



**New and Exclusive Offers from God?
Welcome to the World of Grace
John 14:4-15**

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Today we cover another new doctrine being introduced by Jesus. This doctrine He is introducing is a serious problem to millions worldwide. It is simply unacceptable to them that there is only one way to God. But God is the one who has narrowly defined the only way to access that path. We are talking about the exclusivity of Jesus being the only way to salvation. This is the doctrine of salvation, the work of Jesus Christ on the cross. We call this doctrine soteriology.

This is different from Christology which is all about His person, “soteriology is that branch of Christian theology which treats of the work of the Savior; it is the doctrine of salvation, so far as such salvation has been wrought out by the second person in the Trinity.” (Jackson 1908-1914, 9)



Jesus has just started talking about those new doctrines that will be part of the new covenant. He is briefing His disciples, before going to the cross, in order to encourage them as well as begin the transition from law to grace, from Israel to the church.

The idea of Jesus returning from heaven, in person, to take all of His followers home to be with Him was mind blowing enough. The rapture of the church is a new doctrine, and He has just introduced that, but He is not done yet.

To be included with those who will be taken, Jesus begins a new doctrine even while still talking of the rapture.

Access will be to where He will be going, and the access is exclusive and only available through Him. First the idea of the rapture, new. Then the idea of us going to where He is? Also new.

Because of previous conversations with the disciples, where they did not ask questions, Jesus talks to them like they totally and completely understand He is in town to be crucified. They still were not putting all the pieces together.

Mark 9:31–32

“For He taught His disciples and said to them, “The Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of men, and they will kill Him. And after He is killed, He will rise the third day.” But they did not understand this saying, and were afraid to ask Him.” (NKJV)

Notice, no questions.

Jesus has just spoken to the disciples as if they understood everything, He just told them. We pick up at the end of the conversation on the rapture, which leads into the next topic of conversation.

John 14:4–7

““And you know the way where I am going.” Thomas said to Him, “Lord, we do not know where You are going; how do we know the way?” Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father except through Me. If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; from now on you know Him, and have seen Him.”” (NASB 2020)

There was no such thing as a dumb question for Jesus. Yes, we may imagine Him rolling His eyes from time to time, but He answered questions from His followers, if asked. Thomas’ question finally puts it out there, the disciples have no idea where He is going.

He has been clear. He spoke without any nuanced words at all. Peter even received a mild rebuke for his objection to the idea of Jesus going to to Jerusalem to be killed and then resurrected (Matthew 16:21-23). So here we are now, hours from the cross, and Thomas speaks for the group. He loves the Lord, and like Peter, asks questions. But unlike Peter, his are not “simply blurted out there” or “stream of consciousness.” Thomas asks good questions reflecting what is going on inside of him as well as what he and the disciples are thinking. He just doesn’t blurt it out there like someone else we know.

John 14:5

“Thomas said to Him, “Lord, we do not know where You are going; how do we know the way?”” (NASB 2020)

Thomas is rational and thinking more of earthly things than spiritual at this moment. Jesus is going to prepare a place and then come and get them. Perhaps he was still thinking this through like I guess we are moving our base of operations from Capernaum to another location. “Thomas affirms that the group



does not know where the Lord is going, and questions how they can know the way.” (Rosscup 2008, 1833)

So, on top of the new rapture doctrine, that God will remove His own from the planet at a future date, we now get something else entirely new. A brand-new exclusive claim that takes what the disciples have spent a lifetime learning about in the Torah and turns it on its head.

John 14:6

“Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father except through Me.” (NASB 2020)

In a first-century Jewish context this wide-ranging and exclusive claim to embody the avenue to the Father stands over against claims that would have been made for Torah. The Scriptures held that the law provided the way (cf. e.g. Pss. 86:11; 119:30). (Lincoln 2005, 390)

Jesus is announcing that the path to salvation, will now pass through Him and no one or anything else. Following the law will no longer be adequate. Having a robust prayer life will not work either. He is exclusively the only way.

The common objection though is, when we state that Jesus is the only way, that we are intolerant. But Jesus is the one who said He is the only way.

For Christians to say that there are other ways to find peace with God is to bear false testimony. In one sweeping statement, Jesus discards all other religions as a means of finding forgiveness of sins. (Comfort 2006, 82)

Peter, after the resurrection and after Pentecost, filled with the Holy Spirit attested to this simple fact of the exclusivity of Jesus.

