

One of the many truths, I never grow tired of teaching is, that Christ is all things to His people—all that they need is found in Him—in Him everything we need to be right with God, walk with God, and live with God forever, are found—though life may bring many ups, downs, and unknowns—all that we will ever need is found in Christ—in Him we are complete...

This is the essence of what our Savior tells His disciples in these verses—regardless what comes your way—"I AM the way, the truth, and the life"—everything you need, you find fully and freely in Me—I am all you need...

Our Savior was on the verge of leaving His disciples—He has reminded them (in vv1-3), that His departure will be good for them—He leaves to prepare a place for them in His Father's House—when this is completed, He will return for them—He's going to secure the salvation of His elect, and when the last one is saved, He will return...

And yet, the disciples remain ignorant—they continue to think of His leaving, as merely relocating to another town or city—in the verses before us (vv4-6), our Savior speaks plainly to ensure them—they do in fact, truly know the way...

- I. The Ignorance of Thomas
- II. The Response of Jesus
- III. Summary Lessons

#### I. The Ignorance of Thomas

1. Having told His disciples He is leaving to prepare a place for them, He then says, v4—"And where I go you know, and the way you know..."
2. That is—because you are My disciples, and thus true Christians, you know, in some sense, what I am saying...
3. Now, it is very true that they misunderstand much of what He was saying—but, they were not totally ignorant...
4. Brethren, these words of our Savior are amazing—"And where I go you know, and the way you know"—that is, they had some understanding of heaven and they had some understanding that Christ would get them there...
5. V5—"Thomas said to Him, 'Lord, we do not know where You are going, and how can we know the way'..."
6. The disciples continued to think our Savior was merely relocating, as if He was moving to another location...
7. If we don't know where you are going, then how can we know how to get there—we will be unable to follow You...
8. Thus, as was common throughout His ministry, the disciples continued to misunderstand much of what He taught...
9. And yet, our Savior pushes back and reminds His disciples, that though they misunderstood much, they also know much (more than they actually knew)...
10. [a] Christians remain ignorant in part—I continue to find encouragement from these partially ignorant disciples...
11. I mentioned a few weeks ago, the ignorance of the apostles was unique in that they were too close to the historical acts to see them...
12. Furthermore, after the gift of the Spirit, they would be enabled to look back and understand these events properly...
13. But—brethren, this does nothing to remove the fact—these men were constantly unclear on what our Savior said...
14. Some of us here this morning have been taught the same truths over and over again, and we still barely get it...

15. And yet, I suggest that the remaining ignorance of Thomas, and the other disciples, provides a measure of encouragement...
16. All of us see very simply, and even those of us, who've had the best teachers, still know very little of what we should...
17. We have the best books on our book shelves—we have access to all many of free instruction on the internet...
18. Brethren—all of us should be much further down the road than we presently are—we all should be humbled...
19. But then, Thomas also instructs us what we should do about our remaining ignorance—confess it to Christ Himself...
20. Tell Him openly and honestly that you don't know many things, and ask Him to graciously teach you by His word...
21. [b] Christians are not as ignorant as they think—I think this is an interesting, and rather important, application...
22. At times I have heard Christians, speak of themselves, as if they were more ignorant than in fact they were...
23. Thomas, and the other disciples, were not as ignorant as they thought—they knew more than they realized...
24. Let me illustrate this with my wife—it always amazes me how much she knows, without even knowing it....
25. She might not know all the theological terms, but she gets it—she understands far more than she may realize...
26. I think the same is true for many of you—you might not understand all the theological terms and distinctions...
27. But—you know more than you know—you know what's most important—you know the fundamental truth...
28. The disciples remained ignorant about many things, but they were very far from being ignorant about all things...
29. In fact, if the truth be told, they actually knew more than they didn't—though they couldn't explain it, they knew...
30. J.C Ryle—"The disciples knew far more than the great majority of the Jewish nation, and received truths which the Scribes and Pharisees entirely rejected. Compared to the world around them, they were in the highest sense enlightened. They knew and believed that their Master was the promised Messiah, the Son of the living God; and to know Him was the first step towards heaven. All things go by comparison. Before we lightly esteem the disciples because of their ignorance, let us take care that we do not underrate their knowledge. They knew more precious truth than they were aware of themselves. Their hearts were better than their heads..."
31. [c] Christ remains patient toward His ignorant disciples—this is an encouragement to every Christian present...
32. How does our Savior respond to foggy-minded disciples?—He overlooks it, and speaks in v6 with greater clarity...
33. It's almost as if He ignores Thomas' question, and instead responds by speaking in a more straightforward way...
34. And yet, notice, it was the ignorance of Thomas (and the other disciples), that prompted this amazing statement...

