Fil-Am Community Church
Pastor David Bennett
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True Salvation,
"The Way, the Truth, & the Life"

Key Verse: John 14:1-6

Good evening Fil-Am, it is always so good to see so many smiling faces out there this evening. In keeping with the theme of Camp this year the message we are going to deal with this afternoon is, True Salvation, with the emphasis on the statement from Jesus where he said, "*I am the way, the truth, and the life*".

As we come to our text this evening found in John 14, we find Jesus with his disciples.

He told them in the previous chapter, "My children, I will be with you only a little longer. You will look for me, & just as I told the Jews, so I tell you now: Where I am going, you cannot come."

Jesus was preparing his disciples for the **Cross, Resurrection**, & his **Ascension** into heaven.

The disciples were noticeably bothered by this revelation.

So Jesus speaks these words of comfort to them as well as us **today.**

Read John 14:1-6

1 "Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. 2 My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. 4 You know the way to the place where I am going." 5 Thomas

said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?"

[6] *Jesus answered,* ***"I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."***

When Thomas looked into Jesus' face & pleaded, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?"

He voiced the **deepest** need of the human soul.

The fact is that Christ had become the answer to every need in the life of Thomas, and he dreaded the possibility of separation from his source of help.

So he cried, "Lord, how can we know the way?"

You can feel his pain and desperation!

You have to remember the disciples had just found the answer to all life's questions. **(Jesus)** he had solved all their problems by providing a way of relief on the pressures of life.

Now that they were starting to get comfortable walking with him and learning and growing daily with him. He just dropped a bomb shell on them and let them know he was going away.

The Savior's reply in v.6 was a final answer--not only for Thomas, but for all men, in every age.

[6] *Jesus answered,* ***"I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.***

Which leads us to our first point in today's sermon;

1. I AM THE WAY

Imagine a little league baseball team of six or seven year olds learning how to play the game of baseball. Putting yourself in that same situation I am sure you can remember they would much rather just play the game rather than

try and learn the rules of playing the game. Now imagine one very imaginative player who thinks they have a much better way to play the game. He would stand at the plate with the bat on his shoulder and try his best to hit the ball as the pitcher threw it. When he did hit it, he would drop his bat but instead of heading toward first base would jump on home plate with both feet and yell "Home Run."

While this is all happening the fielder catches the ball and throws it to first base and the umpire calls the young man "OUT." The little man stands his ground, looks up at the umpire and says defiantly, "I'm not out. I just got to home plate before they did, I have a Home Run."

The umpire tells the young man, yes son you did get to Home plate first but you have to run all the bases first before you get to home plate in order to get a Home run. But it's too hard that way; my way I get a home run every time.

You can see the humor in the story, and it repeats itself again and again as we continue to have a new generation of little leaguers that have to be taught how to play by the Rules…

So now we can understand how simple that is in little league baseball, what makes us think it is any different with us making our way to our eternal home in heaven?

Just like those baseball players we must run the prescribed bases to get to home plate, God has established the correct path we must take in order to get there… there are no other ways or shortcuts it is only through the way (Jesus) that counts…

You can look at trying to plan a trip to Washington DC. You could either type the address in a GPS or the old school way of breaking out a map and figuring out the best way. If you have a GPS it will typically ask you fastest way, least use of freeways, most use of freeways etc. The bottom line is there are multiple options. The same applies with looking at a map you have endless combinations to get to DC. Each route would have its unique experiences along the way but they would all end up at the same destination.

If you were to follow the GPS it could and most times would lead you onto a highway or road that initially didn't intend to follow. The road might be unfamiliar to you and might even have the feeling you were heading the wrong way or just completely lost. It is at this point where we can see the parallel to the challenge of finding our way through life, attempting to make the right decisions and at times feel like we have made the wrong decision. In such situations, we need to practice trusting God's guidance, knowing that He sees the end from the beginning and that He's quite capable of giving us the directions that we need for living.

Unlike our road trip to DC and regardless of what society tells you there are not multiple ways to heaven. It all comes through Christ Jesus.

Isa 53:6 "We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way..."

The express purpose for which the Son of Man came into the world was, **Luke 19:10** "...to seek & to save what was lost.""

Christ, therefore, has become the "**way**" that men might be saved.

We need to realize that Christ is not only **"A"** way but that Christ is the Only Way to be saved.

"I am the way" Jesus said. "No one comes to the Father except through Me."

Now while there are as many ways to Christ, there is only one way to God, and that is through Christ Himself.

Many Denominations as well as other religions preach that there are multiple ways to God. This is not a popular doctrine among non-Christians but still it remains a fact.

If **Liberalism** had its say, it would tell us that there are many ways to the Father: such as--the way of nature, social gospel, charity.

If **Materialism** had its say, it would tell us that the way to the Father is through: The improvement of one's environment until personal satisfaction was reached.

If **Universalism** had its say it would tell us we don't even need to find a way to the Father because everyone will eventually be saved.

Even the outspoken reverend Jesse Jackson made a comment where he said that men can reach the Father by many different paths, including those of Mohammed, Buddha, Confucius, or Jesus Christ. That there were multiple paths to God.

Saints , please pay attention, that is not in my Bible!

John 10:1 (NASB)

[1] *"Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter by the door into the fold of the sheep, but climbs up some other way, he is a thief and a robber.*

There is only one way to the Father: it is through Christ.

