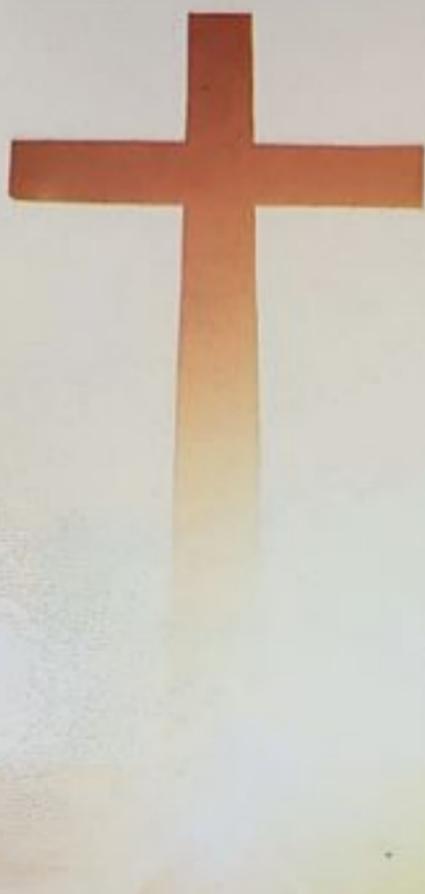


JESUS THE WAY



BY WILLIAM R. HUNT

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By William Hunt

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**to forgiveness of sin
to joy unspeakable
to peace with God
to the new birth
to redemption
to eternal life
to the Father
to God's love
to a pardon
to adoption
to His peace
to truth**

The Uniqueness of Jesus Christ

No founder of religion other than Jesus, the Founder of the Christian religion, has done the following:

Without the process of time, turned water into wine (John 2:9).

Commanded the wind and sea, and they both obeyed (Mark 4:39).

Fed 5000 men plus women and children with five loaves of bread and two fishes, and had twelve baskets of leftovers (Matthew 14:17-21).

Showed He had power to forgive sin (Matthew 9:6), and that He was the only way to God the Father (John 14:6).

I urge you to place all your confidence in Jesus.

God Keeps His Word

Hebrews 6:18 reads, “That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie.”

We have a strong consolation, reassurance, or comfort, which is found first in Genesis 22:17, 18, and is also found in Hebrews 6:13, 14: “For when God made promise to Abraham, because he could swear by no greater, he swore by himself, Saying, Surely blessing I will bless thee, and multiplying I will multiply thee.” We can read and also experience the evidence of God’s promise to Abraham. Israel has never lost its identity, and Jesus has never lost His identity.

**Jesus is the Way to be of the
family of God.**

Confidence in Christ

“. . . Shew unto the heirs of promise . . .”
(Hebrews 6:17).

Israel has never lost its identity. Many nations have endeavored to destroy Israel — Egypt, the nations in the land of Canaan, the Roman Empire, Germany, and certain people of the Middle East today. While all the nations in Canaan lost their identity, God has kept Israel to show us His promises are true and sure.

I urge you to place all your confidence in Jesus. Live totally pleasing to Jesus. In eternity, you will never regret dying to self and living for Jesus Christ.

Jesus is the Way to redemption.

Relationship With Jesus Christ

Luke 16:19-31 is an account by our Lord Jesus Christ of a beggar and a rich man. It shows that, in this world, not everything is fair. But God knows where people are located, their relationship with Him, and how they treat each other.

No one would point out this beggar who was covered with sores as a man who knew God. God never healed this beggar or made him prosperous. Yet, somehow, he met God and had a relationship which made him acceptable in heaven.

Remember, whatever our lot in this life, the most important thing is to have and maintain a relationship with Jesus Christ, that at the judgment we will hear the words, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant."

Jesus is the Way to forgiveness of sin.

Who Can Go to Heaven?

It is not religious and good people that go to heaven. See Matthew 7:21-23. They were good people and religious, but Jesus said to them, "I never knew you; depart from me." Jesus gives a similar account in Luke 13:23-27.

