

# I Am THE...

John 14:6



## Rock Hill Baptist Church

605 Rock Hill Road  
Lexington, Tennessee 38351

Brother David Buffaloe  
731-845-6104

online at [bibleteacher.org](http://bibleteacher.org)

**FOCAL Read Responsively** John 14:6, 7, 9, 12-14, 16-19 KJV<sup>1</sup> Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me. {7} **If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also: and from henceforth ye know him, and have seen him.** {9} ... he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, **Show us the Father?** {12} Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater [works] than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father. {13} **And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.** {14} **If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do [it].** {16} And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever; {17} **Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.** {18} I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you. {19} **Yet a little while, and the world seeth me no more; but ye see me: because I live, ye shall live also.**

Though many consider the United States to be a *Christian* nation, you wouldn't know it by looking at the news reports. In a recent *Breakpoint* article<sup>2</sup> I read:

**"In a Texas classroom, children were told to draw a tracing of their foot, and then put a message on the drawing. One little girl wrote "Jesus Loves Me" on hers. What happened next shows the abysmal state of**

<sup>1</sup> all texts are King James Version, unless otherwise noted

<sup>2</sup> Breakpoint, *Christmas Smackdown, Is Your Child Ashamed Of His Faith?*

religious tolerance in America. As Fox news anchor John Gibson relates in his new book, *The War on Christmas*, the child's teacher ripped the tracing off the board. "Don't you ever do this again," she said. The little girl burst into tears. When her outraged father called the school, nervous officials told the child to make another tracing. She did so -- but this time, instead of scrawling "Jesus Loves Me," she drew a tiny cross that was so small it was almost invisible. This little girl had learned her lesson well. Her Christian faith was something shameful--and she should keep it to herself."

Who do we blame in this? Do we blame the schools, the government, American society? Or do we blame *ourselves*. You see, Jesus Christ said of His Church:

**Matthew 5:13-16** **Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his [saltiness], wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men. {14} Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. {15} Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. {16} Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.**

No one can read the Scripture and believe that the

unsaved *will be unsaved*, the lost *will be lost*. Jesus calls those who believe in Him to recognize that *He is exclusively the Savior and Lord*, and that we who believe in Him *must follow Him*. As we who believe follow Christ we have an effect on our world, on our friends, on our family, and on our country. If we do not follow Jesus, and uphold that which He stands for, then the Light that is Christ will dim in this country even further.

And our children will suffer for it!

In our focal text today Jesus makes three powerful and exclusive claims about Himself. Let's look at these claims.

### **1. Jesus Christ Is The Only Path To God**

**FOCAL** John 14:6 KJV Jesus saith unto him, **I am the way** ...

The Lord Jesus Christ claims to be the Way, the *only path* to God the Creator of all life. He did not say a way, but He said the Way. Now this is the height of *arrogance*, or it is the plain truth. Some have claimed that the Apostles *exaggerated* what Jesus said, wanting to show Jesus in a perfect light. Yet this makes no sense. Who would long to suffer and die a terrible death for the sake of etiquette? Who would long to be tossed in a sack with wild dogs, or be fed alive to ravenous lions, or be horribly mutilated in the Roman Coliseum for the pleasure of the unbelieving masses in order to maintain a lie? No one would be this mad!

The Apostles and the early Church not only stood by, but preached the *exclusive pathway to salvation that is Christ*. Jesus said **I am the Way**, and the early Church signed an *affidavit* testifying to the fact that He said this *with their own blood*.

Some were burned alive at the stake, others torn apart by horses running in different directions, others beheaded, and yet they stood by these words. Jesus **said I Am The Way**. Those who would dispute this are fools, ignorant of Church history, ignorant of the red river called "Martyr" that ran from the very foundation of our faith. Jesus died for the Church, the early Church died standing up for Him. He said **I am the Way**. Believe it!

