

# “Christianity **IS** The ONLY Way of God?”

**Text: John 14:6**

## **Introduction**

- A. Today in the world that we live in, we find multiple beliefs and religions all claiming to be the only way to God. What the world needs is the truth to help them find the ONLY TRUE WAY to God. What we will do this morning is to review some of these beliefs and compare these to the TRUTH that God has given us.
- B. We will use the following truths as our beginning:
1. The Bible **is** the word of God, the only inspired, infallible book of God. Here we learn the will of God.
    - a. Only those who do the will of God will enter heaven - *Matthew 7:21*
  2. Jesus Christ **is** the unique, only begotten Son of God and our Savior and Lord. We receive salvation through his sacrifice and our obedience to him.
    - a. Salvation is only found in Jesus - *Acts 4:12*
  3. The church **is** the people of God, the spiritual body of Christ. The saved must serve the Lord in his body, the church.
    - a. The church belongs to Christ - *Matthew 16:18*
    - b. Must be in the church to be saved -- *Ephesians 3:21*
- C. All this leads us to conclude that Christianity **is** the way of God!
1. Do you know the way?” we’re often asked – that is, the way to a certain place, or the way to do something right.
  2. By definition, “way” is “*the course traveled to a destination*” (how to get somewhere) or “*the means of accomplishing an objective*” (how to do something)
  3. Often, in ordinary matters of life, there are many, or at least a few, ways to get somewhere, or ways to do a task.
  4. There are legitimate choices. In the matter of serving God, there is but one way: (*John 14:6*)
    - a. We find Him through his word
    - b. We are saved by him through his sacrifice
    - c. We serve him through his body, the church
    - d. These are all elements of New Testament Christianity which is the way of God.
- D. Unfortunately, we live in a world that is complicated by alternative choices to the way of God.
  - a. A way that seems right to man leads to death - *Proverbs 14:12*
  - b. The gate and path that leads to eternal life is narrow - *Matthew 7:13-14*

**I. Ways of the World (Some paths people choose and the means that they use, which *do not lead to God.*)**

### A. In the *Secular* Realm...

1. Humanism – A way of life centered on human interests and values. A pursuit that rejects the supernatural and divine, claiming that man is the highest being and the pursuit of one’s happiness is the highest ideal. Nothing is out of bounds, if no bounds...
  - a. They did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God – ***Romans 1:28***
2. Philosophy – Love of wisdom and learning. In comparison to Christianity, the pursuit of understanding life apart from God’s guidance. Salvation through wisdom.
  - a. A philosophy that is deceptive – ***Colossians 2:8***
  - b. Someone described the hope of succeeding through philosophy as a blind man in pitch dark searching a deep cave for a black cat which isn’t there. Hopeless....
3. Political pride – Feeling that the hope of the country and maybe the world hangs on “the right party” being in power. Some things probably do, but.....
  - a. God hasn’t endorsed any human party or its platform.
  - b. The Lord’s kingdom is not of this world - ***John 18:36***.

### B. In the Religious Realm...

1. Major World Religions – Widely recognized and acclaimed organized groups which do not remotely resemble the religion of the Bible. Some think God is to be equated with nature, worshiping the creature more than the creator.
2. Division
  - a. Jesus prayed that there would be no division -- ***John 17:20-21***
  - b. God did not create the chaos that is practiced in the name of Christianity, the sad state of denominationalism.
  - c. There’s one for whatever you like or want to be...
  - d. The body of Christ is not to be divided (***1 Corinthians 1:10***).
  - e. Union and *unity* are not the same – unity is oneness.
  - f. You may tie two cats together by the tail and toss them over a clothesline. That may be union, but not unity!
  - g. The church of the New Testament is **undenominational** in character and practice.
  - h. Restored N.T. Christianity works toward unity based on biblical truth.
  - i. It is a beautiful thing when churches of Christ cooperate
  - j. Good and pleasant to live in unity - ***Psalms 133:1***

## II. Christianity, the Way of God (Not one among many, or even a few, but *the* way of God.)

### A. Consider a few definitions (online dictionary and in light of Scripture):

1. “*Christian*”. “*One who practices beliefs in the teachings of Jesus Christ...*”
  - a. ***Acts 11:26*** “*The disciples were called Christians first at Antioch.*”
  - b. “*Called*” is a verb used only of divine action in the New Testament.
  - c. Thus God chose to call followers of Jesus Christ— Christians.

- d. See also *Acts 26:28; 1 Pet. 4:16*.
  - e. One who belongs to and follows Jesus, the Christ.
  - f. No other brand names necessary; they detract from Christ and divide his followers.
  - g. What kind of Christian? “*Just a Christian.*”
  - 2. “*Christianity*”. “*The religion derived from Jesus Christ, based on the Bible...*”
    - a. The practice of following the teachings of Jesus Christ.
    - b. Biblically, the simple term “*the way,*” is used in reference to Christianity:
      - 1) Paul found those who belonged to the Way - *Acts 9:12*
      - 2) Paul a follower of the Way -- *Acts 24:14*
      - 3) We know they are referring to what we call Christianity.
  - 3. Since the “*way*” is the path taken or the course of action taken, it is indeed the practice of New Testament Christianity.
- B. Christianity is a way of—**
- 1. **Truth** (*2 Peter 2:2*) Ways of *deception* and error may be well intended, but still lead to eternal loss. One may be honestly mistaken and sincerely wrong.
    - a. The truth shall set you free - *John 8:32*
    - b. Truth has nothing to fear from examination.
  - 2. **Worship.**
    - a. In Spirit and Truth - *John 4:24*
    - b. *Colossians 3:17* “... *do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus*” (by his authority)
  - 3. **Service**
    - a. Not to be served but to serve - *Matthew 20:28*
    - b. People will not care how much we know unless they know how much we care. Let us reach out to people in need and find teachable moments.
  - 4. **Love**
    - a. *John 13:35* By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”
    - b. Love must be our badge of discipleship. No amount of show or talk will substitute for brotherly love. We are to be Christians every minute of every day.

## Conclusion

- A. Yes, Christianity **IS** the only way to God – in obedience to His will – allowing Jesus Christ to be our light to the path that He has chosen for us to get back to God.
- B. Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way? Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me. *John 14:5- 6*
- C. Don’t we love it when someone says, “Come with me. I’ll take you there.”