The Bible tells us that they that follow Jesus and do the Father's will shall enter into the kingdom of God (Matthew 7:21). Caleb "wholly [or fully] followed the LORD" (Deuteronomy 1:36). I earnestly entreat you to die to your own will, and follow Christ. Be filled with all the fullness of God.

Jesus is the Way to heaven.

A Friend of God

God said that Abraham was His friend (Isaiah 41:8). When God asked Abraham to go to an unknown land, he obeyed, not knowing where he was going (Hebrews 11:8). God told Abraham that his children should be as the number of stars in the heavens. Abraham believed God and it was counted to him for righteousness with God (Genesis 15:5, 6). When God asked Abraham to give Him his most loved possession, his son Isaac, Abraham obeyed God. In essence, God said, "Because you have given me your most loved possession, in blessings I will bless you" (Genesis 22:16-18). What a great word picture of obedience of a man God called His friend. There is great joy in being obedient to Jesus Christ, and wholly following Him.

Jesus is the Way to joy unspeakable.

The Best Way

“Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths” (Proverbs 3:5, 6).

This is a word picture of Abraham. He trusted in God. When called to leave his homeland, he knew not where he was going, but he did not think he needed to understand. He acknowledged God in obedience, in believing God, in tithing, in teaching his children, in worshiping God, and in praying for others. God most certainly directed and rewarded Abraham’s path and life. God recorded this for our benefit.

Remember, God’s way is the best way, though not always easy and smooth-sailing. Read about the Apostle Paul’s life: 2 Corinthians 11:23-28 and 6:4-10.

Jesus is the Way to peace with God.

What Does God Say About You?

God's Word says the following about these men: David said to God, "When thou saidst, Seek ye my face; my heart said unto thee, Thy face, LORD, will I seek" (Psalm 27:8). God said, "I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after mine own heart, which shall fulfil all my will" (Acts 13:22b).

Jehoshaphat's heart was lifted up in the ways of the LORD (2 Chronicles 17:6).

". . . My servant Caleb . . . hath followed me fully [or wholly]" (Numbers 14:24a).

What is written in God's book about you and me?

Jesus is the Way to the new birth.

Good Deeds Aren't Enough

Jesus said in Matthew 7:22, 23 that many people who think they are going to heaven will discover differently at the judgment. Here are Jesus' words to them: "I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity."

Here were their words to Him: "Lord, Lord have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?" No one in America would say they were bad people.

The Word of God addresses this problem in a number of places—Matthew 25; Revelation 2 and 3; and Romans 2. God's Word is for our edification, and tells us the character of persons who are going to be with God. Good examples are Abraham, David, and Daniel and his three trusted Hebrew friends, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego.

Place all of your confidence in Jesus Christ. Live wholly for Jesus Christ.

Jesus is the Way to our heavenly home.

Good Friends Are Important

“Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself” with the king’s meat or wine (Daniel 1:8). Daniel did not keep it a secret. He made it known to the authority in charge, the prince of the eunuchs. Daniel had three friends of like mind: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego. You and I need to be very careful whom we choose as bosom friends. Honor God by placing all your confidence in Him. Whatever God requires or forbids of mankind is for man’s benefit; never for God’s pleasure.

Jesus is the Way to eternal life.

Honoring God

Daniel honored God (Daniel 1:8). God honored Daniel by bringing him into favor and tender love with the prince of the eunuchs (Daniel 1:9). Remember, God said in 1 Samuel 2:30, "Them that honour me I will honour." The following are great examples: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego were told by the king to fall down and worship the golden image, or be cast into a burning fiery furnace. They answered, in essence, "We are not careful to answer you. Our God is able to deliver us, but if He doesn't we still won't worship your image." God honored them. He walked in the fire with them (Daniel 3:24-26).

I plan, by the grace of God, to have the honor of God in my life. What are your plans concerning honoring God in all things?

Jesus is the Way to the Father.