## II. The Response of Jesus

1. Our Savior's response in v6 is one of the most known verses in the Bible—most Christians can quote it from memory...
2. Now—I struggled with the best way to examine this verse—entire series of messages could never exhaust it...
3. Thus—I want to first of all, rather quickly, examine each part of this phrase, and then suggest several things about it...

4. [1] Christ is the way—that is, He is the way to God—He is the way back into the Garden—He is the way to heaven...
5. Thus, Christ is the way to be reconciled to God, to walk with God, obey and honor God, and live with God forever...
6. V6—"No one comes to the Father except through Me"—that is, the only WAY to God, is by or through Him...
7. Gen.3:24—"So He drove out the man; and He placed cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life..."
8. Because of man's sin he was banished from the garden (fellowship and communion with God)—the way to God was barred...
9. The flaming sword illustrated God's pure holiness and justice—man was barred from God because of his guilt and God's justice...
10. Thus, in order for man to have access to God, he needs someone to reopen this way—to deal with the flaming sword...
11. Zech.13:7—"Awake, O sword, against My Shepherd, Against the Man who is My Companion, says the LORD of hosts...."
12. This is a grand prophecy of Christ—notice, the Father describes Him as "the Man who is My companion..."
13. In other words—He will be a real Man and yet His equal—the word rendered "companion" means "fellow or relation (it refers to a kin or relative – to someone equal with you)..."
14. Heb.10:19-20—"Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh..."
15. I mentioned last week, that in the OC, once a year, the High Priest entered beyond the veil into the presence of God...
16. He entered with a basin full of blood, which he sprinkled on the mercyseat—he made a way to God for another year...
17. This of course was only a type and shadow of what Christ would do with His own blood as our High Priest...
18. He entered the Holiest with His own blood, thereby making "a new and living way" for us—into the presence of God...
19. Because of this—sinners now have access to the Holy of Holies, the very presence of God, through His blood...
20. Christ made a way to God—or, He is that way back to God—we only have access to God through His blood...
21. Thus, fundamental to Christ being "the way" is reconciliation—Christ is the way we are reconciled to God (He deal with our sin and God's wrath)...
22. This is likely the reason our Savior speaks of "the Father"—no person can come to God as Father except through Christ...
23. God outside of Christ is only a consuming fire to guilty sinners—He is merciful and gracious only in Christ...
24. [2] Christ is the truth—that is, all of the truth about God, man, salvation, and eternity—is all found in Him...
25. Thus, Christ is the truth in a twofold sense—[a] He is truth by way of revelation, [b] He is truth by way of fulfilment...
26. [a] He is the truth by way of revelation—that is, everything man needs to know to enter the way is found in Him...
27. He came as God's final Prophet—to tell us the truth about God, man, salvation, morality, and eternity—it's all in Him...
28. And thus all of the OT prophets, told the truth as they foretold Him, and the apostles told the truth and they told about Him...
29. But all of God's redemptive truth—every thing man needs to savingly know to be right with God is found in Him...
30. [b] He is the truth by way of fulfilment—that is, everything foretold by promise or type is fulfilled in Him...

