

Series: John

Title: The Truth and the Life

Text: John 14: 6

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In John 14, the disciples were troubled—their hearts were full of questions, doubts and fears. Our Savior is merciful and compassionate. He is comforting his apostles. And he is also ministering to his disciples in our day by this same word.

John 14: 4: And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know. 5: Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way? 6: Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

Men have spent countless hours writing out creeds and confessions, pages after pages of thick documents, with long run on sentences hard to be understood. But never has there been a more concise and perfect declaration of the gospel of God than this one sentence our Lord Jesus spoke—*"Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."*

Subject: The Truth and the Life

Proposition: Along with declaring he is the Way, the Lord Jesus declared, *"I am the Truth and the Life...no man cometh to the Father but by me."*

He is the great I AM—*"I AM the Truth and the Life."* To know Christ is to know the Truth. To believe on Christ is to believe the Truth. The Lord Jesus Christ is the Gospel. He said, *"I am the Truth...no man cometh to the Father but by me."* When we know Christ is the Truth, we believe on Christ—and it is because Christ is the Life—he gives us spiritual, eternal Life.

John 1:14: And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

The Lord Jesus is the truth and the life himself. Again note the definite article—Christ is *the* truth and *the* life. The same as there are not many ways to God the Father but one—so Christ is *the* truth and *the* life—the truth himself—the life himself—the true God and eternal life.

1 John 5:20: And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, *even* in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life.

Doctrine means teaching. Scripture refers to false gospel as "doctrines" plural. But scripture speaks of the gospel as singular—the doctrine of Christ. There are many doctrines, many teachings, that Christ taught us. But they are all one doctrine—teaching that Christ is the truth of the doctrine. True doctrine declares Christ is the way, the truth and the life.

There is only one gospel. The sum and substance of the gospel is Christ, the truth.. And there is only one eternal life. Christ is the life.

The Pharisees taught the law of Sinai was the only truth and keeping the law was the only way to eternal life—they taught that the works of the law were the true way to eternal life. The Lord Jesus declares *"I am the way, the truth and the life; no man cometh to the Father but by me."*

John 1:17 For the law was given by Moses, *but* grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.

THE TRUTH AND LIFE OF CREATION

The Lord Jesus is the truth and the life declared in creation. He is the Creator and his creation declares him.

Romans 1: 20: For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, *even* his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:

Consider the basic elements: light, water, bread. We need these for life. Creation illustrates how Christ is the Truth and the Life. In creation, God said, "Let there be Light and there was Light!" On the fourth day he created the Sun. Christ said, "I am the Light of the world." We need light for life.

John 1: 1: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2: The same was in the beginning with God. 3: All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. 4: In him was life; and the life was the light of men. 5: And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not. 6: There was a man sent from God, whose name *was* John. 7: The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all *men* through him might believe. 8: He was not that Light, but *was sent* to bear witness of that Light. 9: *That* was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world. 10: He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. 11: He came unto his own, and his own received him not. 12: But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, *even* to them that believe on his name: 13: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. 14: And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

Think of the sun. The Lord created the sun to illustrate, the Truth that scripture declares, that Christ is the Sun of Righteousness who arises with healing in his wings. He is the Daystar. Only by his Light do we see Light. Only in his Light do we have Life. Christ is the Truth declared in creation, even in the light of life. He is the true Light and Life of his people.

Think of water. Christ is the Truth and the Life declared in water. We must have water to live. We must have Christ in truth to have life. He only created one water. Our Creator has never made more water. So Christ is the one truth, the one water of life. There is no other truth and no other life but Christ. He is the truth and the life illustrated in his creation of water which we must have for life.

Revelation 21:6: And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely.

All sin is due to the father of lies, the devil. And what is the result but our fall into sin and death by forsaking the fountain of living waters.

Jeremiah 2:13: For my people have committed two evils; they have forsaken me the fountain of living waters, *and* hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water.

The only way God's elect are saved is by Christ the truth and the life giving us the water of life freely by his grace. The smitten rock in the wilderness was smitten and out of it flowed water for the children of Israel. All God's elect sinned and God's justice demands we die—God is holy, all sinners must and shall die under the justice of God. But Christ Jesus the Lord took the place of God's elect on the cross—he is the smitten rock. He laid down his life. He died under divine justice. All his people were crucified in him. Only from Christ the Smitten Rock comes the water of life by which his people have eternal life.

Christ is the truth and the life declared in the one water that he created. He made it so that we must have water to live. It illustrates Christ the truth and the life. We must have Christ the truth to have life. To have Christ the truth is to have eternal life.

Think of bread. Christ is the truth illustrated in the creation of bread, even in how it is made. We must have bread to live. Bread is made from a corn of wheat. It falls into the earth and dies. From it comes life, a plant producing more fruit. It was created to typify the Lord Jesus who is the Bread from heaven. He said,

John 12:24: Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit.

Then once produced the corn is ground into powder and made into bread which we eat that we might live. Again, Christ on the cross bore the smiting of God's justice so that his people are justified, so that by his life we live. He is the truth and the life set forth in his creation of bread and how it is made.

John 6:32: Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Moses gave you not that bread from heaven; but my Father giveth you the true bread from heaven. 33: For the bread of God is he which cometh down from heaven, and giveth life unto the world. 34: Then said they unto him, Lord, evermore give us this bread. 35: And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.