Defeating Discouragement

David encouraged himself in the Lord his God (1 Samuel 30:6). David was discouraged, yet here was a man who God said was a man after God's own heart (Acts 13:22). David said to God in Psalm 27:8, "When thou saidst, Seek ye my face; my heart said unto thee, Thy face, LORD, will I seek."

There are many things that bring discouragement in life, but David demonstrated to us how to encourage ourselves. We are to encourage ourselves in the Lord our God, Jesus Christ. David knew to inquire of the Lord would bring encouragement. God spoke to David encouraging words (1 Samuel 30:8).

Question: did it pay David to be a person after God's heart?

Jesus is the Way to God's love.

It Pays To Follow God

God tells Joshua to be of good courage (Joshua 1:6, 7, 9). Apparently, Joshua was a man that knew discouragement. Yet, he had led the forces of Israel against King Amalek, and was the conqueror. He was one of the twelve chosen to view Canaan. He and Caleb came back saying, "Because our Lord is with us we can and will conquer the land," while the other ten came back with a very discouraging message of defeat if Israel went into Canaan. Earlier we find that Joshua had gone up on the mountain with Moses when God gave Moses the tables that Moses later broke. Also, it is recorded that Joshua WHOLLY followed the Lord (Numbers 32:12).

Do you think it pays to wholly follow the Lord? I do.

Jesus is the Way to a pardon.

A Promise of Power and Presence

In the first chapter of Joshua, we see God encouraging Joshua, a man who wholly followed the Lord, by saying, “Be strong and of good courage. I will be with you; I will not fail you, nor forsake you.” In essence, He said, “I will not leave you destitute, either of inward support or of outward assistance.” “The LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest” (v. 9). What God did for Joshua, He will do for anyone who will wholly follow Him. I urge you to wholly follow the Lord. Place all your confidence in Him. Be like Joshua who said, “As for me and my house, we will serve the LORD” (Joshua 24:15).

Jesus is the Way to adoption.

The Way to Happiness

God said, “Behold, all souls are mine; . . . the soul that sinneth, it shall die” (Ezekiel 18:4). “. . . Death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned” (Romans 5:12).

The Bible is not written to condemn any person, for all are already condemned. It is written to show them there is a way to receive a pardon, a way back to fellowship with God, a way to have the peace of God as ruler of our hearts and souls.

J. H. Sammis wrote, “Trust and obey, for there’s no other way to be happy in Jesus but to trust and obey.” When God’s Spirit witnesses to our hearts that we have been pardoned, it always brings happiness. You can place all your confidence in God’s Word. It has stood the test of time. God’s Word shall never pass away (Matthew 24:35; Isaiah 40:8; 1 Peter 1:25).

Jesus is the Way to happiness.

Contend for the Faith

Jude waves the red flag to us when he tells us that we should “earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints” (v. 3). The words “earnestly contend” in the original only appear here. They carry the idea that there is a strong adversary fighting against our faith. For us to keep the precious faith, it will take fervent labor, times of struggle, or a fight. Tradition tells us all the apostles except John were martyred for their faith.

What the Bible says about keeping our faith is contrary to the preaching and teaching of many churches today. I urge you to accept the teaching of the Bible. It has stood the test of time. The church’s preaching and teaching have changed many times, but God said, “My word changes not” (Luke 21:33; Isaiah 40:8).

Jesus is the Way to His peace.

Pleasing God

Jude, in verses 1-4, waves a red flag, saying there's danger for us, but he does not leave us in despair. He gives us instructions on how to live pleasing to our God. "Building up yourselves upon your most holy faith" (v. 20b). "Buy the truth, and sell it not" (Proverbs 23:23a). "Keep yourselves in the love of God" (v. 21a). Become a person of one book, the Bible. Read it daily. Read it prayerfully, asking the Lord to give you the understanding you need. Meditate on it through the day. Make building yourself up by your holy faith your goal. Pray in the Spirit for God to reveal to you the weak places in your life.