Acts 4:10–12

“then you should all know, and all the people of Israel should know, that this man stands here before you completely well through the power of the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth—whom you crucified and whom God raised from death. Jesus is the one of whom the scripture says: ‘The stone that you the builders despised turned out to be the most important of all.’ **Salvation is to be found through him alone; in all the world there is no one else whom God has given who can save us.**” (GNB)

Today, nothing has changed. Jesus is still the only way to heaven. But our culture rebels at that under the guise of toleration and pluralism.

Other religions step in at this point and try to make the case that the way they have to heaven is on a par with the one in the Bible and is much more appealing to follow. This is the same thing the enemy has been involved in using to deceive for centuries. Satan still begins the argument with “has God really said?”

False gods, the occult, cults and all false teaching and religion have the exact same source, the fallen members of the unseen realm.

They want all of us dead. Not just physically, but eternally and God has already called them all out and beaten them at the cross and with the resurrection. The war is over, Jesus won.



God Himself called the false religions of the world and the false gods of the world into court in the book of Isaiah and challenged them, dared them to do one simple act. Something they have all uniformly failed at for thousands of years.

Isaiah 41:22–24

“Come here and predict what will happen, so that we will know it when it takes place. Explain to the court the events of the past, and tell us what they mean. Tell us what the future holds— then we will know that you are gods! Do something good or bring some disaster; fill us with fear and awe! You and all you do are nothing; those who worship you are disgusting!” (GNB)

Only in the Bible do we find prophecy telling us history in advance.

In Isaiah 52 and 53, we find 22 separate prophecies about the suffering servant that were fulfilled with Jesus Christ. And there is a whole lot more in the Bible dealing with the first coming as well as the second coming.

But those are things the enemy wants you and me to forget about as he tries to do a redirect into confusion.

In the Bible, there are multiple rebellions we read about in Genesis. Genesis 3 and the fall of course, but we tend to forget about Genesis 6 and the Watchers (1 Enoch 6-11, Daniel 4, 2 Peter 2:4) coming down to defile mankind and disrupt the gene pool by creating a race of non-humans the Bible refers to as Nephilim or giants.

We also tend to gloss over the rebellion of Genesis 11 at Babel which resulted in all mankind to be placed into 70 different language groups and spread out across the planet under the guidance of members of the divine council (Daniel 10).

But those members who were given that responsibility, not all of them remained faithful and some sided with Lucifer and began to demand worship from those they were made responsible for.

This is the source of all false gods, false religion and false teaching and religious systems in the world today.

Those fallen ones, fallen members of the unseen realm, have already been judged. God pronounced their judgement in Psalm 82.

Psalm 82

“A PSALM OF ASAPH. God has taken his place in the divine council; in the midst of the gods he holds judgment: “How long will you judge unjustly and show partiality to the wicked? Selah Give justice to the weak and the fatherless; maintain the right of the afflicted and the destitute. Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked.” They have neither knowledge nor understanding, they walk about in darkness; all the foundations of the earth are shaken. I said, “You are gods, sons of the Most High, all of you; nevertheless, like men you shall die, and fall like any prince.” Arise, O God, judge the earth; for you shall inherit all the nations!” (ESV)

Unfortunately, the final disposition of those fallen ones is yet in the future. So, for now we are all engaged in spiritual warfare beginning when we change sides and turn to Christ.

For many of us, we have declared our shift in allegiance by being baptized and fully identifying with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ while at the same time renouncing the enemy. Each and every baptism is a notice to the enemy that they have lost one more.



As a church we also conduct spiritual warfare when we celebrate communion together as we, as a church, declare to the universe our solidarity with and loyalty to Jesus Christ.

Where false religions and cults like to take believers to is a simple location, the same place Eve was taken, just to a point of wondering or doubting what it is God actually said. They love to prey on brand new believers who have not yet been grounded in the Word. One more reason why we teach the Bible, chapter by chapter and verse by verse. We want you to be grounded in the Word of God so that you know that you know.

There are at least eight, probably more, reasons why the overwhelming message of the Bible, the OT and NT combined, is the clear exclusive message.