31. He is the true light, the true bread, the true vine, the true rock, the true temple, the true shepherd, and the true lamb...
32. Now—this is very important to understand—there is objective truth—there is truth and there are lies and deception...
33. There is objective truth about God, man, salvation, morality, and eternity—and all of this truth is found in Christ...
34. Away with all of Satan's lies and man opinions—Christ is the Truth—in Him all that we need to know is revealed...
35. Again, man by nature doesn't want to accept this—what is true for you is your truth, and what's true for me is my truth...
36. But here our Savior affirms an important fact—there is absolute truth about God, man, morality, salvation, and eternity...
37. Man by nature, rejects the truth and believes a lie, Rom.1:25—"who exchanged the truth of God for the lie..."
38. The lie of atheism—that is, the lie that God does not exist—that man, evolved through a process of natural processes...
39. Rom.1:18—"For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness..."
40. My friends, this is a lie that has become very popular in this country—the lie that man was made in God's image...
41. The lie of relativism—relativism is the belief that truth is relative to one's context—it denies absolute truth...
42. Simply put—truth changes with generations—what was true yesterday, may not be true today, or tomorrow...
43. Truth is like plado—you can reshape it into anything you like—whatever the majority believes is the truth...
44. The lie of pantheism—pantheism is the belief that equates God with the created universe—as if creation is God...
45. Rom.1:25—"who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator..."
46. Many of the so-called Eastern Religions fall under this title of Pantheism—for example, Hinduism and Buddhism...
47. The lie of moralism—by moralism is meant—the belief that mere morality is enough for a person to go to heaven...
48. This, in many ways, is the lie of native man—this is our native religion—just do your best and things will work out...
49. The lie of universalism—that is, the lie that teaches every religion ultimately and finally ends in the same place...
50. This would be the lie taught by like Oprah—who basically believes all religions, regardless of their differences, end in the same place...
51. You can call your deity by various names—he may be Allah, God, Buddha, or simply some form of higher power...
52. But in contrast to all of these—Christ makes an amazing claim—I AM the truth—and ALL ELSE ARE LIES...
53. I alone reveal the Father—I alone fulfill all of the OT types and shadows—I alone am the embodiment of God's saving purposes...
54. [3] Christ is the life—that is, He is the source of all life and especially spiritual life—this life is only in Him...
55. Gen.3:24—"So He drove out the man; and He placed cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life..."
56. While I can not be dogmatic—it seems likely our Savior had this passage in mind—man believed a lie, forfeited access to the tree of life, and had the way to God barred...
57. Christ says—I am the way back into the Garden, I am the truth (as opposed to the lie), and I am the tree of life...

58. Jn.10:10—"I have come that they may have life, and that they may have *it* more abundantly"" Jn.11:25—"I am the resurrection and the life..."
59. But then the question might be asked—What exactly is meant by LIFE—well, the answer is simple—communion with God (now and forever)...
60. If you remember—the penalty of sin was death—when our first parents sinned they died as a penalty for that sin...
61. And how did that death look—they were banished from the tree of life—they were banished from fellowship with God...
62. Thus, spiritual life is nothing more than living with God—walking with God—fellowship with God through Christ...
63. V6—"No one comes to the Father except through Me"—that is, true life is had through Me, and entails fellowship with the Father...
64. To be reconciled with God, to love and have fellowship with God, this, and this alone, is true spiritual LIFE...
65. Jn.17:3—"And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent..."
66. Thus, spiritual life is to KNOW God—it's to walk with God—it's to fellowship and communion with God (now and for eternity)...
67. Thus, outside of Christ there is no true life, only death, spiritual and eternal life are found ONLY in Christ...
68. Now, before I go another further, let me suggest to you that these three way, truth, and life, are intimately related...
69. Christ is the way to the Father, because He is the truth (all of God's saving purposes end in Him), and He is the life (He gives spiritual and eternal life)...
70. Christ is the way to God, as He reveals truth about God, which ends in life, which is personal fellowship with God...

### III. Five Summary Facts about Verse 6

1. [1] He is the way, truth, and life exclusively—that is, He is the ONLY way, the ONLY truth, and the ONLY life...
2. If you notice, our Savior isn't merely "A" way, "A" truth, "A" life—He is "THE" way, "THE" truth, "THE" life...
3. That is—there is no other way to God, except through Him—He is the ONLY way a person returns to God...
4. Now, I know this is not popular today—but you know what, this truth has never been popular from the beginning...
5. It was in fact one of the reasons Christians were put to death throughout the Roman Empire, in the first few centuries...
6. The Romans were very content to allow Christianity to be added to the long list of Roman religions, that wasn't the problem...
7. The problem was—Christianity claimed to be the only TRUE religion—it claimed there was only one God and one way to God...
8. Throughout the book of Acts, Christianity is referred to as "the way"—this, because of its claim of exclusivity...
9. My friends, this is the whole point behind the great commission—the world must know about the truth of Christ...
10. What is the message the world needs to hear but v6—"I AM the way, the truth, the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me..."
11. [2] He is the way, truth, and life personally—"I AM the way, the truth, and the life"—these are all IN HIM...
12. Here, I want to point out—Christ Himself is the way, truth, and life—thus, we must come to Him personally...

