“I go to My Father?”* He said, *“Touch Me not; don’t cling to Me; I go to My Father.”* Christ is saying, “You can’t make this trip and you can’t make this journey. You will later.” They didn’t understand that. So, Peter says, “Why can’t we?” Peter said, *“I laid down My life for your sake. I will die for you.”* To which the Lord replied, “No, Peter, no, you are a man like everybody else.” *“You will deny Me three times before the cock crows this very night.”* Do you see that? He is saying, “You are a man like everybody else. You are just as sinful, just as weak, and without ability just like everybody else. You may boast and brag about what you would do, but you are just like everybody else.” He says, *“You’ll deny me three times.”*

They were all troubled. They were troubled and had a right to be troubled. Peter was troubled and he was a spokesman. He usually spoke for the crowd. They had a right to be troubled and we have a right to be troubled. We are troubled when we think about what weak and sinful creatures we are. Aren’t you troubled? In Romans 3, it says, *“There are none righteous, no not one. There is none good, no not one. There is none that seeketh after God; they are all gone out of the way. They are altogether become unprofitable.”* In Isaiah 53 it says, *“All we like sheep, have gone astray. We have turned, everyone, to his own way.”* Isaiah 64:6 says, *“But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.”*

I will tell you this, left to ourselves, we’ll never stand or abide in God’s presence. I do know that! In fact, David wrote in Psalm 24, *“Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord? Who shall stand in His Holy presence? He that hath clean hands, a pure heart and who has never lifted up his soul to vanity,”* (who’s never even exaggerated).

That leaves all of us out doesn’t it? The disciples were troubled and I am troubled. You are troubled and we need to find out the true way to heaven. We need to find out the true way to God and the way to stand in His presence. Here, in John 14:1, it says; then our Lord spoke, *“Let not your heart be troubled. You believe in God.”* He is not asking a question. He says, “You do believe in God; you do don’t you?” Of course they did. *“Then, believe in Me.”* He is saying, *“You believe in God, now believe in Me.”*

You see; we believe in Christ as our Surety with the Father. The Father being Holy, immaculate, infinitely, and unchangeably Holy, we have to have a Surety. *“God made Him surety of a better covenant.”* He says, “Believe on Me as your Surety. You believe in God, believe in Me as your Representative.” In Adam we die, in Christ we are made

alive. This is representation. *“The first man is of the earth, earthy; the second man is the Lord from heaven.”* Christ is saying, “Believe in Me as your Representative.”

If you believe in God and you believe in eternal life and mercy, then believe in Him as your righteousness. *“He who knew no sin was made sin for us that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him.”* We have to have a righteousness. He is saying to believe in Him as your Saviour. *“This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners of whom I am chief. Thou shalt call His name, Jesus; He’ll save His people from their sins.”* Believe in Him.

You believe in God, believe in Him as your mercy seat. God has set Him forth as a mercy seat. Believe in Him as your High Priest. *“Seeing then, that we have a great High Priest that is passed into the heavens, Jesus Christ the Son of God; let us come boldly before the throne of grace that we may obtain mercy and grace to help us in our time of need.”* You have to believe in Him.

You can’t believe in yourself. You can’t put any confidence in the flesh. Some preachers say, “You believe in God, believe in the Priest.” No, he won’t help you. They might say, “If you believe in God, believe in the evangelist.” He is not going to help you. You may believe in God, and they will tell you to believe in yourself. That is what some preachers say, “Have a positive, mental attitude.”

They say, “You’re ok, I’m ok.” I’m not ok and I don’t think you are either. Christ said, “You believe in God, you believe who God is, what God is and where God is. You better believe in Me. You better believe in Me because I am the way to God.” The scripture says, *“I’m the truth and I’m the life and no man comes to the Father but by Me.”* Christ is implying, “You better believe Me. You better put your eggs in one basket.” That basket is Christ, the Son of God. It is the only safe place. The scripture says, “Believe in Him as your High Priest; believe in Him as your Mediator. *“There is one God and one Mediator between God and men.”* You better believe in Him.

Believe in Him as your Advocate. John said, *“These things I write unto you, that you sin not. But, if any man sin, (thank God) we have an Advocate with the Father.”* Who is it, Mary? She’s no advocate. Our Advocate is *“Jesus Christ the righteous.”* He has no competitor and He has no rival. He has no stand-in.