**Jesus is the Way to be of the
family of God.**

The Supernatural Birth

Jesus taught a great truth in John 3:1-8 which is being preached or taught very little in many churches. There is no such a thing as being a Christian without a supernatural birth. Jesus also confirmed this great truth in Matthew 7:21-23. In these verses, the people were religious. They called Jesus, "Lord." They had prophesied in His name. They had cast out devils in His name, and done many wonderful works. However, they had never had a supernatural birth by the Holy Spirit. Jesus said, "I NEVER KNEW YOU," and they went to spend eternity with the rich man who is tormented in flames (Luke 16:24).

Praise the Lord for a birth by the Holy Spirit, who witnesses to our spirit that we are children of God (Romans 8:16).

Jesus is the Way to a new life.

Don't Be Deceived

In Matthew 24:4, 5, 11 and 24, Jesus warns us about being deceived. The Bible many times warns about being deceived: Jeremiah 29:8; Mark 13:5, 6, 13:22; Luke 21:8; 2 Corinthians 11:13-15; Ephesians 4:14; 5:6; Colossians 2:8, 18; 2 Thessalonians 2:3; 2 Peter 2:1-3; 1 John 4:1.

Although the word “deceive” is used or implied over 30 times in the New Testament, I have never heard much preaching or teaching on how people are deceived. Satan is a master at manipulating God's Word.

All mankind is either serving the prince of this world, which is Satan, or Jesus, who said, “I AM THE WAY, THE TRUTH, AND THE LIFE: NO MAN COMETH UNTO THE FATHER BUT BY ME.”

Be careful whom you **listen** to, or you could be deceived.

Jesus is the Way to truth.

Pleasing to God

Jude's instructions on how to be living pleasing to God are in verse 20: Pray "in the Holy Spirit." The following people confirmed that mankind can know they live pleasing to God by God answering their prayers.

Elijah, a man just like us, prayed, and the fire fell (1 Kings 18:37, 38). Ezra prayed for safe travel from robbers. God answered his prayer in Ezra 8:23, 32, and 33. Prayer was answered for Peter. He was in prison, chained to two soldiers. The chains fell off; the prison gate of iron opened of itself. Peter was set free (Acts 12:5-11). Others pleasing to God are listed in Hebrews 11:1-13.

The way to live pleasing to God is through your faith, prayers, and death to your own will. Thy will be done, Lord Jesus.

Jesus is the Way to forgiveness of sin.

Loyalty to God

Esther 4:1-16 is an eternal truth and a picture of confidence and faith in God. It is also a foundation stone God has used in building both a Jewish nation and Christ's church. "If I perish, I perish" (v. 16).

The loyalty for the living God that Esther displayed is seen also in the three Hebrew children being cast in the furnace (Daniel 3:16-20), and in Daniel in the lions' den (Daniel 6:16). Also, Hebrews 11:35 says that others were tortured, some imprisoned, others sawed in two, and some were slain by the sword. I suggest you read Hebrews chapter 11.

Be faithful, be loyal, and accept whatever circumstances God gives you. Eternity with Christ will be worth it all.

Jesus is the Way to joy unspeakable.

The Prayer God Answers

In Exodus 2:23, the Israelites cried unto the Lord. The Lord saw, He heard, He knew their sorrows. God said, "I will deliver them" Exodus 3:7-10. In 400 years, Israel went from being the head to becoming the tail. Deuteronomy 28:13, 15, and 44 tell us that the head leads and the tail serves. After Israel became the tail, in desperation and in slavery to Egypt, Israel recognized their need and cried out to God (Exodus 2:23).

When anyone recognizes a need and cries out to God, He always delivers. When we stop saying routine prayers, which I am guilty of, and when prayer becomes earnest or desperate, God answers by meeting the need.

Jesus is the Way to peace with God.

The Benefits of Surrender

What are the benefits of asking God to forgive us of our sins, and unconditionally surrendering ourselves to God?

(1) Receiving forgiveness of our sins and cleansing from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9).

(2) Having a spiritual mind, as well as life and peace (Romans 8:6).

(3) Being led by the Spirit of God (Romans 8:14).

(4) The Spirit of God witnessing with our spirits that we are the children of God (Romans 8:16).

