

“The Way” Part 1

This is the most important subject we have to preach in the entire bible.

Isaiah 35:8(KJV)

And an highway shall be there, and **a way**, and it shall be called **the way** of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it; but it shall be for those: the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err therein.

Isaiah got a glimpse of it, he said “God’s going to make a way so people can be saved,

- A. it’s going to be easy, if they will just **listen**,
- B. it’s going to be easy, if they will just **obey**,
- C. it’s going to be simple if they just **heed**,

The way is going to be provided for the wayfaring - the lost, the wandering, those looking for something better

Even if they don’t have much intelligence, though fools, they won’t make a mistake walking in this way.

If they will just heed. God is going to provide a way!

And God performed just as He said -

- A. God came to this earth and robed Himself in flesh
- B. While he was here, in the person that we know as Jesus Christ - wasn’t just a prophet **that was God** walking on this earth who came to seek and to save those who were lost!

John 14:6 (KJV)

Jesus saith unto him, **I am the way**, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

Matthew 7:13-14 Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat:

14 Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.

- A. Long before there were Christians, or Pentecostals, or Apostolics, Catholics, Baptists, Methodists, or any other denomination you've heard of - Long before those terms existed, the early church in the first century, the original church, they referred to themselves simply as **the way**.
- B. Luke uses that term a half a dozen times when he list the history of the early church in the book of Acts, half a dozen times he says "**The way**" - The idea wasn't original with them, rather it was from the words of Jesus in the words that we just read. When **he said** "I am the way, the truth, and the life..."
 - a. And since they were following this Jesus the church started calling themselves "**The Way**"
 - b. Even those in society who weren't going their way, even their enemies called them "The Way"

The Way: is a pretty exclusive term because if it's "The Way" then **THERE IS NO OTHER WAY**

1. If there's ONE way, then there can't be TWO ways

2. **Not much has changed** its still very much the same today because **there are not**:

- A. Many roads to God
- B. Many roads to Heaven
- C. Many roads to be saved

THERE IS ONLY ONE WAY!

*The Way is so exclusive that today people get angry when you preach about "**The Way**" and they have different opinions and they get upset that you don't honor their opinion - But their opinion is just their opinion because there's only "**ONE WAY**"*

Acts 9:1-2 (KJV) And Saul, yet breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord, went unto the high priest,
2 And desired of him letters to Damascus to the synagogues, that if he found any of **this way**, whether they were men or women, he might bring them bound unto Jerusalem.

A. Paul had permission if he found any of these people that preached this exclusive message that **only Jesus was the one who would:**

- a. Get you to heaven!
- b. Jesus was the way to salvation.

B. Paul got official documents that if anyone was preaching that **he could:** And whether they were men or women, he could bring them bound to Jerusalem, put them in jail, Kill them, Persecute them

Not much has changed that is going on right now in our world as we speak.

C. But we've got to keep praying that somewhere there is that someone that **God can turn around** and be the Paul of the 21st century.

1. **It's this Man Saul -**

- A. Who **hated** Jesus
- B. Who **hated** what the church was preaching
- C. Who **persecuted them** and threw them in jail
- D. Who **mocked** them

This is also the man - Who wrote most of your new testament, because God got a hold of his heart and turned him around and put him in "**The Way**"

1. Now Paul (Saul the Apostle) he's standing before the Roman governor Felix and he says:

A. **Acts 24:14 (KJV)**

14 But this I confess unto thee, that after **the way which they call heresy,** so **worship I** the God of my fathers, believing all things which are written in the law and in the prophets:

- a. Paul's saying "It's not a different God that I'm worshipping,

- b. The **Jesus** I worship is the **God** that the Old Testament prophets spoke about and said was coming.
- c. He said, I know governor Felix what everybody else says, that the church preaches an **exclusive message** and the church doesn't bend on what the scripture says - **THIS IS THE WAY!**

Romans 1:16 (KJV)

16 For I am **not ashamed** of the gospel of Christ: for it is the **power** of God unto salvation to **every one** that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

A. Paul's saying I'm not ashamed of it because: this is how our lives are changed it's by the power of this gospel that we preach.

B. **But here's the problem then and here's the problem now.**

- a. It's not the gospel
- b. It doesn't function as the gospel
- c. It doesn't work as the gospel
 - i. If you tweak it
 - ii. If you modify it
 - iii. If you dumb it down or you water it down
- d. **It has to be the original gospel!!! THERE IS ONLY ONE WAY!**

Galatians 1:8 (KJV)

8 But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach **any other gospel** unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.

A. Paul said

- a. If we change it
- b. If we modify it
- c. If we stop preaching **parts of it**
- d. Or if we **add to it**

B. Don't you listen to us!!!

- a. In fact don't you listen if an angel from Heaven comes down and says "Hey don't believe that in the bible this is the way, **don't believe it**,
- b. There are whole religions that have started because they say they had a visit from an angel that gave them extra scriptures.
- c. That's false, that's why Paul proclaims if we or even an angel comes down and says anything contrary to this gospel, to the only way - don't listen!

Because there is only one gospel that has the power to change your life...

What is Jesus reaction to today? Do you think He would be angered

I cannot imagine his reaction if he was here in physical form today and he walked into some of the churches today and he saw some of the "**gospel**" messages that are being preached in pulpits today.

And the reason He would be upset is **not** because He doesn't love those people, he'd be upset because they: ignored, have discarded, or changed or modified, much of what He taught!

There are now so many different variations of the gospel and of the plan of salvation as there are denominations that it's not just a logical nightmare, it's a theological nightmare!!!

And the way we deal with this in North America is we say this stupid statement:

- a. "Well were all going to the same place, so let's just forget doctrine and lets just love Jesus"
- b. It is the **Word of God** that gives us doctrine -

2 Timothy 3:16-17 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

*And the problem with the approach of ignoring the truth is simple - **"IT'S WRONG"***

You can't just believe whatever you want to believe and go to heaven.

*You can't just believe whatever some televangelist said, or some pastor, or grandma and grandpa, or what mom and dad may have or have not believed - you've got to get your face in the word of God and you've got to figure out **what the Word of God says!!!***

Philippians 2:12 work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

There are not 2 or 10 or 20 or 100 ways to be saved, there is only ONE Bible way to be saved!

You say "are you saying you are so arrogant that you believe that you are right and everyone else is wrong".

Not on your life, I'm saying the Bible is right and everybody else is wrong.

- Because the Bible is **The Way**,
- a. And we walk in **The Way**
 - b. And it's a **Way of Holiness**
 - c. And Jesus said "I am the Way"

Modern theology and religion simply says - to accept the Lord as your personal savior."

*Jesus is God who manifest Himself in flesh and He's so much more than your personal savior, **He's the only savior**, and your salvation is completed on **His terms not on your terms!***

Yes, he saves you individually -

- a. But you do not get to pick what terms you come in on
- b. He's not your customized Christ
- c. That's not how it works, you either take Him at his word or you don't get Him at all

Accepting the Lord as your personal savior is NOT in the Bible

Ephesians 1:6 (KJV)

6 To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he (God) hath **made us accepted** in the beloved.

Not that I accept Jesus, but If I obey his Word, **He will accept me**. Since He is the way, I come to Him to be saved

There's only this ONE salvation message - and I want to make sure that you know "**The Way**"