

Place: Lurgan Baptist 4:5:2017

## THINGS THAT ONLY CHRIST COULD SAY

Reading: John 13:31-14:6

### 6. I AM THE WAY, THE TRUTH, AND THE LIFE

Thomas must have been day-dreaming. The Lord Jesus had just told them He was going to heaven. ( 14:3 ) Then Thomas caught the tail end of a paragraph. ‘ *Whither I go ye know and the way ye know.* ’ He woke up with a start. ‘ *We don't know where you are going,* ’ he blurted out. ‘ *How can we know the way ?* ’ In answer, the Lord Jesus gave us one of His very greatest gospel texts. He is the *Way*. That’s for **LOST** people. He is the *Truth*. That’s for **LEARNED** people. He is the *Life*. That’s for **LONGING** people. My ... what we need is ***Reconciliation***: Christ says, ‘ *I am the way.* ’ What we need is ***Revelation***: Christ says ‘ *I am the truth.* ’ What we need is ***Regeneration***: Christ says ‘ *I am the life.* ’ My .... have you come into this service lost, spiritually separated from God because of your sin ( Is 59:2 ) then Christ says to you, “ *I am the way.* ” Have you stepped in uncertain and unsure, then Christ says to you, “ *I am the truth.* ” Have you come in searching for life with a capital L then Christ says to you “ *I am the life.* ”

In effect Thomas asked the question of the ages. “ *How can we know the way ?* ” How we can know the way to life ? How can we know the way to forgiveness ? How can we know the way to peace with God ? How can we

know the way to heaven ? An interview was conducted some years ago in the U.S.A. and people were asked this question. “ *What are your chances of going to heaven ?* ” One man from the state of Illinois said “ ***50-50, the older I get, the more I think my chances will improve.*** ” One thing is sure, the older you get the chances you are going to go somewhere improve. My .... if I were to ask you this .... ‘ *what are your chances of going to heaven ?* ’ How would you respond ? Still again, if I were to ask you, “ ***what are you depending on to get you to heaven, how would you answer ?*** ” Here in this divine dogmatic declaration the Lord Jesus makes it unmistakably clear that He alone is the only way to heaven and He alone can meet the deepest needs in the heart of man. I mean what is man ? What are we ?

### **We are Pilgrims:**

You and I are on the move. Though you are now sitting still, you are moving forwards in time. When you sleep at night you do not halt the process. Though you stop the clock, or change the details on your birth certificate or go for a long holiday and complete change, you cannot even for a moment impede the inevitable movement. *Where have I come from ? Why am I here ? Where I am going ?* Have you found the answers to those questions ? My .... you are on a journey but Jesus Christ stands before you and says, ‘ *I am the Way,* ’ the way to God, to heaven, to home.

### **We are Thinkers:**

We are those who ask questions and demand satisfactory answers. It’s a striking fact that two-thirds of the books

that have ever been published deal with the fundamental questions to which the human mind addresses itself with insatiable hunger. A person must be convinced that the one he trusts and to whom he submits his will and commits his life is worthy of such trust. But Jesus Christ stands before you and says, ' *I am the truth.*'

### **We are Corpses:**

We need life. That is why though all are material needs may be met, we still will remain unsatisfied. For man needs more than existence and the means of existence, he needs life. He needs life that is never fully frustrated by circumstances of the direst kind, life that cannot be extinguished by a coronary, or ended by a road accident, life that is eternal. Where can such life be found ? Well, the Lord Jesus stands before you and says, ' *I am the life.*' You see, ever since the garden of Eden and the fall of man, man has been ***Divided from God, Deceived by the Devil and Dead in sin,*** and only Christ is the remedy for all three of those problems. That's why He says, ' *I am the way, the truth and the life no man cometh unto the Father but by me.*' You see,

