

THE WAY

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"Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, **believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many dwelling-places**; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto Myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And where I am going you know, and the way you know. But Thomas said unto Him, 'Lord, we do not know where You are going; how can we know the way'? Jesus said unto him, '**I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life: no man comes unto the Father, but through Me**. If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; and from now onward you know Him, and have seen Him!' But Philip said unto Him, 'Lord, shew us the Father, and it sufficient for us.' Jesus said unto him, 'Philip, Have I been with you for so long a time, and yet you have not known Me? **He who has seen Me has seen the Father**; and how do you now say 'Show us the Father?' Do you not Believe that I am in the Father, and the Father is in Me? The words that I speak unto you I speak not of Myself; but the Father who dwells in Me, He does the works. Believe Me that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me: or else believe Me for the very works sake. " (John 14:1-6-11)

Way: from the Greek word *hodos* which means: a way, a road, a journey, a path, a course; a travelled way. (a way, or manner, of thinking, feeling, or deciding). God's way of truth and life: the course of thought, feeling, action, as prescribed and approved by God. (Also used of the Christian religion: Acts 18:26; Acts 9:2; Acts 19:9, 23; Acts 24:22.)

Recommended reading prior to study: John 12:1-50, 13:1-38, 14:1-31; Matthew 26:1-35; Mark 13:1-37 14:1-31; Luke 22:1-38.

In Context: Highlights of the events preceding the use of this Title by Jesus:

- Jesus and His apostles arrive in Bethany six days before Passover begins.
- Jesus lodges with Lazarus, Martha, and Mary.
- The next day, as Jesus approaches Jerusalem He is hailed as King of Israel by the multitudes.
- Jesus cleanses the Temple by casting out the sellers.
- Jesus teaches daily in the Temple; and the rulers plot to destroy Him.
- Jesus gives His last 'public' discourse at the Temple, and speaks of His impending death.
- He also tells the people, "He who believes on Me, believes not on Me, but on Him (the Father) who sent Me. And he who sees Me sees Him (the Father) who sent Me."
- Jesus privately foretells the destruction of the Temple, end time events, and judgement.
- Judas conspires with the chief priests to betray Jesus.
- Preparation for the Passover feast takes place.
- Jesus begins the Passover meal by washing His disciples feet.
- Jesus speaks of His betrayer, and Judas leaves.
- Jesus institutes and performs the Lord's Supper.
- Jesus foretells His impending glorification, Peter's denial, and the scattering of the twelve.
- Finally Jesus speaks forth our opening verses (John 14:1-6-11).
- Then the True Vine discussion, final exhortations, final prayer, Gethsemane, arrest, ...

Jesus is the Way: In context; the 'way' to eternal fellowship with the God the Father is Jesus, and 'through. Jesus! Thus, Jesus Himself is **the Way** that leads to the truth that only through Jesus can any person gain access to God the Father in heaven! Only through Jesus can any person be cleansed from the stain of sinfulness, and thus becoming accepted into the Kingdom of God. Only through Jesus, by abiding in Him, and He in us, can anyone bear good fruit for the Kingdom (see John chapter 15: Jesus **the True Vine**). Only by denying one's self, and following in His steps, in His way, shall we enter into the tabernacle made without human hands!

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The Context of our opening verses:

- Jesus tells His disciples not to let their hearts be troubled, (in regards to His previous discussion.)
- Jesus tells His disciples to believe in Him, just as they believe in God!
- Jesus tells His disciples that there are many dwelling places for us in His Father's House (in heaven).
- Jesus tells His disciples that He is going there to prepare these places for us, and that He will come again and 'receive' us into heaven to be with Him there.
- Jesus tells His disciples that they know where He is going, AND they Know the 'Way' to get to where He is going! (To the Father's presence in heaven).
- But Thomas (speaking for the group) said to Jesus, 'Lord, we do not know where You are going; so how can we know the way?'
- Then Jesus answers him (and the Group) by saying "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life: no man comes unto the Father, but through Me."
- But Philip asks Jesus to show them the Father.
- Jesus replies by explaining that: whoever has seen Jesus has seen the Father; and that Jesus is in the Father, and the Father is in Jesus; and that the Father who dwells in Jesus does the works (the signs, wonders, and miracles) through Jesus.