Now that we have established the fact that Jesus said this, that He made an exclusive claim of being the only Pathway to God, let's examine the statement without any doubt. Jesus said:

**FOCAL** John 14:7 **If ye had known<sup>3</sup> me, ye should have known my Father also: and from henceforth ye know him, and have seen him.**

Until a person *knows* Jesus, that person *cannot* know the Father. The word *know* here means not just to know in a passing sense, but to have *intimate knowledge of*. The beginning of *knowing God* comes the day that you put

<sup>3</sup> G1097, γινώσκω, ginōskō, *ghin-ocē'-ko*, A prolonged form of a primary verb; to "know" (absolutely), in a great variety of applications and with many implications (as shown at left, with others not thus clearly expressed): - allow, be aware (of), feel, (have) known (-ledge), perceive, be resolved, can speak, be sure, understand. (Strong's Hebrew and Greek Dictionaries)

aside all other means, all other methods, all other approaches to salvation, and step on that *narrow pathway to God which is Jesus Christ*.

Though Thomas had followed Jesus for three years, though he had sat at the Master's feet and heard Him teach and preach, though he saw the Master eat and ate with Him, and perhaps even lay down to sleep with Jesus, *yet he did not know Jesus*. Jesus said **if you had known Me, intimately known Me, deep down knew Who I was, then you would have known the Father**. Thomas didn't know God the Father because he still didn't *know* God the Son. That word **know** in the Greek means **to know by experience**. Thomas knew Jesus externally, for he had followed Jesus faithfully. But it was not until Jesus came to Thomas following the resurrection and said,

**John 20:27-28 ... Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side: and be not faithless, but believing. (28) And Thomas answered and said unto him, My Lord and my God.**

Salvation does not come to the half hearted. You cannot get to God without trusting that *singular Pathway that is Jesus*.

Your eyes must stay on that Path if you will see God.

Jesus went on to tell *Philip*:

**FOCAL** John 14:9 ... **he that hath seen me hath seen the Father**; and how sayest thou then, **Show us the Father?**

It is *impossible* for anyone to *see God* apart from God the Son. The Bible tells us that even Moses, the greatest prophet who ever lived, could not *see God and live*. To look on God apart from the Pathway of God (Jesus) is to die. God spoke to Moses out of a burning bush (**Exodus 3:4**). But Moses *could not see God and live*. God told him:

Exodus 33:20-23 ... **Thou canst not see my face: for there shall no man see me, and live.** (21) And the LORD said, Behold, there is a place by me, and thou shalt stand upon a rock: (22) And it shall come to pass, while my glory passeth by, that I will put thee in a cleft of the rock, and will cover thee with my hand while I pass by: (23) And I will take away mine hand, and thou shalt see my back parts: but my face shall not be seen.

**Illustrate** I remember as a young boy waiting for my first eclipse of the sun. My parents gave me a dark piece of smoked glass to watch the eclipse with, but warned me that I needed to make sure I *watched the eclipse through that glass*. If I looked directly at the eclipse it could damage my eyes. How wonderful to watch the eclipse that day! The glass made it possible.

I grew up, and one day became a welder in a sign shop. We made so many signs, and it was my job to weld the chassis of the signs. I remember when I was being taught to weld to make sure I looked at the job through the dark lenses of the welder's helmet. There were a few times I inadvertently "flashed" my eyes. You see, in order to start the weld you have to get the metal and the rod at the right angle one from another, and you do that by *striking* the rod on the metal. Sometimes when I was positioning the rod I'd accidentally touch the metal before the mask was over my eyes. Oh, how that burned! Just a moment, and I saw spots and had a headache afterwards. You have to look at the brightness of the arc through the glasses.

In the same way, you *cannot* see the Father unless you look at Him through the Son.

You cannot be saved from certain judgment *unless* you put the feet of faith on that Pathway called Christ.

In the *very first sermon* ever preached in the Church Peter said:

**Acts 2:21 ... whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.**

Don't you mean, Peter, "Whoever is good will be saved?" No! The Bible clearly tells us that the *only Path to God is Jesus Christ, not my goodness*. You may be a good person, you may be a kind person, you may be a sweet

person, you may be a *churched* person, but unless you are on that Path to Heaven *called Jesus Christ* then you are a lost person.