### **(1) CHRIST is the WAY: So we can be SAVED**

Now let's not miss the simplicity of our Lord's words. A way links two points which are otherwise unconnected. If someone in Belfast asked how he could get to Dungannon by car, he would be told that there is a motorway linking the two places, so that even if no other route existed, Dungannon would be easily and directly accessible from the capital. The result of a total absence of roads between

the two places would be a feeling of separation. Now the Lord Jesus claims to be the very way whereby a Holy God becomes linked up to sinful man so that man need not live in a state of separation from God any longer, but may know Him as Father. ( 1:12 ) When Christ says " *I am the way,*" these words show us that Jesus Christ is God: ( Ex 3:14 ) that Jesus Christ is Unique: for He does not say ' *I am a way, or a truth or a life,*' He says ' *I am the way ....,*' these words show us that Jesus Christ is Unchangeable: for He does not say ' *I was the way,*' or ' *I will be the way,*' but ' *I am the way.*' ( Heb 13:8 ) Now this statement alone raises the world's eyebrows. The route to heaven is a **person**, not a principle, not a practice, not a precept, not a philosophy. My .... the golden rule, the ten commandments, the church, religion, prayer, charity, none of these, nor all of these are the way to heaven. Christ is the way. If you are going any other way, you're going the wrong way.

One of the most famous battles fought in all history was the Battle of the Bulge in World War 2. The allies had fought their way a hundred miles inside the Belgian border. They were moving at a furious pace until all of a sudden they ground to a halt. The Germans had focused all of their force at one point in their battle line and a great bulge had become apparent. This counter offensive almost succeeded because of something the Germans had done just before the battle. A few days before German soldiers, dressed in American uniforms parachuted behind American lines. *They went over all of the roads which the allied armies would travel and they changed all the signpost pointing to various towns and villages along the*

way, making sure that the Americans would always be going in the wrong direction. When the Americans fighting the Battle of the Bulge called for reinforcements, most of them never came because entire battalions were lost trying to find their way across the countryside where signposts had either been taken down or turned in the wrong direction. Do you know something ? Many people are following the wrong signposts and they are going to end up in hell because Christ said, ‘ *I am the way.*’ I mean think of,

#### ***(a) THE OTHER WAYS THAT LEAD TO HELL:***

For when Christ says, “ *I am the way,*” He means ‘ *I and noone else.*’ ‘ *No man cometh unto the Father but by me.*’ My .... have you grasp that ? Do you know what this statement does ? It destroys the modern notion that it does not matter what you believe, that all faiths will lead men to heaven if they are sincere, that doctrine is of no importance, that heaven is a place for all mankind, that God is the Father of all men. Do you believe that ? The Lord Jesus did not. One sentence from the Saviour and all this is destroyed. **With this one statement Christ struck a fatal blow and sounded a death nail to that demonic doctrine called universalism that says all roads lead to heaven.** Mark His words, ‘ *No man cometh unto the Father but by me.*’ Yet how many there are this .... who are trying all sorts of ways to get to God, to heaven, to home. Did you ever think of,

#### **THE MANY WAYS:**

You see, there are some way who believe that way to heaven is through **RIGHT LIVING:** The do your best way. It’s very popular and many are trying it, but it’s not good enough. ( James 2:10 ) It’s a ladder that’s too short, a bridge that does not reach the other side. My .... do you believe that you will go to heaven based on your so called goodness rather than Christ’s righteousness ? There are some who believe that way to heaven is through **REFORMATION:** People claim to turn over a new leaf. But my .... even if you could keep that new leaf spotlessly clean, what about the old leaves ? Are they not bad enough to keep you out of Heaven ? There are some who believe that the way to heaven is through **RELIGION:** But my .... your church, religion, ritual, prayers, tears, will never take you to heaven. Are you trying to make a ladder all of your own ? Do you believe that you can climb to God by some other way than Christ ? Well, He said, ‘ *No man cometh unto the Father but by me.*’

