

# I Am – The Way, The Truth, The Life

In these days after Easter, many people are still wondering who Jesus was and why billions of Christians around the world worship him. *What made Jesus so great?* We answer that question in this next series of devotions, as Jesus makes his **Great I Am** statements. As we take a look at how the Son of God reveals himself in Scripture in various ways, we see the many and great characteristics of our Savior and Lord.

Do you remember the days..... The days when you had to write down directions on pieces of paper, maybe even sketched out your own maps, to find homes and businesses. Do you remember the days when you had to print out directions and maps, only to have 3-4 sheets of paper to rifle through as you were driving. In today's world we now have GPS, Google maps, and Waze that all we have to do is follow the blue line on the screen to reach our destination. Everybody is always going somewhere, and everybody needs direction to get there. The same is true of the kingdom of heaven as Jesus in our text for today gives his people direction on how to get there.

In our text Jesus declares, “***I Am The Way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me***” (John 14:6). There are 2 ways to get into heaven. The first way is to be perfect. God in *Leviticus 19:2* declared, “*Be holy as I the Lord your God am holy.*” Jesus also stated in *Matthew 5:48*, “*Be perfect, therefore as your heavenly Father is perfect.*” All God requires is holiness and perfection to have eternal life with him. If we are perfect, then we do not have any sin. If we are perfect, we do not need a Savior. But the truth is, not one of us has been perfect. *Romans 3:23* states, “*All have sinned and have fallen short of the glory of God.*” And *Romans 3:10*, “*There is no one who is righteous, not even one.*” We can not get into heaven by being perfect, so there is only 1 way left.

*That Way*, is through Jesus Christ our Lord. He came to be perfect for us. He came shed his blood and pay for our sins. He died the death we deserved. He arose from the dead to proclaim us forgiven. The way to heaven is a matter of faith, by believing in the Son of God who lived, died, and rose again for us..... there is no other way. “*Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name given to men by which we must be saved*” (*Acts 4:12*). Faith in Jesus is the one and only way to heaven.

Sadly, so many people think they can get into heaven without faith in Christ. Sometimes when you ask people, “how do you know you are going to heaven?” They perhaps will answer, because *I have tried* to be a good person, or because *I tried* to live a good life, or because *I have always tried* to do right. But even these answers are a self-admittance of failure, for *trying* is not the same as being holy and perfect. There is only One who makes men righteous. There is only One who has forgiven our sins and made us perfect in the sight of God, Jesus Christ our Savior.

Jesus is the only way to heaven. When Jesus, in today's reading, spoke to his disciples shortly before his death about his ultimate ascension into heaven, the disciple Thomas was unsure of where Jesus was going and asked, “how can we know the way?” Jesus answer to Thomas is the same answer the Christian Church still preaches today, by believing in Jesus as the only Savior. A faith that comes to us everyday through his Word and sacraments, and may the Holy Spirit keep us in the one true faith all the way to our eternal home.

Read.... **John Chapter 14** as today's Scripture Lesson.

Blessings to you and your families,

Pastor Matthew Guse