**Illustrate** When our children were young we used to go camping quite often, and when we did we often went hiking. I never liked hiking along the standard trails, the well worn paths, but often took my family off the beaten trail to see what we could see. But we *never* went off the trail without a *compass*, and we always read the compass *before* we went into the bush. A compass is like a path, for the *black end of the compass needle* points to the *magnetic north* of the earth. If I looked at that compass before walking into the bush with my family, then I only needed to follow the *reverse of that compass* to return to the place where I started. If you have been saved, then you were saved by *calling on the name of Jesus*. He is your path to God, the *only Way to the Father*. You understood what the Scripture teaches, that Jesus Christ is

Acts 4:11-12 ... the head of the corner. (12) **Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.**

If you are saved, you were saved not by your own works, but by no other pathway but Jesus Christ. You believed on Him, and trusted that Word which says

Romans 10:13 **For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.**

The One Whom you believed in for salvation is the *same One Who continues to guide you in this life*. Jesus Christ is our *Magnetic North*. He is our Compass to the Father.

## 2. Jesus Christ Is The Power Of Truth

**FOCAL** John 14:6 **Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth<sup>4</sup>**

Have you been saved, but wandered away from God? Then you need to realize that Jesus Christ is truly your Compass, the Only Truth by which you can live. Listen Beloved, truth *apart from Christ is only a lie*.

Consider the Pharisees. Were these *truthful* people? Did they know the Scriptures? Didn't they, for the most part, practice what they said? Yes, there were many who fell into hypocrisy, but they were for the most part a truthful people.

The Pharisees had *good intentions* - but good intentions apart from Jesus and truth apart from Jesus will, in time, fester into confusion and self righteousness, dissatisfaction and grumbling.

The Pharisees were *never satisfied*, for they alleviated their own feelings of failure by pointing to the failures of others. When John the Baptist first saw the Pharisees and Sadducees he said:

<sup>4</sup> G225, ἀλήθεια, alētheia, *al-ay'-thi-a*, From G227; *truth*: - true, X truly, truth, verity., (Strong's Hebrew and Greek Dictionaries)

**Matthew 3:7 KJVR ... O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come?**

These people had the Truth, but *wielded it apart from Christ Jesus*. Truth apart from Jesus only yields poisonous snakes! Jesus Christ acknowledged that the Pharisees and scribes *had righteousness*, but their righteousness, their truth, was *insufficient for God*. Jesus said:

**Matthew 5:20 ... [unless] your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.**

Jesus did not call out a people unto Himself who would merely profess Him as Savior. He called out a people unto Himself who were to *live their lives in Him*. The Pharisees tried to be true without The Truth in their lives. Because they accepted truth *apart from Jesus*, in time they came to *hate Jesus*. They began to say that Jesus was in league with the devil. They said

**Matthew 9:34 ... He casteth out devils through the prince of the devils.**

When Jesus healed a man on the Sabbath, the Bible says that this so infuriated those who lived by truth *apart from Christ* that

**Matthew 12:14 [they] went out, and held a council against him, how they might destroy him.**

Truth apart from Jesus will degrade to the basest of things, even to conspiracies of murder.

**Illustrate** You can photocopy a dollar and try to spend it, but that dollar is counterfeit, without value. Why? Because the dollar was not issued by the United States Government. It is a *copy* with no backing, no power, no justification, no validity. In the same way truth apart from Jesus has no value. Jesus Christ is the Government who gives value to the coin of marriage, the coin of relationships, the coin of morality, the coin of integrity, the coin of truth. He is The Truth, the foundation for all Truth. To insure that we who believe remain on the pathway of Truth that is Christ our Lord Jesus sent a Personal Representative to *live inside all who believe*. We read:

**FOCAL** John 14:16-18 And **I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever;** (17) **Even the Spirit of truth;** whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for **he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.** (18) **I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to**

**you.**

The Holy Spirit is *Christ's Representative* Who lives inside of every Christian. It is He Who is inside You, processing the information that you hear in the message today.

Oh Beloved, how often this preacher would have thrown his hands up in defeat if it were not for that Precious Spirit! How often have I preached and seen the wandering gaze, the pragmatism of this age. How often does every preacher experience those who pay no attention to the message, though in it be the very words of life! And yet, we continue to hope. Not because of the people, but because of the Spirit Who dwells in those who believe.