The Exclusivity of Salvation

1. The God of the Bible is exclusively God.
 - a. "I, I am the LORD, and there is no deliverer besides me. I decreed and delivered and proclaimed, and there was no other god among you. "You are my witnesses," says the LORD, "that I am God." (Isaiah 43:11–12, NET 2nd ed.)
 - b. "Now to the eternal King, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever! Amen." (1 Timothy 1:17, NET 2nd ed.)
2. The Bible contains exclusive special revelation about God.
 - a. "Every scripture is inspired by God and useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the person dedicated to God may be capable and equipped for every good work." (2 Timothy 3:16–17, NET 2nd ed.)
3. The Way, Christ, is the only Way.
 - a. "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, NASB 2020)
4. Jesus is the exclusive Savior and Lord
 - a. "And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among people by which we must be saved." (Acts 4:12, NET 2nd ed.)
5. The gospel of the Bible is THE exclusive message of eternal salvation.
 - a. Galatians 1:6–10 "I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you by the grace of Christ and are following a different gospel—not that there really is another gospel, but there are some who are disturbing you and wanting to distort the gospel of Christ. But even if we (or an angel from heaven) should preach a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be condemned to hell! As we have said before, and now I say again, if any one is preaching to you a gospel contrary to what you received, let him be condemned to hell! Am I now trying to gain the approval of people, or of God? Or am I trying to please people? If I were still trying to please people, I would not be a slave of Christ!" (NET 2nd ed.)
6. We are saved only by personal faith in Jesus Christ, and it is the exclusive means of obtaining eternal life.
 - a. "If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved. As the Scriptures tell us, "Anyone who trusts in him will never be disgraced." Jew and Gentile are the same in this respect. They have the same Lord, who gives generously to all who call on him. For "Everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved." (Romans 10:9–13, NLT)
7. This life is exclusively the only opportunity we have for salvation.
 - a. "And just as each person is destined to die once and after that comes judgment," (Hebrews 9:27, NLT)



8. Resurrection, not reincarnation, is the exclusive ultimate outcome of life, either to eternity in heaven, or eternity in hell.
 - a. "Many of those whose bodies lie dead and buried will rise up, some to everlasting life and some to shame and everlasting disgrace." (Daniel 12:2, NLT)
 - b. "Do not be amazed at this; for a time is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear His voice, and will come out: those who did the good deeds to a resurrection of life, those who committed the bad deeds to a resurrection of judgment." (John 5:28–29, NASB 2020)

To dismiss the exclusivity of Christianity as the unique means of personal salvation is to disregard mindlessly what Christians have unanimously believed for two millennia and to dismiss the imperative of Scripture to take the gospel of Jesus Christ to the ends of the earth, to every person (Mark 16:15). (Mayhue 2001)

When Jesus makes this announcement to Thomas, He is intentionally setting the world system, the culture, against all of us who name the name of Jesus Christ. When we come to Christ, we leave that system, we are no longer part of that system, and they do not like it.

The gospel is exclusive. Salvation is exclusive. When we share Jesus with others, we are seriously counter cultural as we are in direct opposition to what is politically correct today, that there are many ways to God. In fact, George Barna has discovered that among those who say they are born again, 52% (Barna 2023) now believe they can earn their way to heaven.

Jesus is clear here in John 14, no, not possible. Ever. He is God, the sentence begins with that statement, "I am" and proceeds from there. Exclusive, no other way.

Matthew 7:21–23

““Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?’ And then will I declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.’”” (ESV)

How do we know God, simple, Jesus says, as God, He is the way.

As the way, He is also the truth. He is the one who has fully revealed the heart of the Father. He is the incarnate God “full of grace and truth.” (John 1:14b, NASB 2020)

Later rabbis use “Truth” as a title for God because God’s character was truth; they remarked that “truth” (אמת) used the first, last, and middle letters of the Hebrew alphabet, and God as the first and the last was therefore to be called the “truth.” (Keener 2012, 943)

His words are the words of the Father. He is the life.

Following Jesus shows us how to live, the way. Following Jesus shows us the character of that life, the truth. Following Jesus means we now have eternal life in Him as a present possession, the life. He is the only way to God because He is the truth teller and the life giver.

The truth is that modern people have spent their whole lives rationalizing their sins, failing to realize that you cannot enter heaven laden with sin and evil. How do sinners find forgiveness when they continue to sin with impunity? The truth is that sin is an internal force (we call it “total depravity”) that makes it impossible to come to God on your own merits. With the atoning sacrifice of Christ, God paid for our sins



himself and obtained forgiveness for us. There is no other way because there can be no other way. (Osborne 2018, 337)

Jesus follows up His exclusivity claim with a simple fact statement. Really a repeat of what He has already said earlier in John 10:30. "I and the Father are one." (NASB 2020) He is God.

John 14:7

""If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; from now on you know Him, and have seen Him."" (NASB 2020)

Jesus tells His disciples and at the same time tells us, that if we are in Him, in other words have placed our full trust on His work on the cross done on our behalf believing in Him that He died for our sin and then rose from the dead, and we know Him by spending time with in Him in His word and with Him in prayer. That as we are getting to know Him since He is the Word of God, we are also getting to know the Father. Jesus perfectly reflects the Father to us.

