

“I Am the Way, and the Truth, and the Life”

10-19-14

We are continually faced with so many decisions, it's hard to know what's right. This folded paper is something called a map. If you unfold it and find what you're looking for, you can figure out the roads you need to take to get there. You can find your way.

There is so many around us that say they're correct, sometimes it's hard to know the truth. God even says, *“You shall know the truth and the truth will set you free.”* But if you're following something that isn't true, you'll end up believing the wrong thing!

Life is such a precious thing, but there are those who really don't care about life at all, so they pick and choose who will live and how long. It's one thing to be ill and lose your life, but it's another thing to actively shorten life by eliminating those things that bother individual choices. We see this in IRAQ with ISIS killing children who don't renounce their faith!

Open to John 14. Jesus has watched His disciples be bombarded with so much and they still are trying to understand all Jesus is trying to teach them. But some of it is beyond them so they're having a difficult time. Jesus is about to die, so He wants to quiet their hearts and give them some words of hope.

Verses 1-4, *“Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. And you know the way to where I am going.”*

The first thing Jesus says to them is, *“Don't be troubled! What you're about to see as the rulers accuse Me, threaten Me, and kill Me, will cause you to panic, but don't be troubled by it. Believe in God; believe in Me!”* What Jesus is saying here is all the disciples have to do is trust Him completely! He is the Son of God! We need to trust Him too!

But then Jesus goes on to say the story doesn't end there. After His resurrection, He's going to heaven to prepare. He's going to prepare a place for them! His goal is to have all who believe with Him forever there. But He assures them, that even though they're going to see Him leave, He's promising, *“I will come again for you.”* Jesus won't fail to return for all who believe in Him!

Thomas remained puzzled about the meaning of Jesus' departure, so he asked a very important question in verse 5, *“Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?”* Isn't that often like us? We know where we're supposed to go, but we don't know the way, so we pull out maps and books that give us directions, but many times they take us the wrong way to the wrong place!

Jesus wants to make His point very clear and very certain! Look at verse 6, *“Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”*

Jesus says, "I Am the Way." The world today says we Christians are too narrow in our beliefs. They feel that for us to say Jesus is the Way, we're leaving out all the other possibilities that are true.

There are many people who believe there are many ways to get to heaven, but Jesus is quite clear that this type of thinking is untrue! Jesus is the only way! All He wants us to do is follow in His ways. Listen to Psalm 119:32-33, "*I will run in the way of your commandments when you enlarge my heart! Teach me, O LORD, the way of your statutes; and I will keep it to the end.*" God has something wonderful planned for us as we follow Him!

Jesus says, "I Am the Truth." Jesus is the truth. Everything He said on earth and everything He did narrates God. He says and does what the Father gives Him to say and do. If you want to know the truth about God, all you have to do is look at Jesus!

We need to know Him in His Word and prayer. As you spend time in His Word and Prayer, you'll see the revelation of God to you! Listen to John 8:31-32, "*So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."*

Besides the study of the Word, it's very important you turn to God each and every day, pouring your heart out to Him in prayer seeking His forgiveness, His Will and His guidance as you go through a world that seems to be out of control. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, "*Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.*"

Jesus says, "I Am the Life." John 1:4 says, "*In him was life, and the life was the light of men.*" The world was in the darkness of sin since the Garden. But by Jesus coming to earth, dying and rising for your sins, that whole situation has changed completely. Jesus brings light! Not only do you experience life, but Jesus' actions have given you more.

By faith in Him alone, we have life now and forever! Listen to 1 John 5:20, "*And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true; and we are in him who is true, in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life.*"

From his book, "*The Imitation of Christ*", Thomas 'a Kempis wrote, "*Follow Me. I am the Way and the Truth and the Life. Without the Way there is no going; without the Truth there is no knowing; without the Life there is no living. I Am the Way which you must follow; the Truth which you must believe; the Life for which you must hope. I Am the unchallengeable Way; the infallible Truth, the never-ending Life. I Am the straightest Way; the sovereign Truth; Life true; Life blessed, Life uncreated.*" May you stay firm in faith and follow Jesus each and every day! He is everything!