If you belong to Jesus, if you have called on Him for salvation, the Spirit of Truth dwells in you. Praise God for this promise! It is precious to me on a personal level. How many times have I failed my Master, have I fallen short of His goal, have I stood defeated before Him. How many times have I cried out,

**Holy Lord, I have sinned times without number, and been guilty of pride and unbelief, of failure to find Thy mind in Thy Word, of neglect to seek Thee in my daily life. My transgressions and short-comings present me with a list of accusations, but I bless Thee that they will not stand against me, for all have been laid on Christ. Go on to subdue my corruptions, and grant me grace to live above them. Let not the**

**passions of the flesh nor lustings of the mind bring my spirit into subjection, but do Thou rule over me in liberty and power.**

**I thank Thee that many of my prayers have been refused. I have asked amiss and do not have, I have prayed from lusts and been rejected, I have longed for Egypt and been given a wilderness. Go on with Thy patient work, answering 'no' to my wrongful prayers, and fitting me to accept it. Purge me from every false desire, every base aspiration, everything contrary to Thy rule. I thank Thee for Thy wisdom and Thy love, for all the acts of discipline to which I am subject, for sometimes putting me into the furnace to refine my gold and remove my dross<sup>5</sup>.**

Jesus Christ puts all things into perspective through His Precious Spirit. He is **The Truth**, and to insure that we who believe in Him remain in **The Truth** He has sent **The Spirit of Truth, Whom the World cannot receive, to live in us**. The Truth lives in the believer. God is in us! Though the Scripture is precious, we do not take that Truth *apart from the Spirit of Christ*.

The Truth *must* be applied, else we are no more than Scribes and Pharisees. Each and every one of us on hearing the Word ask, **how does this apply to me?**

**Precious Spirit, teach me to use this truth! How would Jesus apply this truth in my life, and in the lives of those around me?**

<sup>5</sup> from *The Valley of Vision*, a collection of Puritan Prayers

You who believe were given the **Spirit of Truth** so you could grow to be more like Jesus Christ, The Truth. You were not given the Spirit of Truth so you could find fault with others, but so you could focus on Him while He purges the dross from your life.

Unless God empower the Truth, it has no value. Unless we live like Jesus *in that truth*, what we profess has no value. It is impossible to *possess the Truth apart from the Way*. Both are bound into Jesus. Truth apart from the Way is not truth at all, but a mere pretender to truth. When Jesus said:

**John 12:31 Now is the judgment of this world: now shall the prince of this world be cast out.**

He spoke these words over a people who would not merely *profess* to know Him, but over a people who would be *indwelt by Him*. The Chinese preacher **Watchman Nee** said:

**"... with [Christ's] springing up once more to life there will come into being a new reign of righteousness, one that is marked by a free allegiance of men to Him. With cords of love their hearts will be drawn away from a world under judgment to Jesus the Son of man, Who though lifted up to die, is by that very act lifted up to reign"<sup>6</sup>**

If Jesus Christ is yours, then you *must live in Him*. You must not only live in Him, but He must *live through you*.

Only then is the Prince of this world cast out. The truth *must be modeled* to a lost and dying world, else the world will *continue to be* lost and dying! What did Jesus expect of His Church, of those He would indwell through the Precious Spirit? Look at His words:

**FOCAL** John 14:12-14 Verily, verily, I say unto you, **He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater [works] than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.** {13} And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. {14} If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do [it].

Jesus Christ expects those who believe in Him to **do the works that He did**, and not only that, to **do greater works than He did!** This is impressive! Jesus, HOW do I do greater works than You did? Let's count off:

- 1** I live the Truth by walking the same Way all the time. I do what Jesus did, and if He didn't do it, I DON'T do it!
- 2** I do not merely SPEAK the Truth, I LIVE the Truth in my daily life. I have no power over what you do, but I control what I do.
- 3** My relationship with Jesus is between MYSELF and JESUS. I stop being pragmatic, looking at everyone else, and do what Jesus bids me do.

<sup>6</sup> Watchman Nee, "Love Not The World"

**4** I recognize that I am in partnership with God the Holy Spirit, with God the Son, and with God the Father. God the Holy Spirit indwells me to empower me, and has written the Word by which I live. God the Son intercedes for me at the right hand of God the Father, and promises **if you ask anything in My Name, I will do it.** God the Father oversees all I do, and is in control of all things.

When the individual believer lives for the glory of God, then God *is* glorified - period! Jesus Christ expected that those who believed in Him would succeed in casting down the Prince of Darkness. Jesus taught that those who believed in Him would *have power* over the darkness in their lives.

Like candles, we are to burn brightly in this present evil age. Christians should stand apart from the world, while at the same time showing the world that the Truth we believe in is life changing.