Believe on Christ. Eat this heavenly manna by faith that you might have eternal life freely. We could go on and on looking at all things he created. Christ is the truth and the life illustrated in his creation—"All things were made by him and FOR HIM." God said that when he gives his child spiritual understanding, when Christ the truth and the life is formed in us then "the mountains and the hills shall break forth before you into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands" (Is 55: 12) It is then we begin to see Christ is the truth and the life illustrated in all the things he created.

THE TRUTH AND LIFE OF SCRIPTURES

The Lord Jesus is the truth and life of the scriptures. He said of the scriptures, "They are they which testify of me!" All true teaching comes from Christ the truth. Christ alone can teach us the scriptures and make us behold and believe all true doctrine of the word. The gospel is known only by Christ the truth and the life being formed in the sinner. Before regeneration we are spiritually dead and ignorant. Life and true understanding comes from Christ the truth and the life being formed in us. If we would have life and understand the scriptures in truth it will be by Christ.

Scriptures declare the being of God. The names of God, the nature of God and the attributes of God are all known through faith in Christ. He is the truth and life of God. The omnipotence, omniscience, the wisdom of God, the love of God, the grace of God, the mercy of God, longsuffering, goodness, justice, faithfulness of God—all is beheld in Christ the truth and the life. This is the subject of all the scriptures. The Lord Jesus said, "he that hath seen me hath seen the Father."

1 John 1:2: (For the life was manifested, and we have seen *it*, and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;)

Scriptures teach election. Christ is the truth and life of election. He is the Elect of God—chosen of God and precious—and it is in Christ that God elected his people unto salvation. Of Christ, God said,

Isaiah 42:1: Behold my servant, whom I uphold; mine elect, *in whom* my soul delighteth;

God the Father blessed us with all spiritual blessings according as "he chose us in him" before the foundation of the world. It is due to God's electing grace that Christ comes to us and reveals himself in truth and gives each of his elect life.

Scriptures teach adoption. Christ is the truth and life of God's gracious adoption of his children. Christ is the Firstborn Son among many brethren. God predestinated those he chose to be conformed to the image of Christ the Firstborn Son.

Romans 8: 29: For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate *to be* conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

Christ is the truth and life of how we experience the adoption. It is by Christ.

Ephesians 1: 5: Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, 6: To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.

God's adoption is only through the blood and righteousness of Christ his Son. These children have to be born-again of God in truth and righteousness in order to have eternal life. It is all of Christ the truth and the life.

It is through Christ being the truth of righteousness. He is the righteousness of God provided for his people. He alone fulfilled the law for his people. He alone is the righteousness of the law by whose righteousness we are complete and justified and without blame before God. To have Christ our Righteousness formed in us is to have life.

Adoption is by Christ successfully redeeming all God's elect children out of bondage. It is by God sending the Spirit of his Son into our hearts so that we have Life and know the Truth that God is our Father and we his children. Adoption is all of Christ the truth and the life.

Galatians 4: 4: But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, 5: To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons. 6: And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father. 7: Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.

Romans 8: 14: For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. 15: For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. 16: The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:

Scriptures teach the necessity of the new birth. Christ is the truth and the life of regeneration. He is the incorruptible seed by whom we are born again to eternal life. This is why we preach Christ. He is the truth and the life.

All scriptures teach Christ. Christ is the one true foundation of the whole building. He is the one true peace between his people and God. He reconciled us to God by his blood and is the one true propitiation; it is only in Christ that God shows his people mercy and give us life eternal. Christ is the one true Head of his church from whom the whole body is fitly joined and compacted and nourished to life. He rules in the midst of his church as our one true Prophet, Priest and King. Christ is the one true Refuge in whom the believer flees and is safe and abide in Life. He is our one true Shield, our one true Defender. It is in Christ we have life and our life is maintained and we are kept believing him in truth. Christ is the one true provider and supplier of our every need so that we have life more abundantly.

John 10:10: The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have *it* more abundantly.

Brethren, Christ is All! "I am the way, the truth and the life: no man cometh to the Father but by me."

WHAT DOES THE LORD TELL US TO DO?

Proverbs 23:23: Buy the truth, and sell *it* not;

Believe on Christ and believing on Christ, abide in Christ our Life.

John 5:26: For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself;...40...Come to me that ye might have Life

The Holy Spirit used the apostle John to write this gospel, why? The same reason God gave all the scriptures. The same reason Christ spoke these words

John 20:31: But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.

John 17:3: And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.

Seek him while he may be found. Come unto him. Believe on him. Rest in him. Abide in him. Take up your cross and follow him. Let nothing turn you from him. Follow his example and stay near him. Watch and be ready for his return. In that last day be found in him, not having our own righteousness which is by our works of the law but his righteousness alone.

1 John 5: 11: And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. 12 He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.

When Christ is the way, the truth and the life in our heart then the loss of anything in this world is no loss at all. When Christ Jesus Christ is the way, the truth and life in your heart then we are dead to the world and the world is dead to us. Nothing can be added and nothing can be taken away. “Christ is all!” Paul prayed for the Ephesians—and this is my prayer for you and me.

Ephesians 1: 17: That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him: 18: The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, 19: And what *is* the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power...

Amen!