As we draw closer to Him, we are also drawing closer to the Father. "So thoroughly is Jesus the way to the Father that he is the Father's exact representation (14:9; cf. 12:45; Heb 1:3); rejecting the Father's image meant rejecting the Father as well (15:24)." (Keener 2012, 944)

Are His disciples listening? Jesus has laid some heavy truth on them in less than five minutes of conversation.

- A new commandment to love one another unconditionally. In fact, this love will become so pervasive that the unbelieving world will see it to be a characteristic of a believer.
- Peter, you are going to deny me three times before morning.
- Don't freakout.
- I am preparing a place for you at my Father's house and will come to get you later.
- Salvation will now only be possible through me.
- And if you know me, you know the Father.

So far questions from Peter, and then Thomas.

Philip now speaks up.

Finally, questions. Where have the questions been in the past? For Jesus, no question is stupid. When we get asked questions by those who are not believers, ask the Lord for wisdom and then plow ahead and answer them. At times, the one you are talking to has another agenda, they are either wanting to shut you up, belittle you, or convert you to their viewpoint. In some cases, all three.

When you speak, you are representing the God of the Universe. A quick silent "help Lord" prayer is in order. He will answer it too.

James 1:5

"If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him." (NKJV)

Let Him provide the wisdom and by the way, as we allow the Holy Spirit to use us and speak through us, He will indeed be the one providing the answer through you.



Luke 12:11–12

“Now when they bring you to the synagogues and magistrates and authorities, do not worry about how or what you should answer, or what you should say. For the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say.” (NKJV)

As you speak, don't worry if you sound dumb or feel inadequate, let the Holy Spirit guide you as you speak, remember, you are repping God. There is a spiritual gift that may even pop up as you speak, a word of wisdom (1 Corinthians 12:8).

It is a manifestation of the Holy Spirit giving us just in time (JIT) words to say that are perfect for the situation. (Acts 15:28, 1 Kings 3:16-28, Acts 6:2-5)

When answering a question, as you start speaking, the answer just comes pouring out, and with scripture references and quotes too. But I don't remember memorizing that? How did I put all of that together mixing the scripture and summarizing the thought and providing a Biblically based answer? The Holy Spirit.

It is not necessarily always verbal. A different Greek word would have been used if that was the expectation. Rhema.

How Does it Work?

There is no buzzer or mental warning bell that goes off that lets us know a message is coming through. As we speak the Holy Spirit provides the words. There is no weird warning or voice or anything...just the Spirit using you to say the right thing at the right time.

This is used a lot in witnessing, Biblical Counseling situations as well in the public proclamation of the word in teaching.

This is supernatural insight for needed practical conduct or action. Don't sweat it. Jesus reflects the usage of this gift in His answer to Philip.

John 14:8–11

“Philip said to Him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.” Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you for so long a time, and yet you have not come to know Me, Philip? The one who has seen Me has seen the Father; how can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father is in Me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on My own, but the Father, as He remains in Me, does His works. Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me; otherwise believe because of the works themselves.” (NASB 2020)

Philip joins with Moses and others throughout history who simply say, “show us God.” It would kill us (Exodus 33:20) in our current bodies.

As Jesus answers Philip, there is a bit of sadness reflected. After all of this time together Philip, really? I read this and it makes me want to grow more in Him. I want to be able to pray and ask questions about the word. I don't want to hear though, really Ken, you should know that by now.

In the church though, there are many who have been believers for years, who, well, are still into milk. I try to have a bit of milk, some hamburger and a few bits of steak. At the Midweek Bible Study, steak and lots of it, with just a bit of hamburger.

Paul spoke about this.



1 Corinthians 3:1–3

“For my part, brothers and sisters, I was not able to speak to you as spiritual people but as people of the flesh, as babies in Christ. I gave you milk to drink, not solid food, since you were not yet ready for it. In fact, you are still not ready, because you are still worldly. For since there is envy and strife among you, are you not worldly and behaving like mere humans?” (CSB)

The length of time we have known Jesus, does not necessarily correspond to quality of the relationship and how we are doing with the task of sanctification. Sanctification, or rather the task of being saved, growing in the Lord, is a participatory experience.