#### **THE MODERN WAYS:**

For do you not hear a lot of voices around you today all clamouring for your attention ? The Devil is saying, “ *this is the way walk with me.*” The Drug Culture, “ *this is the way walk with us.*” The Cults, the Mormons, the Jehovah’s Witnesses, Islam, they’re saying “ *This is the way walk with us.*” The exploiters of sex, the get rich quick schemers, the world, the flesh and the devil are all saying, “ *this is the way come with us.*” Now you may think that those ways will take you to heaven, but Christ says they will take you to hell. Indeed the Bible says, “ *there is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the*

*end thereof are the ways of death.” ( Prov 14:12 ) (a)*

**(b) *THE ONLY WAY THAT LEADS TO HEAVEN:***

Christ. A city slicker was out in the country and he got lost. He saw a farmer sitting up on the front porch of his cabin and he walked up to him and said, ‘ *Sir, is this the best way to the city ?* ’ The old farmer grunted and said ‘ *Nope it’s the only way to the city.* ’ ‘ *One way God said to get to heaven Jesus is the only way.* ’ Now if you were to have lost your way in Palestine, and finding a man along the road asked him what was the way to your destination, if he were going in that direction he would say, ‘ *I am the way. Join on to me, I’ll take you there.* ’ That’s what he would mean, and that’s just what Christ means. If we are ever to get there, we must join on to Him, and trust ourselves to Him, believe on Him for Christ is the only way. My .... ***Jesus Christ is not a good way to heaven. He is not the better way to heaven. He’s not even the best way to heaven. He is the only way to heaven.***

A pioneer missionary in Africa tells how he was taking the gospel to a new tribe, far to the north. With his bearers he arrived at a village, beyond which his porters refused to go. The missionary appealed to the local chief. Was there someone in his village who can act as his guide to the distant northern tribe ? The chief, summoned a man, tall, battle scarred, carrying a large axe. A bargain was made and the next morning the missionary set off through the bush, following his new guide. The way became increasingly rough and the path had all but disappeared.

There was an odd mark blazed on a tree, occasionally a narrow path. Finally, the missionary called a halt. He asked the guide if he was sure he knew the way. The man pulled himself up to his full height. “ *White man,*” he said, “ *do you see this axe in my hand ? You see these scars on my body ? With this axe I blazed the trail to the tribal village to which we go. I came from there. These scars I received when I made the way. You ask me if I know the way ? Before I came there was no way. I am the way.*” My .... the Lord Jesus came from glory. Now He was on His way back to Heaven, by the way of the cross. Before He came there was no way. The scars of Calvary on His body attest to the price He paid to blaze that trail for us back to God. He points to His scars and says, ‘ *I am the way.* ’

When the children of Israel were bitten by the fiery serpents in the wilderness, how many ways were there of being cured ? ( Num 21:8 ) Only one. “ *Look or die.*” When Naaman went to be cured of his dreadful disease, how many rivers were there that he could wash in ? ( 2 Kings 5:10 ) Only one. “ *Jordan or leprosy.*” When we want to be saved from our sins and from hell and reach heaven at last, how many are there who can save us ? Only one. “ *Christ or perish.*” My .... is the Lord Jesus to you the way that links you in your need with God in His fullness ? You in your sinfulness with God in His grace ? Some years ago a gentleman was driving through the town of Kilmacolm in Renfrewshire. He stopped by the side of the road to ask a workman the way to Glasgow. After giving him clear instructions the man who was fixing the road asked, ‘ *Excuse me sir, but do you know*

*the way to heaven ?* “ No,” I don't replied the driver, “ *you can,*” for Jesus said ‘ *I am the way.*’ Thanking him the man headed for Glasgow turning over in his mind the words that were spoken to him. On his return to London the same man was involved in a serious accident. He was taken to hospital, where after arranging his affairs he died. Ten days later two young men arrived in the town of Kilmacolm enquiring for a workman who as a witness for Christ had told their father the way to heaven. He charged them to take that journey after the funeral service and to thank that workman for pointing out the way to heaven. Then they added, ‘ *Sir he understood and is now in heaven.*’ What a claim to make. “ **I am the way.**”

**Jesus Christ is the Way Out:** So many are looking for a way out. People do drugs, drink, sin but Jesus Christ is the way out of the guilt and burden of sin.

