

“I am the only way to God.”

John 14:5-6

This is one of the most difficult passages in the Bible to understand, not because we can't figure out what it means; but, BECAUSE we know exactly what it means. Jesus says, to get to heaven you go through me ... no exceptions, no sneaking around another door, I'm it. This offends our society's desire to be completely inclusive, we'd rather say, “everyone goes to heaven, no questions asked, just as long as you're sincere.” But, this passage says a person can be sincerely wrong.

Let's examine just exactly what Jesus is saying here to us:

1. Jesus knows we need clear direction.

John 14:4-5, “And you know the way to where I am going.” “No, we don't know, Lord,” Thomas said. “We have no idea where you are going, so how can we know the way?”

- Can we admit that we're often “clueless” about direction in life?
- Jesus has already told them the direction to go in life: “follow me.”

John 1:37

John 6:2

John 12:26

John 1:40

John 8:12

John 13:36

John 1:43

John 10:4-5

John 2:8

John 10:27

Why would the right direction suddenly change now? It wouldn't, the way to heaven is the same way to go on earth, “follow Jesus.”

- IF you knew, clearly, what God wants you to do, would you do it? How does this sound for a prayer:

“Dear God, tune my ears to hear You clearly. I want to follow you daily, I'm willing to follow you daily, so lead me Jesus, and I'll go with You. Amen.”

- Reminder: God speaks most clearly when we are in touch with His Word, the Bible. Read, study, meditate, think upon, and follow the teachings of the Bible.

2. Jesus provides clear direction.

John 14:6, Jesus told him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me."

- Way: Jesus is DIRECTION, the world is WANDERING.
- Truth: Jesus is REAL, the world is FALSE.
- Life: Jesus gives ETERNAL LIFE, the world gives ETERNAL DEATH.

Let me ask you a question about this statement "No one can come to the Father except through me."

- Suppose there was NO way to God. Not too inviting is it?
- Suppose there were MANY ways to God. Devalues the meaning of heaven.
- Suppose there was ONLY ONE way to God. You'd want to know what it was, and DO it.

Let's attack this idea that is popular in our culture, "if a person is sincere, and good enough, he or she can go to heaven without Jesus." A particular Bible passage really speaks to this ... 1 Corinthians 1:18-21, ¹⁸The message of the cross is foolish to those who are headed for destruction! But we who are being saved know it is the very power of God. ¹⁹ As the Scriptures say, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise and discard the intelligence of the intelligent." ²⁰ So where does this leave the philosophers, the scholars, and the world's brilliant debaters? God has made the wisdom of this world look foolish. ²¹ Since God in his wisdom saw to it that the world would never know him through human wisdom, he has used our foolish preaching to save those who believe.

Verse 21 means that "God has decided that the world CANNOT and will NEVER know Him through human effort."

- Religion is man's attempt to know God. Religion is man reaching UP.
- Grace is God's way of knowing Him. Grace is God reaching DOWN.

We are saved by grace, through faith: Ephesians 2:8-9, God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. ⁹Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it.

A closing prayer ... "Dear God, You've shown us the way, the truth, and the life through Jesus. Help to follow you today, tomorrow, and forever. In Jesus' name, amen."