Do you believe in God? He said, *“You believe in Me.”* Abraham believed Him. *“Abraham saw His day and was glad and rejoiced to see His day.”* Moses did, Christ said, *“Moses wrote of Me.”* David believed, he said; *“The Lord said unto My Lord, sit*

*thou on My right hand until I make thine enemies thy footstool.*” Job did, he said; “I know My redeemer liveth and He is going to stand on this earth; I’m going to see him.”

Paul believed Him, he said; *“I know whom I have believed and I’m persuaded that He is able to keep that which I’ve committed to Him against that day.”* Peter believed, he said, *“Other foundation can no man lay than that which is laid, Christ Jesus the Son of God.”* John did, he said; *“He that believeth on the Son hath life. He that believeth not the Son shall never see life but the wrath of God abideth on Him.”* Do you believe in Him?

They were troubled. He said, *“You believe in God; you believe in Me.”* Christ is saying, “I can take you to God; you see; I came from the Father.” *“I and My Father are one.”* “My Father always hears Me. He doesn’t always hear you.” The woman at the well was so frustrated that she finally said to Jesus of Nazareth, *“Well, when the Messiah comes; He will tell us all things.”* Christ said, *“I am He; I am the Messiah.”*

In verse 2, Christ says; *“You believe in God; you believe in Me.”* You need to put your hope, trust and confidence in Christ. He will take you home. You see; He said, *“In My Father’s house are many mansions.”* Where are there many mansions? There are many mansions in His Father’s house. What are they? They are mansions, dwelling places or permanent places. Are you sure? He said, *“There are many.”* How many are you talking about? I’m talking about many. There is plenty of room and no vacancies.

He said, *“I go to prepare a place for you.”* He is saying, “I go, not the church, not the preacher, not the priest, not the pope, Brother Mahan, or your Mom or Daddy.” He is saying; “I go!” *“Christ is the author and finisher of our faith. I go to prepare for you.”* How does He prepare a place? Do you mean that He is up there building something? All that God has to do is speak. He’s not talking about preparing a physical place, though it is. He is talking about preparing you for the place and preparing the place for you. This is done by substitution and satisfaction.

In other words, you don’t belong in that place until He makes you Holy. You don’t belong in that place until he puts your sins away. You don’t have a title or a right to that place until He makes you fit, by His robe of righteousness and by the cleansing of His blood. He makes you fit. *“He lifts the beggar from the dunghill.”* The dunghill is what we are. We are dunghill-dwellers until He exalts us to the throne. He said, “I go to the cross; I go to the grave as your scapegoat; I go to heaven as your Mediator and Intercessor, your great High Priest, as your atonement, and as your blood sacrifice and sin offering. I go to do all this so you can go to that place.” I will tell you this, *“He’s made unto us wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption.”* He prepares a place for us and He prepares us for the place by His precious blood and His perfect life.

He said, *“If I go and prepare a place for you; I’ll come again and receive you unto Myself that where I am you may be also.”* That is sure and certain! He said, *“All that the Father giveth Me shall come to Me. And him that cometh, I will in no wise cast out.”* He said, *“If I go, if I prepare a place, if I pay the price, I will come back.”* *“If God spared not His own Son then how shall He not with Him freely give us all things?”*

Thomas said, *“Lord, we don’t know where you are going.”* We are so slow aren’t we? These men were. How can we know the way? That is when He said to them *“I’m the way.”* There is one body, one Spirit, one hope, one Lord, one faith, one heaven, one God, and one Father. There is only one Saviour and one way to heaven. *“Neither is their salvation in any other. Other foundation can no man lay. I’m the way; I’m the truth.”*

The truth is a person. The truth is not a system of doctrine or creed. Christ is the truth. He is the key of knowledge. He opens every door. He said, *“I’m the life.”* Martha said to Him, *“Lord, I believe my brother is going to rise again at the resurrection.”* He looked at her and said, *“Martha, I am the resurrection and I’m the life. He that liveth and believeth on Me, though he were dead, yet shall he live. I am the way; I am the truth and I am the life. No man comes to the Father but by Me.”*

Have I been honest with you? Have I been truthful? You can’t argue with His Word can you? That is what the Word is saying. Whatever you may think, this is still what Christ says, *“I am the way.”*