

"Therefore, brethren, since we have confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which He inaugurated for us through the veil, that is, His flesh,"

Hebrews 10:19-20 NASB1995



Marietta church of Christ

8150 Driggers St.
Jacksonville, FL 32220

Times of Worship

Sunday:

9 am - Bible Classes / 10 am - Worship / 5 pm - Worship

Wednesday:

7 pm - Bible Study/Worship

Evangelist: Devin Barber

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"I Am the Way, the Truth, and the Life"

The disciples were becoming more dejected by the moment and Jesus knew it. In John 13, Jesus had talked about "going away" and about how someone would deny Him and even betray Him, but these chosen men had seen Him perform phenomenal signs. They had sacrificed life as they knew it to follow Him. They had burned their bridges. "Where's He going?" wonders Thomas. "Before you go, show us the Father!" Philip naively asks. "We'll fight for Him!" Peter says to himself.

So, on that decisive Passover evening 2,000 years ago, John 14 tells us that Jesus had set out to calm and comfort them, and to assure them that everything would be [alright]. Will they remember the loaves and fishes (John 6, Mark 6.52)? The healing of the blind man (John 9)? The raising of Lazarus (John 11)? "You believe in God, believe also in Me," Jesus says. It's as if He's saying, "Have I ever let you down? He told them He was going away to prepare a place and that He would come back to get them. He told them that the work he was about to do would clear the path for them — and others like them — to be with Him and with the Father forever. He tells them that they already know the way to the Father because they know Him (John 14.1-5). "I AM..." Jesus says. *"I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."*

The disciples hardly understood, but Jesus had to go away. He was going to prepare a place, a place with room enough for every disciple. Jesus wasn't a cosmic carpenter. He did his building with a cross and an empty tomb. He "finished the work" (John 17.4) and empties the tomb, as well.

John 14.1-6 is about Jesus as the "way" to the Father. That's what Thomas asked about. Jesus says He is the way because He is the truth. There cannot be multiple ways to God because there are not multiple truths. Jesus said, "I *am* the truth." He did just give truth, like Moses did, but He is truth (John 1.17). All spiritual truth is defined by Him. John 1.18 says Jesus "exegetes," or interprets, God. Jesus, as God the Son, reveals God the Father. So no one knows God except through Jesus. That knowing is far more than comprehension; it involves total surrender to Christ.

Jesus is also the way because He is the life. He lived in the Father and the Father in Him. He is our lifeline to the Father. He is the Head of the body, the church. His blood courses through our veins, if we keep His commandments (John 14.15). He sustains us because He is the "bread of life" and the giver of "living water." This life is "abundantly" given by Christ (John 10.10). He puts no one into a spiritual "coma"! He is not a spiritual "life support" system. He is life, and that life is forever.

This is interesting, but how does it help us? Could we be as confused as the disciples, even with our present perspective? The hearts of those loyal disciples were clouded by the physical distractions of their former lifestyles. What about the distractions of our culture? Are they obscuring the meaning of Christ as the "way, the truth and the life"?

At the Florida College camp this year, one of the counselors reminded me of something I had heard before. That is, that our *identity, plus our destination, equals purpose*. If we know who we are and where we are going, we then know our purpose in life. How critically important this is! Hundreds of people, including teenagers, kill themselves every day because they have no purpose.

But it is not only the young people who have lost their way. Many brethren have gotten off track in one direction or another. At one extreme, there are those who have allowed the culture in which they live to swallow them up. They are essentially one with the world. They tend to filter Christ through society's mores and values, yet they still maintain that they are in the "way," that they are still "Christian."

"Truth" is not Christ, but culture, to these brethren. Their world-view is a compilation of the messages they get from the movies, music, books and TV programs of our day, instead from God's word. We are all tempted to filter the word of God through our culture, but we must always be on guard. We must learn to sift our culture through the truth of Christ. That's the "way" to life.

At the other extreme are those who have become virtually comatose in their service. The fire went out long ago and hardly a spark is left. They've reduced Christianity to keeping the nose clean, obeying a few rules and "going to church." They've memorized all the pat answers so they can "defend the faith." For them, the "way" is truth perhaps, but there's no vitality left. That's not Christ's way! A disciple has lost his way just as surely when the fire goes out as when the light goes out.

Extremes have a way of meeting at the bottom of the circle. Those who teeter at opposite edges end up at the same place eventually. What we all need is to get on the way and stay there. We need a good *daily* dose of Jesus in our minds and our hearts. To do that, we need to read the gospel story more, and remember that Jesus came with the "power of and endless life" (Hebrews 7.16).

What happens when we lose our way? On a trip, we stop and ask directions. We get a map. Well, get excited about the journey again! It is when we are "on the way" and know it, that we become like the post-resurrection disciples — full of life and truth. They were in the "way," and no one could stop them. They knew who they were and where they were going. They had purpose. They were full of the "I AM."

Written by; David Posey

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