**Jesus Christ is the Way In:** ‘ *No man cometh unto the Father but by me.*’ He is the only way into the presence of God now and into the paradise of heaven after.

**Jesus Christ is the Way Through:** Do you need someone who will take you through the uncertainty of life ? Someone who will be with you in the storms and valleys. The Lord Jesus will take you through.

**Jesus Christ is the Way Up:** Up to the Father, up to the Glory. An old country preacher said, ‘ *Jesus Christ is the escalator to heaven.*’ (1)

## (2) CHRIST is the TRUTH: So we can be SURE

Christ says, ‘ *I am the truth.*’ Do you recall Pilate’s question ? ‘ *What is truth ?*’ ( 18:38 ) Christ says, “ *I am*

*the truth.*” He sums up all that is eternal and absolute in Himself. The Lord Jesus reveals God and exposes man.

“ *In him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily.*” Paul says “ *in whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.*” ( Col 2:3, 9 ) In writing to the Corinthian church he refers to the Lord as “ *Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.*” ( 1 Cor 1:24 ) My .... to know Christ is to know enough to take you to heaven. Do you know Him ? What good will it do you in hell, to know that you have mastered the sciences of men ? What good will it do you in hell to know that you were well acquainted with the events of history. What good will it do in a lost eternity to know that you were versed in the languages of men, that you were well-informed in the politics of the day ?

How you will wish on that day that you read your newspaper less and your Bible more, that with all your learning, you trusted Christ who is ‘ *the truth.*’ Did you know that I had a teacher in secular school who was a most dogmatic and narrow-minded person ? She absolutely insisted “ *that two plus two equals four.*” It did not matter any difference to her what you had two of, whether it was apples, oranges or whatever. “ *Two plus two equals four.*” I mean teachers are so dogmatic about it are they not ? Now the Lord Jesus was dogmatic, He says “ *I am the truth.*” Now truth is always exclusive, always dogmatic, and always intolerant of non-truth. Otherwise it would not be truth, eternal and absolute. It does not matter whether the truth is a mathematical truth, a scientific truth, or, as here a spiritual truth. Now since Jesus Christ is the truth, He excludes all error, no matter how popular, how

clever, how widespread it may be. He says, ‘ *no man cometh unto the Father but by Me.*’ My .... because He is the Truth we can know assurance, why,

**(a) THE PERSON CHRIST IS MAKES ME SURE:**

You see, if our Lord was using this term in its Hebrew sense, He probably meant that as the way, He is utterly reliable and trustworthy. You see, you can be on the road between two places and yet that road be treacherous. Some years ago the great Ohio bridge looked safe one Friday morning when the crowds were crossing it, but without warning it gave way. Or a road can be reliable as far as it goes, but may stop short of your desired destination. But my .... in contrast to these ways the Lord Jesus is utterly reliable and trustworthy. *Are you hesitant to trust Christ ? Are you fearful that He will not be able to save and keep you ?* Listen, if you come to Him by faith you’ll discover He will never give you up, He will never let you down, He will never write you off because of who He is. (a)

**(b) THE PROMISE CHRIST GIVES MAKES ME SURE:**

Indeed He himself said, “ *Thy Word is truth.*” ( 17:17 ) Now remember what Christ says is true for He is the truth. Do you know what He says ? He says, “ *he that heareth My Word and believeth on Him that sent me hath everlasting life and shall not come into condemnation but is passed from death unto life.*” ( 5:25 ) He says, “ *I give unto my sheep eternal life and they shall never perish*

*neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.*”

( 10:28 ) My .... it’s the Blood of the Lamb that makes us perfectly safe, but it’ the Word of the Lord that makes us perfectly sure. Now does the Lord Jesus speak the truth ? Of course He does. He is the truth. Then away, with your doubts, fears, and uncertainties. My .... if you come by faith to Christ you are as sure of Heaven as if you were there. (1) (2)

