

## Is Jesus The Only Way to God

### *Prayer*

1 Chronicles 16:34

O give thanks unto the Lord, for he is good; for his mercy endures forever.

Psalm 34

I will bless the Lord at all times, his praise shall continuously be in my mouth. My soul shall make her boast in the Lord; the humble shall hear and be glad. O magnify the Lord with me and let us exalt his name together. Our awesome Heavenly Father, thank you for this day, that you have made. We will rejoice and be glad in it. Just for a few minutes today Father, help us to throw away everything that hinders us and the sin that so easily entangles. Look on every soul that stands before you today and restore their faith in you. Restore their joy and their health. Give them peace where confusion has taken rule in their lives. Give them rest from worry and doubt. Bless your people today Father and let your spirit guide me in the delivery of your Holy word today, in Jesus name I pray, Amen

Let us please remain standing for the reading of the Word of God. Clear your mind of everything today and allow yourself to be fully engulfed in God's word. Go with me to the Garden of Gethsemane. In this chapter, we find that Jesus has a death sentence, has had his last supper with his disciples, released the betrayer to do what he needs to do and is now in the Garden with the rest of his disciples. Let's turn to the book of Mark, chapter 14 and read verses 32-37 together.

<sup>32</sup>“They came to a place which was named Gethsemane, and Jesus said to his disciples, “Sit here while I pray.” <sup>33</sup> He took Peter, James and John along with him, and he began to be deeply distressed and troubled. <sup>34</sup> “My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death,” he said to them. “Stay here and keep watch.” <sup>35</sup> Going a little farther, he fell to the ground and prayed that if possible, the hour might pass from him. <sup>36</sup> “Abba, Father,” he said, everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will.” <sup>37</sup> Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. “Simon,” he said to Peter, “are you asleep? Couldn’t you keep watch for one hour?” May the Lord add a blessing to the reading and the hearing of his word. Keep this picture in your mind, because I believe that this will help us understand why Jesus is and has always been the only way to God.

For the next few minutes, I would like for you to forget about what you plan to do after church. If you are here to receive something from the Lord, I challenge you to give him your full attention just for a little while. I don’t want you to think about who is talking, but about whom is being talked about. Today, with the use of God’s Holy word, I will attempt to answer the question, “Is Jesus the only way to God?” I have been pondering this question in my heart and wondering why there is a belief among some Clergy and some TV personalities, that there is more than one way to God. I have recently come up with one conclusion why this is and that is because we live in a Burger King Society. As far as I am concerned, Burger King had one of the best jingles back in the day and it said; “hold the pickles, hold the lettuce, special order, don’t upset us, all we ask is that you let us, serve it your way.” And today, the world is being handed everything they ask for on a silver platter. The world is constantly changing to meet the “wants” of man. For an example, when I was growing up, we could count on there being a pay phone at every gas station. It went from .10 cents to about .35 cents to make a phone call. Later, the pay

phone would be replaced with a car phone, which would usually get stolen if you left it in your car. Eventually, the car phone would be replaced by the “cell phone”. It was more compact, and you could send messages to each other. Low and behold, a man from Apple, by the name of Steve Jobs comes along and asks the question, “how can I make the cell phone better and in comes the “I-Phone” with Wi-Fi and a camera! Our world says that “we don’t want to upset you, just ask and we will give you the desires of your heart.

Although the world is consistently changing to meet the demands of man, the one thing that we as Christians have that is constant, is that God never changes. In the Old Testament, in the book of Numbers, Chapter 23, verse 19, it tells us that “God is not man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: has he said, and shall he not do it? Or has he spoken, and shall he not make it good?” Also, in the New Testament, in the book of Hebrews, Chapter 13, verse 8, we are reminded that “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever.” Maybe some of you sitting here today wonder if Jesus is really the only way to God. Maybe you feel like you are a good person and you treat everybody with respect. You believe in God and that Jesus is his only begotten son. Yet, you may still ask the question, why is it so necessary to believe in Jesus in order to get to God. I’m glad you asked that question. Ephesians, chapter 2, verse 8 – 9 tells us that “it is by grace we have been saved, through faith – and not because of anything that we have done ourselves, it is the gift of God, not by works, so that no one can boast.” You can’t be good enough or deserving enough to earn God’s love. I know what I deserve, but because of God’s divine grace, his un-deserved favor through his son Jesus, I have mercy and forgiveness. Romans, chapter 5 and verse 8 tells says “but God demonstrates his own love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” Somebody here today might be saying to themselves, “I have to clean up my life before I accept

Christ in my life.” Wrong answer. Accept Christ today and ask him to help you clean up your life. Tell Jesus all about your troubles, your doubts and your fears. Let him know that you can’t do this by yourself and he will help you do what you have no power to do on your own. Give your life to the life-giver and watch him fix it for you. Maybe some of you are searching for truth today and that’s okay.

During your search for the truth, maybe some of you have investigated Buddhism. There was a Prince by the name of Siddhartha Gautama who lived a sheltered rich life in Nepal. One day while on a ride through the city, for the very first time in his life, he saw a sick person, then an old man, and then a corpse. He realized that at some point in his life, he would experience each event, so he left his riches, his wife and son, sat under a Bodhi tree to seek enlightenment. He would later be known as the Buddha (the enlightened one). It is a religion or belief based on the four noble truths, which are “suffering, the cause of suffering, the end of suffering and the Path (which is trying to live an ethical life, meditation and developing wisdom). They believe in an “eternal one”, but not Jesus, heaven nor hell. Later, he died.

Maybe some have investigated Islam (means to submission to the word of Allah). This religion was founded by the Prophet Muhamad, in Mecca. It teaches that the word of “Allah” was revealed to the prophet Muhammad through the angel Gabriel. They see Jesus as a prophet and not the Son of God. Later, he died.

Maybe you have investigated or thought of investigating Confucianism, which is named after the Chinese philosopher, Confucius. His religion mainly deals with self-improvement and continual social interaction. Later, he died.

Then, there is Christianity. The nucleus of Christianity is Christ. Christ was seen and known in the Old Testament. Look at the book of Daniel, Chapter 3, verses 12- 25. The three

Hebrew boys, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, that would not go against the will of God, were thrown into the furnace, but when the King looked in, instead of seeing just three people (alive) in the fire, he saw four and he said, “the fourth looks like the Son of God. (KJV). Jesus said that “before Abraham was, I am. John 8:58

Paul writes in Philippians 2:5-9, that everyone should have the same mindset of Jesus, who although he was God, did not use that knowledge to his advantage. He became like a servant in human form and he was obedient to God the Father even to death on the cross. Because of this, God exalted Jesus to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name.

Now, let's go back to the place called Gethsemane and get a clearer picture of what's going on. Jesus is about to be betrayed by his friend with a kiss. In the natural eye, it all seems so cruel and unjustified, but Jesus came that we might have life, and have it more abundantly. He knew that the only way to cleanse our sin, was that blood had to be shed. So, he came down from heaven to be our ultimate sacrifice once and for all. The sacrifice had to be perfect, without blemish. What better sacrifice than God himself. He was beat for us. He was spit upon for us. He was laughed at for us. Nails were hammered into his hands and feet for us. A crown of thorns was pressed upon his head for us. He was pierced in his side for us. Jesus died for us. Yet, on the third day, he rose again for us.