I urge you to surrender your will, your affections, your goals, and your ambitions to Christ. In short, abandon the old ship of self, and leap into the ocean of Christ's love. There is a ship waiting for you, piloted by the Holy Spirit. It will take you into the port called heaven at exactly the right time.

Jesus is the Way to the new birth.

Not Forsaken

Hebrews 13:5 is a rich and comforting verse for those who make Jesus Lord. It tells us to be content with what we have. "I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee," says our Lord Jesus.

In this world we will have frustrations and situations beyond our control. There will be hard times to cope with, financial problems, emotional problems, high peaks, and low valleys in life. There will be times when we will not feel the presence of God. But there will never be a time He has left us or forsaken us as long as our faith and confidence is in Christ our Lord. Remember, His Word is eternal. Placing total confidence in Christ, and your affections on things above, is rewarded by God's peace in your heart.

Jesus is the Way to redemption.

Deliverance

Our God is a God who is near. He is not a human, but He revealed Himself as a person. God said of Israel that He saw His people's affliction, heard their cry, and knew their sorrows. He had come to deliver them (Exodus 3:7, 8).

Humanly speaking, deliverance was impossible. They were slaves in Egypt. They were not trained to fight. They had no resources. But God had come to deliver them, and He did. His weapons were frogs, flies, hail, boils, and death of the firstborn of the Egyptians (Exodus 7:9—8:29 and 12:12, 13). But first, Israel had to cry for help.

Jesus said when we seek, knock, and ask we shall also find help. He cares for you. Put all your confidence in Jesus.

Jesus is the Way to eternal life.

The Power of the Gospel

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation” to all who will wholly follow Christ (Romans 1:16). The gospel of Jesus Christ brings fruit in all the world (Colossians 1:6). The gospel has the power to bring men out of the darkness of sin, and into the kingdom of God’s Son, Jesus (Colossians 1:13). The gospel of Jesus Christ changed people’s desires, causing them to burn their worldly books valued at fifty thousand pieces of silver, or around \$10,000.00 in U.S. dollars (Acts 19:19). The gospel enables us to see and help meet the needs of others (Acts 4:32-37). Oh, it changes lives!

Jesus is the Way to a changed life.

Jesus' Teachings

Jesus looked on the multitude with compassion, and said they were like sheep without a shepherd (Matthew 9:36). The week before His sacrifice for our sin on the cross, He talked to those who had chosen Him as their Shepherd. They became His disciples by forsaking all to follow Him. He taught them about how to pray, the way to God the Father, the coming Holy Spirit, responsibilities, His and the Father's place in their lives, where they would spend eternity with Him, how to know if they truly loved Him, and a gift for them in this world. The above is found in John 14. Jesus, the Good Shepherd, has compassion and excellent instructions for us.

Jesus is the Way to truth.

Final Words From Jesus

In John 15, during the last week before Jesus' sacrifice for our sin on the cross, He warned His disciples of dangers, and also told how to avoid the dangers. He compared Himself to the vine, and His disciples to the branches. He warned about complacency (v. 2). He spoke of the necessity of a vital and constant relationship with Him (v. 4). He gave the assurance of answered prayer (v. 7). He told us how much He loved us (v. 9), and of the reward for keeping His commandments (v. 10). He taught about persecution (v. 20) and the coming of the Holy Spirit (v. 26). Study John chapter 15 for encouragement. It will help you to build confidence in Christ.

Jesus is the Way to the Father.

Benefits of Serving God

“The Lord is . . . not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance” (2 Peter 3:9). God has the following for those who follow the desires of God: forgiveness, cleansing, a pardon, new mercy every morning, and sufficient grace for every need and trial. God also chose us before the world was created, that we should be holy and without blemish before him in love (Ephesians 1:4). All these benefits should give us a deep desire to totally surrender ourselves to Christ and place all our trust in Him.

Jesus is the Way to God's love.

