Sunday, August 6, 2023 Dr. John Welborn

The Best News Jesus is the Only Way

John 14:6

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Matthew 28:19-20

"And he said to them, 'Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation." Mark 16:15

"Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, and said to them, 'Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things."

Luke 24:45-48

"Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.'" John 20:21

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." Acts 1:8

"Jesus came as a missionary from heaven that he might make us missionaries for heaven." **James Merritt**

- Key Questions
- Bad News
- Worst News
- Best News
- **Invitation**

"Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.'" **John 14:6**

Sharing the Gospel is Rooted in the Truth of Jesus as the Only Way

I. Jesus is Clear About His Own Identity – "I am the way, and the truth, and the life..." John 14:6a

"I am the bread of life..." John 6:35

"I am the light of the world..." John 8:12

"I am the door of the sheep..." John 10:7

"I am the good shepherd..." John 10:11

"I am the resurrection and the life..." John 11:25

"I am the true vine..." John 15:1

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II. Jesus is Clear About the Gospel's Exclusivity

Problems with the "Good people go to heaven" idea:

- Nobody agrees on what "good" is.
- God hasn't given us a scorecard to know how much "good" we must do.
- The Bible doesn't offer a way to get to heaven based on good works.
- Jesus assured the most religious people of his day weren't good enough while promising criminals and prostitutes that God welcomed them.

Bottom Line: GOOD people do not go to heaven, FORGIVEN people do. And forgiveness is made possible by the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ. "In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace." **Ephesians 1:7**

"All religions are exclusive, but Christianity is the most inclusive exclusivity there is." Timothy Keller

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"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16

The Lord's Supper: "For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, 'This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.' In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.' For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes." 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

Sources and Further Reading Opportunities:

- CSB Study Bible Trevin Wax, Ed. (2017)
- The Wiersbe Bible Commentary Warren Wiersbe (2007)
- Word Pictures in the New Testament A.T. Robertson (1933)
- Swindoll's Ultimate Book of Illustrations & Quotes Charles R. Swindoll (1998)
- *Tony Evans Book of Illustrations* Tony Evans (2009)
- Evangelical Dictionary of Theology Walter A. Elwell (2001)
- A Theology for the Church, Revised Edition Daniel L. Akin (2014)
- The New American Commentary: John 12-21 Gerald L. Borchert (2002)
- Since Nobody's Perfect...How Good is Good Enough? Andy Stanley (2003)
- A Different Kind of Exclusivity J.D. Greear (2019)