



Learn Your Bible

Resources to help you learn and understand the Bible

Short Study 050: The "I Am" Statements of Jesus 5. The Way, the Truth and the Life

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Read John 14:1-6

Passage Introduction. This is the first of the two "I Am" statements of Jesus made at the Last Supper. On the surface there are three different statements here, but on reflection it may be seen that together they form a comprehensive answer to Thomas' question, "How can we know the way (to where you are going)?" Jesus' answer may be interpreted, "The way to the Father is found by trusting one's way to Me, in the truth embodied in Me, and the life found in Me alone." Jesus had said He was going to the Father. Where would that be (see Matt 6:9)?

1. The Way. Jesus could have said "I will show you the way". In what way would that have been true? However, that would mean our salvation would depend on our living that way, whereas our salvation rests on depending on Jesus Himself as our Saviour (see Acts 4:12 and Rom 10:13). Consider how this dependency on Him is brought out by His saying He **is** the way.

2. The Truth. Just as Jesus reveals God's message by His example and by His very being (Heb 1:2), so He reveals the truth of that message by His example and by His very being. William Barclay wrote, "(It is a truth that) cannot be conveyed solely in words, it must be conveyed in example"*. What links can you see between John 8:32, 8:36 and 1 John 5:20, and what is required on our part to know the Truth? Observe how 'way' and 'truth' are combined in Psalm 86:11. What word in this verse links the two? What has this to do with following Jesus?

3. The Life. The theme of life in Jesus is introduced in the Prologue of John's Gospel (read John 1:4). Life is derived from God (Gen 2:7) and Jesus said it is to be found in Him (John 5:26). As the Gospel continues, the emphasis is on *eternal* life (see John 3:16, 6:33, etc. – Search for others in a Concordance). What else is said about life in Jesus in John 10:10?

To think about: Ponder on the relationship between the way, truth and life. Consider your way of life and how well you are following Jesus as the Way.

To dig deeper: There is a lot to be absorbed on the subject of life, both physical and eternal. Read about the subject in cross-references and Bible Dictionaries.

**The Daily Study Bible, The Gospel of John, Volume 2 (vol. 2)*, Edinburgh: The St Andrew Press, page 158.