**(3) CHRIST is the LIFE: So we can be SATISFIED**

For Christ says, ‘ *I am the life.*’ Now John at the beginning of his Gospel says that Christ is the source of all life. “ *In him was life.*” ( 1:4 ) But Christ is saying something more than that there, for throughout the gospel He claims to be and to have the power to impart eternal life. I want to tell you that we can be satisfied with nothing less than this life, a full-orbed, vibrant, happy life down here, and then eternal life over there. My .... was this not Solomon's great quest ? What he wanted was life, life more abundant. He discovered what you’ve discovered that the world can offer many pleasures and pursuits but it cannot satisfy and it cannot offer this life. You see, this is,,

**(a) A NEW QUALITY OF LIFE:**

For the person who believes on Christ becomes a ‘ *partaker of the divine nature,*’ ( 2 Pet 1:4 ) has the very life of God within his soul. And in a word this will mean fellowship, love, joy, peace, satisfaction, life which is different in quality from that which marks this present

age. Some years ago, someone reported that the British entertainer, Tony Hancock, who had performed before millions, committed suicide in Australia, leaving a note saying, ‘ *true happiness is impossible to find.*’ How tragic that he didn’t know the Saviour. For Christ gives (a)

***(b) A NEW QUANTITY OF LIFE:***

John calls it ‘ *everlasting life,*’ ( 3:16 ) My .... the body may crumble in the dust of death, but life, this life, eternal life is not lost, it outlasts the span of human life, it is not tied to time, and it is for ever. My .... do you have this life ? If death were to knock at your door this ....., would you enter into the fullness of this life which is heaven ? Or would enter into the darkness of hell forever ? My .... *you may go to heaven without wealth, without health, without fame, without a name, without learning, without big earnings, without duty and without beauty, but you’ll never go to heaven without Christ.* (1) (2) (3) My .... the Lord Jesus presents Himself to you this .... *as The Way without which there is no going, as The Truth without which there is no knowing, as The Life without which there is no living.* Come to Christ. Believe in Christ. Live through Christ.

James Merritt tells the true story of Leo Winters, a brilliant Chicago surgeon. One night the phone rang at 1:00 am in the morning. It was the hospital telling him that a young boy had been tragically mangled in a car accident. Dr. Winter’s hands were probably the only ones in the city skilled enough to save that boy’s life. He got on his clothes, jumped into his car and the decided the

quickest route to the hospital would be to drive through a dangerous neighbourhood, but since time was critical, he decided to take the risk. He came to traffic lights and when he did, a man in a gray hat and a dirty flannel shirt, opened the door, pulled him out of his seat, and screamed, ‘ ***Give me your car.***’ *The doctor tried to explain that he was on an emergency call, but the thief refused to listen. He threw the doctor out of the car, jumped in and sped off.* The doctor wandered for more than forty five minutes looking for a phone so that he could call a taxi. When he finally got to the hospital more than an hour had passed. He ran through the hospital doors, up the stairs, to the nurse’s station. The nurse on duty looked at him and shook her head and said ‘ ***Doctor I am sorry but you are too late. The boy died about thirty minutes ago. His father is in the church if you want to see him. He is awfully upset, because he could not understand why you didn’t come to help.***’

Doctor Winter’s walked quickly downed the hallway and entered into that church. Weeping at the front of that building was a man dressed in a dirty flannel shirt and gray hat, whose eyes were blinded by tears. *The boy’s father looked up at the doctor in horror and realized his tragic mistake.* He had foolishly pushed away the only man in that city who could have saved his son. My .... do you realize that there is only one person who can save your soul, satisfy your heart and secure your eternity. My .... *the Lord Jesus is the way take Him, He is the truth, try Him, He is the life trust Him. Then you will not only know the way to heaven, you will be on it.*