13. Christ doesn't merely point to the way, truth, and life—He IS the way, truth and life—these are found in Him...
14. This is brought out in the phrase—"I AM"—as most of you know, this is the 6th I AM statement of our Savior...
15. I AM—it is divine title that points back to God's revelation of Himself to Moses at the burning bush—"I AM who I AM..."
16. Thus, our Savior does not merely testify about the way, truth, and life—He is Himself the way, truth, and life...
17. For example, do you remember what John the Baptist said—"I am not that light, but I have come to bear witness of the light..."
18. But what does our Savior say—"I AM the light of the world"—He does not merely point to the light, He is the light...
19. So what does this mean practically—well it means at least this—we must come to Christ Himself and not merely a truth about Christ..
20. Salvation is not found in ourselves, or any mere theological system—it is found solely in the person of Christ...
21. Thus, we learn, dear brethren—no man ever went heaven merely because he's come to believe certain truths...
22. Sometime I get the impression that certain people believe, we go to heaven because we believe the truth of Calvinism...
23. My dear friends, those great truths we commonly call Calvinism, are found throughout the whole of our Bible...
24. They are in fact a truth—but dear friends, they are not the way, the truth, and the life—they are not the way to God...
25. The only way to God is a PERSON—He is the Christ, the Godman—He is the only mediator between God and man...
26. V6—"I AM the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me"—through Christ Himself...
27. For example, think of two children lost in the forest at night—they are totally ignorant of the way out of the forest (they come across some campers who tell them the way—they merely point to the way but they are not the way)...
28. Now, think of the same two children trapped in the same forest on fire—they are surrounded by fire on all sides...
29. And then a fireman comes to their rescue—he braves the flames—and He picks them one by one, and carries them to safety...
30. The fireman was "the way" in a sense much different than the campers—He was personally the way out of danger and into safety...
31. [3] He is the way, truth, and life presently—"I AM the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me..."
32. By this I mean—Christ Himself is the way to the Father now—the way to God is presently open for all sinners...
33. Oh brethren, if we were thinking rightly this would be a most amazing statement—the way to God has been opened up...
34. God has graciously made a way back to Him—He has provided a way for guilty sinners to return back to Him...
35. But what sinners has He made a way for—for ALL sinners—for any sinner who comes back through Christ...
36. I get this from the phrase—"No one comes to the Father except through Me"—which suggests—"Anyone can come to the Father through Me..."
37. Oh dear friends, Christ is the way, the truth, and the life, for every person who comes to Him needing Him as such...
38. This is the great message we are to tell the world—God in His mercy and grace has made a way back to Him...

39. And everything we need as lost, deceived, dead sinners—is found in Christ—who is the way, truth, and life...
40. [4] He is the way, truth, and life ongoingly—"I AM the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me..."
41. By this I mean—Christ Himself is the way, truth, and life for Christians—who ongoingly have access to God...
42. Perhaps I can put it this way—Christ is not only the way to the Father, but He is also the way to the Father's house...
43. Thus, Christians need Christ just as much in coming to the Father initially, as they do in making it to heaven eternally...
44. Or, put another way—Christians need Christ just as much to live as Christians, as they did to become Christian...
45. There is a sense in which—the wisest, holiest, and happiest Christian—knows how to make use of Christ as the way, truth, and life...
46. [a] The way—Christ is the way to God, initially and ongoingly—Christians come to the Father through Christ...
47. Everything we do, we do, in the name and for the sake of Christ—for example, we pray to God through Christ...
48. [b] The truth—Christians learn about God in and through Christ—all of God's promises are fulfilled in Christ...
49. [c] The life—Christians find ongoing life and strength in Christ—He is the vine and we are only His branches...
50. [5] He is the way, truth, and life eternally—"I AM the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me..."
51. By this I mean—Christ will remain the Mediator between God and man, for all eternity, in the Father's House...
52. There is a sense in which Christ will remain, for all eternity—"the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Him..."