A Light for Our Lord

“Ye are the light of the world” (Matthew 5:14a). This is not an option. “God is light . . .” (1 John 1:5b). “God is light of wisdom, love, holiness, glory. In Him is no contrary principle,” said John Wesley. God changes not, neither His word. Oh, great comfort! Joshua said, “Nothing has failed which God has said. All has come to pass” (see Joshua 21:45; 23:14). King Solomon, 450 years later, said, “There hath not failed one word of all his good promise . . .” (1 Kings 8:56b).

We must to be very careful in all areas of our demeanor or conduct.

We serve a GREAT KING. We are the Lord’s light in a sin-blighted and devil-possessed world. Oh, it is a great privilege and honor to be used as a light by our Lord!

Jesus is the Way to a pardon.

Written in His Book

“As thou knowest not what is the way of the spirit, nor how the bones do grow in the womb of her that is with child: even so thou knowest not the works of God who maketh all” (Ecclesiastes 11:5).

God knows the beginning of a child, and how the embryo becomes a fetus. In Psalm 139, we see that the eyes of God see all the characteristics of a child, and He writes them in His book when there were none of them. What joy, what comfort that God knew me before my bones were developed, and has written them in His book. More words are written: sins confessed, forgiven, and cleansed from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9). Place all your affections and confidence in Jesus. He cares for you.

Jesus is the Way to adoption.

No Place for Selfishness

God teaches us a great lesson on prayer from both Balaam and the children of Israel. God's answer to Balaam after Balaam prayed was, "Thou shalt not go with them" (Numbers 22:12a). Balaam obeyed God (v. 13). Because of Balaam's selfishness, he continued to pray about the same matter in which God had given an answer, which is very dangerous.

Israel despised the manna God gave, and they, too, prayed again. God gave them their request, but He sent "leanness into their soul" (Psalm 106:15).

Selfishness has no place in God's work. Jude warns us of this very danger for the last days (v. 16). Place all your confidence in Christ by submerging your will into God's will, and learn to be content with God's provisions.

Jesus is the Way to His peace.

Love's Foundation

During the last week before Jesus' sacrifice for our sin on the cross, He gave the church two examples. First, "This is my commandment, That ye love one another," and, second, "As I have loved you" (John 15:12).

The foundation for love is from the will. The emotions are a byproduct of love. Paul wrote that God demonstrated His love to us when, while we were sinners and enemies against God, Christ died for us (Romans 5:8).

"Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it" (Ephesians 5:25). Christ has loved the church despite all the problems and grief it has brought to His heart.

Have you grieved God lately? If so, ask Jesus to forgive you, and follow His checks and leading.

Jesus is the Way to His love.

God' Concern for the Unborn Child

God displays His concern and knowledge of the animals. God informs Job He knows how many months until the animals give birth to their offspring. God loves all His creation (Job 39:1-4).

When it concerns the unborn animal, He does not record what he records about our unborn children. "Thou hast covered me in my mother's womb" (Psalm 139:13b). How wonderful is God's love and concern for us while we are still in our mother's womb. The Bible reveals why He is concerned: we were made for Christ, not for sin.

You can place your affections and confidence in Christ. His eyes are on you.

**Jesus is the Way to be of the
family of God.**

The Importance of Church Attendance

On the Lord's Day, not being able attend to church due to Elaine's sickness, and not being able to hear a message from God and be with His people, my heart ached, my soul hurt, and my spirit cried. For the first time, I identified with Psalm 137.

While reading Luke 24:45, the Holy Spirit flooded my soul. I wept. I sat and enjoyed His presence.

I am now convinced there is some type of spiritual deficiency in people who stay away from church when they are able to go. They stay home to listen to some television preacher, radio preacher, or some preacher on their computer. But Hebrews 10:25 tells us we should not be "forsaking the assembling of ourselves together," and so much more in the last days.

Jesus has never done me wrong.

Jesus is the Way to forgiveness of sin.

God's Voice

There is a great spiritual feast in John 10 for those who hear and know Jesus' voice, for those who follow Jesus. Another's voice they will not follow. Throughout this chapter, Jesus said, "[I call my] own sheep by name. I lead them" (v. 3). "[I go] before them" (v. 4). "I am come that they may have life" (v. 10). "I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep" (v. 11). "I lay down my life for my sheep" (v. 15). "No man taketh [my life] from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again" (v. 18).

