

JESUS, The Way

Int.

1. Aim: To explain how Jesus is the way to life.
2. John 14:6 NKJV "Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."
3. Do you have problems? Are you sometimes confused about life? Do you at times feel lost and have a sense of despair?
4. If you do, don't feel like you are alone...
 - a. About the time of Abraham, a person who was experiencing a great deal of suffering said: "Man who is born of woman is of few days and full of trouble. He comes forth like a flower and fades away; He flees like a shadow and does not continue." - Job 14:1-2
 - b. Job's words, spoken nearly four thousands years ago, express the sentiments of millions today
5. Now, however, there is a way out: Jesus Christ...!
 - a. As He Himself said: "I am the way, the truth, and the life..." - Jn 14:6
 - b. Yes, to everything that truly good, both in this life and the one to come, Jesus Christ is the way!

Discussion

I. THE WAY TO A BETTER LIFE

A. To many people the good life means:

1. Material prosperity - Pleasure - Popularity
2. But Jesus teaches us there is more to life than material possessions
3. "And He said to them, "Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses." Luke 12:15 NKJV
4. "Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." John 14:27
NKJV

B. Jesus wants us to seek new goals in life

1. He warns of the foolishness of seeking after riches - Matt. 6:19 "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal;"
 - a. They are perishable
 - b. They are open to theft
2. He teaches us to put our treasure in heaven - Matt. 6:20 "but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal"
 - a. Where it is imperishable
 - b. Where it is secure - 1 Pet. 1:3-5 v. 4 "to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you"

3. How does one go about laying up treasure in heaven?
 - a. By living for Jesus, even under the most adverse conditions - Luke 6:22-23
 "Blessed are you when men hate you, And when they exclude you, And revile you, and cast out your name as evil, For the Son of Man's sake. 23 Rejoice in that day and leap for joy! For indeed your reward is great in heaven, For in like manner their fathers did to the prophets."
 - b. By following His teaching - Luke 6:35 "But love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High. For He is kind to the unthankful and evil."

C. JESUS OFFERS AN ABUNDANT LIFE...

1. On one occasion, Jesus stated His purpose in coming to this earth - "...I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly." - Jn 10:10
2. This "abundant life" Jesus offers is more than simply life in the "hereafter"
3. Though He does not promise wealth or luxury, He does assure us of...
 - a. A loving Father in Heaven, Who cares for His children - Mt 6:31-33
 - b. More than sufficient provision for those who are willing to follow Him - Mark 10:29-30
 - c. Peace that passes understanding "and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."
Phil.4:7

D. THOSE WHO RECEIVE THIS LIFE ARE BLESSED...

1. The happiest people in the world are those who truly commit themselves to following Jesus as "The Way"
2. Even though living in the most adverse circumstances, such as:
 - a. Paul, while living under house arrest - Phil. 4:11-13
 - b. Christians being persecuted in Asia Minor (Turkey) - 1 Pet. 1:6-8
3. [Jesus is also...]

II. THE WAY TO FORGIVENESS OF SINS

A. JESUS IS THE SOLUTION TO A SERIOUS PROBLEM...

1. He is the only solution to a very serious problem
 - a. The most serious threat to our well-being that we face: Sin!
 - b. This is because everyone of us is guilty of sin - Rom. 3:23
2. Sin is not without its consequences
 - a. Often physical, but always spiritual! - Rom. 6:23
 - b. Unless the problem of sin is resolved, the ultimate consequence is eternity in hell!

B. THROUGH JESUS, GOD PROVIDES FORGIVENESS...

1. Out of love, God offered Jesus as the propitiation for our sins - 1 Jn. 4:9-10
 "In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. 10 In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins."

2. Through His blood shed on the cross, Jesus provides forgiveness for our sins -
Eph. 1:7 "In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins,
according to the riches of His grace"
3. After His sacrificial death for us, Jesus explained how those lost in sin could be saved
 - a. It involves repentance - Luke 24:46-47
 - b. It also involves faith and baptism - Mark 16:16

III. THE WAY TO ETERNAL LIFE

- A. Jesus is the One who has prepared a place for us
 1. John 14:2 "In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you."
 2. And then he said: John 14:3 "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also."
 3. Paul spoke about how Jesus will come for His disciples: "For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. 16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord." 1 Thes. 4:15-17

B. Death is coming to all of us [unless Jesus returns first]

1. Heb. 9:27
2. Death becomes the door either to eternal life or eternal condemnation.
3. Matt. 25:46 "And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."
4. Rev. 14:13 "Then I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, "Write: 'Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.'" "Yes," says the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labors, and their works follow them.""

C. Jesus is the one who will Judge us

1. Matt. 25:31-34 , v. 41, v. 46
 - a. All nations before Him
 - b. Separated - Sheep on right, Goats on left
 - c. Come - life eternal
 - d. Depart - everlasting punishment
2. 2 Cor. 5:10 "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad."
3. Since He is our judge we must be found acceptable in His sight so we can have eternal life

CONCLUSION

1. Jesus is the Way to:
 - a. To a better life
 - b. To forgiveness of sins
 - c. Eternal Life
2. "Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." John 14:6 NKJV
 - a. Jesus is the way to the Father
 - b. He is the one and only way to the Father
3. Will you come to Jesus ?

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