This title, 'the Way', is part of a three-way title: Jesus is the Way; Jesus is the Truth; and Jesus is the Life. Jesus applies these three titles to Himself in response to the question of Thomas, 'Lord, we do not know where You are going; so how can we know the way?' Thus, the context is: no person comes, or is received, into the Father's heavenly home apart from the nature of Christ as implied by His statement, "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life, no man comes to the Father, but through Me." Jesus is the Father's Love Offering for us! Consider these verses:

"The Holy Spirit is signifying this: that **the way into the Holiest of All (into the presence of the Father)** was not yet made manifest, while the first tabernacle was still standing; which was symbolic for the time then present, in which were offered both gifts and sacrifices, that could not make him who did the service perfect, as pertaining to the conscience; which concerned meats and drinks, and diverse washings, and fleshly ordinances, imposed on them until the time of reformation. But Christ came as a High Priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this creation; nor by the blood of goats and calves, **but by His own blood He entered in once into the Holy Place, having obtained eternal redemption for us.**" (Hebrews 9:8-13)

The 'way' **for us** to enter into the Most Holy Place, the Tabernacle of God in heaven, where Jesus Himself entered into the presence of the Father, is through the shed blood of Christ Jesus, that was offered up **for us!** Such is the Great Love that the Father and Son have for us! . We simply accept this free gift of love, and follow in the footsteps of Jesus!

"For by one offering He (Jesus) has perfected forever those (us) who are sanctified. And the Holy Spirit also is a witness to us: for after He said, '*This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them. **And their sins and iniquities I will remember no more*** (Jeremiah 31:33-34). Now where remission of these (sins) is, there is no more offering for sin. Having therefore, brethren, boldness **to enter into the Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, By a new and Living Way**, which He has consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, (through) His flesh;' (Hebrews 10:14-20)

Jesus is the **Living Way** through whom we enter into the Holy Place of God the Father! And we are sanctified and perfected forever through the single offering of Christ Jesus our Savior!

THE WAY

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Jesus also said, "Enter you in through **the Strait Gate**; for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in through it. But strait is the Gate, and narrow is **the Way, which leads unto life**, and there are few who find **it**!" (Matt 7:13-14)

There are many wide open gates which we should not pass through; and there are many broad roads that we should not travel upon. These wide open gates, and broad road ways, are the false 'ways' that deny that Jesus is the only Way, and the only Truth, and the only Life that leads anyone unto the Father - the God of all Creation; and they also encompass any pursuit that separates its travelers from the love of God in and through Christ Jesus. These wide open gates, and broad roads lead their captives into destruction.

The Way which 'is in Christ' is a narrow and straight Way that leads to eternal Life in the presence of the Father. The Way of Christ is the way of the Cross, and the way of love; both for Jesus Himself, and for us who are in Christ Jesus! We must take up our own cross and follow Jesus! It is as the hymn says, 'Trust and obey, for there is no other Way.' Jesus said that only a few people will find Life in and through Him! Consider these exhortations of Jesus:

"And when He (Jesus) had called the people unto Himself, and with His disciples also, He said unto them, '**Whoever will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.** For whoever will save his life shall lose it; **but whoever shall lose his life for My sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it.** For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul? Whoever therefore shall be ashamed of Me and of My words in this adulterous and sinful generation; the **Son of Man** shall also be ashamed of him when He comes in the glory of His Father with the Holy Angels.'" (Mark:8:34-38)

"And Jesus answered them, saying, 'The hour has come, that the **Son of Man** should be glorified. Truly, truly, I say unto you, except a **Grain of Wheat** falls into the ground and dies, it abides alone; but if it dies, it brings forth much fruit. He who loves his life shall lose it; and He who hates his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal. If any man serves Me, **let him follow Me; and where I am, there shall also My servant be: if any man serves Me, him will My Father honor.**'" (John 12:23-26)

Peter, the Apostle of Jesus, wrote, "For even unto this were you called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example **that you should follow in His steps.**" (1Peter 2:21)

The 'Way', speaks of the way to the Father! Which is through Jesus and His atoning sacrifice on the cross for the forgiveness of our sins, and the cleansing of our souls unto holiness and righteousness in Christ Jesus. To abide in Christ is to walk in Christ. To walk in Christ is to walk in Truth. The Way of Christ is the Way of Truth. Jesus, the Way and the Truth, and the Life, and He must abide in us and us in Him. In this 'way' we shall truly follow in His steps.

Jesus is 'the Way'

**Jesus is the only 'Way' to the Father in Heaven!
Through the shed blood of Christ we enter into the Holy Place,
because Jesus has thus obtained eternal redemption for us!
In this 'Way' the love of God was performed for us,
so that we might have eternal Life through Jesus!**

**Farther in heaven, thank You for Your Great Love for us!
Lord Jesus, thank You for being 'the Way' that we obtain eternal Life!
All praise and Glory to You forever and ever! Amen and Amen!**