Remember, Adam and Eve knew God's voice. However, they listened to another voice, and followed the other voice. They found that God was true to His word, but God went to where they were.

We, too, must go with the gospel of Jesus Christ to those who are listening to the wrong voice, or they will spend eternity with the man who wanted not a cup of water, but just the water off of the tip of Lazarus' finger (Luke 16:24).

How To Handle Discouragement

Luke 24:13-36 is an excellent passage for discouraged people to study. These two persons were sad and discouraged when Jesus came and walked with them (v. 17). They did not recognize him (v. 16). When they reached their home, they asked this Stranger to come and abide with them (v. 29), and Jesus did. As He broke bread and fed them, He opened their eyes. Then they knew Him (v. 31).

In times of sadness and discouragement, invite Jesus in, and ask Him to give you His bread, and to open your eyes of understanding. Then follow their example: go immediately and tell others what Jesus did for you, and how Jesus did it.

Jesus is the Way to peace with God.

Tips for Prayer

Good points to use in our prayer life from John 17:

(1) Lord, glorify Yourself through me (verse 1).

(2) Keep me from evil (verse 15).

(3) Father, let the love You had for Jesus be in me (verse 26).

(4) Lord, be in me that the world may believe the Father sent You (verse 21).

(5) Lord, help me not to be of the world as You were not of the world (verse 14).

(6) Father, help me to know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You sent, that I may have eternal life (verse 3).

(7) Lord, help me to manifest your name to all mankind (verse 6).

Jesus is the Way to joy unspeakable.

A Glimpse of God's Holiness

Until people catch a glimpse of the holiness of God as Isaiah did in Isaiah 6:1-6, they will probably be mundane Christians. Until we realize we are born with a sinful nature which can only be purged by God, we will never be able to say with Louise R. Chapman, "The things of life lost all their attraction—its pleasures, wealth, possessions, or honors. They mean nothing to me. My goal is ahead. Glorify God, adorn the gospel, beautify the way of holiness, finish my given task, and stay ready to meet the Lord with joy." Read 1 John 1:7 and 3:8; Matthew 5:8; Acts 15:9; and Hebrew 9:14. The blood has never lost its power.

Jesus is the Way to holy living.

Our First Priority

When Jesus came near to Jerusalem, He wept over it, saying it was because they did not know it was their day (Luke 19:41, 42). Yet when the world was in such a bad condition, Christ began to build His church. Within 25 years it was said of the church, "These . . . have turned the world upside down" (Acts 17:6).

The church today is plagued with lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God. But all who make the joy of the Lord their first priority will soon find the pleasures of the world grow strangely dim. Soon they will see great things accomplished for Jesus Christ's church. I urge you to make the joy of the Lord your first priority.

Jesus is the Way to the new birth.

The Passions of Jesus Christ

When we lose the passions of Christ as the center of our focus, we become issue-centered, which leads to division. Next, every man begins to have his own little pet doctrine or issue. And eventually every man is doing what is right in his own eyes, and unity is almost (if not entirely) destroyed. The church becomes disillusioned and begins to splinter and split, all while Satan is enjoying a heyday.

As someone said, "God has His people who will work with Him as a team while seeking to indelibly print the passions of Christ in their heart." The passions of Jesus Christ include:

Wanting you to make it to heaven (John 3:16).

Seeking and saving the lost (Luke 19:10).

Destroying the works of the devil (1 John 3:8).

Zeal for His Father's house (John 2:16, 17).

His Father's will (Matthew 26:42).

Jesus is the Way to a focused life.

Reflecting Christ's Compassion

Those living pleasing to Christ are reflecting His character. His passions are part of His character. One of His passions is people (Matthew 14:17-21). He reached out to the social outcast, Matthew, a tax collector. It is recorded that Jesus ate with publicans and sinners (Matthew 9:9-11).