He is the only way to be saved.

According to Jesus' own words there is not a person alive today, no matter how pious or religious they might be, who will be in heaven without coming through Jesus Christ.

Christ is the **ONLY** Way to be saved.

"I am the way" says Jesus.

Without the work of Christ at Calvary there would be no "**way**" to heaven.

He is not only the pathfinder, but He is the path along which He invites us to walk

He has done all that is necessary in order that we might arrive safely.

In Jesus' answer to Thomas & to all men not only did he say he was the way he also said;

2. I AM THE TRUTH

When Jesus declared, "**I am the truth**", He gave expression to one of the most profound concepts found in scripture.

In those words He claimed to be the expression of the absolute truth about:

In essence Jesus claimed to be; Truth embodied in the Incarnate Word.

"I am the truth".

Christ is the truth because…

- ✓ He is the self-revelation of God that has been manifested.
- ✓ He is the light that has come into the world.

Being the perfect revelation of the Father He combines in Himself & manifests all divine reality.

He embodies what men ought to know & believe of God. And what they should do as God's children.

John 17:17 says, *"Sanctify them in thy truth, your word is truth."*

Psalms 119:160, *"The sum of Your word is truth, And every one of Your righteous ordinances is everlasting."*

John 8:32, *"And you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free."*

The truth **DOES NOT** waiver or change, it remains the same. Because he clearly leads the way, we can follow without fear of going the wrong way.

When Jesus said, "I am the truth" He was also claiming to be:

- ✓ Truth embodied in the inspired Word.

Jesus is the "Word" spoken of in John chapter 1.

He is both the living Word of God & the written Word of God.

He is the Word of the O.T. as well as the witness of the N.T.

Jesus said in **Jn. 5:39** "*You diligently study the scriptures because you think by them you possess eternal life. These are the Scriptures that testify about Me.*"

Christ's truth is embodied in the inspired Word of God, both O.T. & N.T. for He is the Word.

The Holy Spirit taught the apostles directly through inspiration & speaks to us just as directly when we open the Word of God.

- ✓ **Is He speaking to you today?**
- ✓ **Do you know the truth?**
- ✓ **Do you know the Son of God?**

Thinking about Jesus as the Truth reminds me of the story I heard about how a bunch of young kids were discussing the text about how we are to be the salt of the earth.

One after the other gave their interpretation of what it meant to be the salt of the earth because we as Christians are called to be that salt.

One said that slat imparts a distinct flavor; another said that salt is used to preserve things from Decaying.

Finally one little girl said very innocently that **salt creates Thirst**.

Think about it for a minute, salt just like the word of God when ingested should create a thirst within you.

Now ask yourself **what are your thirsting for today?**

Transition: Jesus told Thomas, "I am the Truth".

Lastly, let us consider Jesus words:

3. I AM THE LIFE

We cannot follow Jesus in our own strength; nothing we can do in and of ourselves can bring us into God's presence.

By this term "**life**" the Lord Jesus intended to convey something far more than temporal life.

He was offering: Abundant Life

John 10:10 (NASB)

10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly

Romans 6:23, (NASB)

"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord."

The abundant life of which we are speaking has come from heaven itself by way of the incarnation, into the clouds & depressions of our terrestrial atmosphere.

It is the eternal germ which Jesus has planted in the hearts of His redeemed people to spread forever.

It is a quality of life that can cope with…

- ✓ Any situation,
- ✓ Any set of circumstances
- ✓ Anything at ALL!

It is the life that says, "I am strong because Jesus Christ is strong."

In fact one of my favorite verses is I can do **ALL THINGS** in Christ who strengthens me.

- ✓ I am free because Jesus Christ has freed me.
- ✓ I am alive because Jesus Christ has recreated me to a life of holiness & purity.

It is an abundant life because it is lived by following the footsteps of Jesus.

It is also a: Triumphant Life.

John 1:4-5 *"In him was life, & that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it."*

Sin & holiness can never stay together very long.

If you would be truly happy you must be truly holy, & the secret is bound up with this triumphant life.

Paul knew this kind of life for he could say (**Rom. 8:2**), "*Through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life has set me **free** from the law of sin & death*."

It is a life that can say, "I am no longer in bondage to sin & death for Christ has set me free."

"I am triumphant & have already one the battle because Jesus has already won it for me."

Conclusion:

Jesus said, "I am the **way** & the **truth** & the **life**."

- ✓ ***Way*** "speaks of a connection between two persons or things, and here the link between **God and sinners**"
- ✓ ***Truth*** "reminds us of the complete **reliability** of Jesus in all that he does and is"
- ✓ ***Life*** "stresses the fact that mere physical existence matters little. The only life worth the name is that which Jesus brings, for he is **life itself**"

There is no alternative path Jesus alone is the only authorized path to God When one takes away Jesus, then all hope is gone

"He is the **only way**, the total demonstration of deity to the world, and the one in whom alone is eternal life to be received"

Truly, there is no other name under heaven whereby we must be saved

Acts 4:12 (NASB)

[12] "*And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved." No matter how hard times may get for us and how confused we may become, we must always trust in God and in His promises."*

Will you let Jesus be the way for you?

What's holding you back? Let it go, go all in!