When we read of born-again believers having a Biblical worldview at only a 14% rate, (Barna, American Worldview Inventory 2023 Release #5: How the Pandemic Reshaped Christian Beliefs and Behaviors 2023) we realize the job at hand. For the disciples, “even being with Jesus such a long time—the reference is to the duration of Jesus’ ministry—does not guarantee the deepest insight, insight into the truth that all of Jesus’ actions and words have supported and which he now articulates: Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father.” (Carson 1991, 494)

When Jesus says, on verse 11, “believe me,” He is not saying to simply trust Me, but to believe in everything I have just said. Believe what I have told you, or at the very least, you have seen all of the miracles, the physical proof, believe that.

As Philip would sit back and recall watching a dead man walk out of the grave, he should get it. As he recalls seeing water become wine, he should get it. As he begins to remember all of those lepers being cleansed, he should get it. Each miracle was a sign screaming to him about who it is that is doing this.

Philip, in fact, you should be recalling all of those events. You should be remembering everything you have seen me do because that will point you to another astoundingly new thing that will become a regular thing in this new covenant that is upcoming. You will be outdoing all of them.

John 14:12–15

“Truly, truly I say to you, the one who believes in Me, the works that I do, he will do also; and greater works than these he will do; because I am going to the Father. And whatever you ask in My name, this I will do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do it. “If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.” (NASB 2020)

With this statement, Jesus is telling His disciples they have work to do. Once He is gone, they will become uniquely enabled to continue on with what He has started. And this is not limited solely to them. This is promised to all who believe.

This is a promise made by Jesus to the one, that’s you and me, who believe in Him. He uses a comparative, that we are to take a look at the totality of everything that He has done while here on earth. Do you have that picture in mind now? Good. I mean He taught a few thousand, He healed some, cast demons out of some, even raised a few from the dead too. And we know the text is not exhaustive as to everything He did. So, considering everything we have a record of, are you ready for this? Believer, you and I will not only be empowered to do those works, but even greater works.
Wow!

He isn’t done yet. That alone is amazing. But we are promised this because He is going to the Father. So what else is there. This is pretty amazing stuff.



John 14:13–15

“And whatever you ask in My name, this I will do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do it. If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.” (NASB 2020)

This is amazing! It is not a blank check by the way. The condition, “in my name.” This is not done by tagging on “in Jesus name, amen” at the end of the prayer.

Jesus is perfectly representing the Father. We are to be representing Jesus. The problem though is we still have a sin nature so doing so perfectly can be a problem at times. But here is what I think this means.

When we pray in Jesus’ name we claim to be acting for Him. Someone who prays that way will always ask only what is God’s will, or what is subject to God’s will, since that is always how Jesus related to His Father. It is impossible to truly pray “in Jesus’ name” and ask for something contrary to God’s will. (Constable 2003, Jn 14:13)

Those who pray this way can be stoked on encouragement from the privilege of coming “in My name.” They also have Jesus’ direct promise to back up this prayer; He says, “that will I do.” In this, He lays His own honor and surety down as a validation to motivate praying. When Jesus repeats this promise in v. 14, it even more powerfully lifts prayer on wings of certainty. And third, still a further incitement to pray in confidence that expects is in Jesus’ purpose in answering. His aim is “that the Father may be glorified in the Son.” The believer can pray on the impetus that what He asks for Jesus’ sake is sure of glorifying the Father in the Son, and having His aroused support. (Rosscup 2008, 1836)

Verse 15 then shows us how to access and pray this way. How can we be available to pray powerfully in this manner? He tells us that answers to prayer are in close harmony with our loving and obeying Christ’s word. We will get more of what that means in John 15.

Jesus has just given believers in Him in this new thing, still to be formally started on Pentecost, the church, power to change the world for the gospel.

As we pray for a place to meet, He hears us. As we pray for His word to go out and not return void but that we would see hundreds, thousands saved because of His word, He hears us. And Jesus is just getting started.

Do you know Him? His offer is rather exclusive, but it is available to anyone who believes.

John 3:16.

“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish, but have eternal life.” (NASB 2020)

There is no grading on the curve. You cannot get in because you did this that or the other thing. You get in by believing the exclusive claim of Christ.

Romans tells us how.

Romans 10:9–13

“If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved. As the Scriptures tell us, “Anyone who trusts in him will never be disgraced.” Jew and Gentile are the same in this respect. They have the same Lord, who gives



generously to all who call on him. For “Everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved.” (NLT)

ABC’s of Salvation

- A. Acknowledge that you are a sinner, tell Him that.
- B. Believe that Jesus died on the cross for our sin and that He rose from the dead.
- C. Confess that Jesus is Lord. Tell someone about what you have done.

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