And it IS life changing. God is in you, if you have believed in Christ. Turn fully to Him.

### **3. If Jesus Is In You, You Have Proof of Life**

**FOCAL** John 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, **I am the way, the truth, and the life:** no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

Jesus Christ is **The Life**, there is no other life apart from Him. Those who live their lives apart from Jesus may be

animated. They may have families, they may have husbands, wives, children, grandchildren, jobs, friends, yet they have no life. Jesus Christ said **I am The Life.** Not *a way of life*, but **The Life.** The great preacher **C.H. Spurgeon** wrote in 1856<sup>7</sup>:

**You can scarcely meet with a man who does not call himself a Christian, and yet it is equally hard to meet with one who is in the very marrow of his bones thoroughly sanctified to the good work of the kingdom of heaven. We meet with professors by hundreds; but we must expect still to meet with possessors by units. The whole nation appears to have been Christianized in an hour. But is this real? Is this sincere? Ah! we fear not. How is it that professors can live like other men? How is it that there is so little distinction between the church and the world? Or, that if there is any difference, you are frequently safer in dealing with an ungodly man than with one who is professedly righteous? How is it that men who make high professions can live in worldly conformity, indulge in the same pleasures, live in the same style, act from the same motives, deal in the same manner as other do? Are not these days when the sons of God have made affinity with the sons of men? And may we not fear that something terrible may yet occur unless God shall send a voice, which shall say, "Come out of them, my people, lest ye be partakers of their plagues?"**

If Jesus is in you, then Life is in you. No, not mere *life*,

<sup>7</sup> A Sermon (No. 68) Delivered on Sabbath Morning, February 24, 1856, by the REV. C. H. Spurgeon At New Park Street Chapel, Southwark. *A Solemn Warning For All Churches.*

but The Life. Jesus tells us:

**FOCAL** John 14:19 Yet a little while, and **the world seeth me no more; but ye see me: because I live, ye shall live also.**

If you are in Jesus, and Jesus is in you, you see Jesus. Life can see life. The corpse in the casket cannot see with dead eyes those living gathered around it. The corpse possesses no life - the house is empty, the soul has departed. The dead cannot see the living, but the living can see the dead.

The world saw Jesus while He walked and talked among them, but the world lost sight of Jesus when He ascended unto Heaven. For the world Jesus is no more than mere man, albeit a good man. When Jesus was gone into glory the world looked around for a Mohammad, or a Joseph Smith, or a Charles Taz Russell, or a Dalai Lama, or Hare Krishna, or a Buddha, or something else to follow. The world **saw** Jesus while it pleased the world, while He was healing people, while He told great stories and made great news. But once Jesus died, rose again, and ascended to the Father, the **world seeth Him no more.**

This is not true for the Christian. Jesus said, **because I live, you shall live also.** Life is in Jesus, for Jesus IS God. **P.T. Forsyth** said:

**"Unless there is within us that which is above us, we shall soon yield to that which is about us."**

**Illustrate** If Jesus Christ is in you, you *have* life, for He

*is* life. Has He not said **I am the Way, the Truth, and The Life?** Hasn't Jesus promised **"I will never leave thee nor forsake thee" (Hebrews 13:5)**? If He is in you, then Life is in you. You see Him still. Not as the world sees Him, only at convenient times, but at all times. The Christian is not like those who use Jesus like a medicine cabinet. We do not go to the Cabinet and get a dose of Jesus when we're lonely, hurt, nearing death, sad, or just bored. This is what the world does. A calamity comes and the United States has *a day of prayer*. A loved one nears death and the unbeliever becomes faithful to the Chapel. Let the doctor tell him that death comes, and the most lazy Church goer becomes a saint. This is the way of the world. Like the Biblical account of the **ten lepers of Luke 17:17**, only the **saved person** turns back, and with a loud voice glorified God, falling down on his face and giving thanks (**Luke 17:15-16**). The other nine of those who *profess* continue on with their lives, forgetting Jesus until the next trouble comes their way. Listen Beloved, this is unnatural behavior. Those who belong to Jesus *are alive*, because Jesus Christ is **the Way, the Truth, and the Life**. A saw only cuts in one direction, and those who are saved live in only one direction. That direction is Jesus.

I pray that God has touched your hearts with these words.