When John the Baptist was in prison, he sent disciples to ask Jesus if He was the messiah. Jesus sent back this message to John the Baptist: "The blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, to the poor the gospel is preached" (see Luke 7:20-22).

Lord, help us to move out of our comfort zone, and be COMPASSIONATE toward ALL people.

Jesus is the Way to eternal life.

The God of Truth

Why should we place our confidence in Christ? He is the God of truth (John 14:6). It has been said, "Truth is presented in the Scripture as a chief element in the nature of God" (see Isaiah 65:16). The Word of God is truth (John 17:17). His Word is our assurance of consistency, and a ground or foundation in Christ's promises (Exodus 34:6; Psalm 91:4; 146:5, 6). We are sure that the judgment of God is according to the truth in condemnation of sin (Romans 2:8, 9; Psalm 96:13). Jesus stands for the consistency of His nature, and assurance of His full response in all the relations of the universe of which He is the Creator, Preserver, and the End (Colossians 1:15-17; Hebrews 1:3).

Jesus is the Way to the Father.

Compassion for All

Living pleasing to Christ means reflecting His character. His passions are part of His character. One of His passions is PEOPLE.

(1) He reached out to the working class. Peter, Andrew, James, and John were fishermen.

(2) Luke was a physician.

(3) Paul wrote a number of the books of the New Testament, and was highly educated.

(4) Zacchaeus was rich (Luke 19:8).

(5) The woman of Samaria had five husbands before living with a man who was not her husband (John 4:18).

Lord, give us a broken spirit, a broken and a contrite heart, that we may have compassion to reach all people in building Your church.

Jesus is the Way to God's love.

The Doctrine of Jesus Christ

The following are excellent foundation blocks for placing your confidence in Christ:

Jesus Christ spoke truth. In John 8:45 we are reminded that no falsehood is found in Jesus Christ.

There is no deceit in Jesus Christ.

There is no fraud or pretense in Jesus Christ.

There isn't any insincerity in Jesus Christ.

There isn't any shadow or dishonesty in Jesus Christ's conduct.

Jesus Christ brings true doctrine along with Him.

The doctrine of Jesus Christ is dependable, and all who do His Father's will can know the doctrine (John 7:17). I urge you to die to your own will that you may always do God's will.

Jesus is the Way to a pardon.

Saved to the Uttermost

Jesus came to destroy the works of the devil (1 John 3:8). H. C. Morrison wrote, “Without doubt, it is the mission of Christ to separate from man, that which separated man from God, in order to his restoration to God.”

Sin brought that separation, and Christ was manifested that He might take away our sins. And He can take away our sins, for “. . . He is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him” (Hebrews 7:25a).

Webster's Dictionary defines “uttermost” as “most extreme or distant; farthest; to the greatest or highest degree.” Peter says it this way: “. . . Ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust” (2 Peter 1:4).

Jesus is the Way to adoption.

What is Faith?

“But without faith it is impossible to please him [God]: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewards them that diligently seek him” (Hebrews 11:6).

Faith is one of mankind's requirements. What is Biblical FAITH? A good starter is ACCEPTANCE. It includes accepting the Bible as God's Word and truth. RELIANCE includes paying attention to the checks of the blessed Holy Spirit with obedience. DEPENDENCE includes acknowledging Jesus as being the only Way to God the Father. CONFIDENCE includes believing God is all He claims to be. All the above are the opposite of SELF-EFFORT, SELF-RELIANCE, and SELF-CONFIDENCE.

Jesus is the Way to His peace.

Uncommon Faith

“Nevertheless when the Son of man [Jesus] cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?” (Luke 18:8b). The idea in this verse is only a few true believers will be found upon the earth having Bible faith.

In the last days many will be religious, but Jesus will say, “I never knew you: depart from me . . .” (Matthew 7:22, 23). **I DON'T WANT A ONE OF YOU TO BE IN THAT CROWD.**

“Faith is an affirmation and an act, which bids eternal truth be present fact,” said Thomas Cook. Rich Watson said, “The Word of God is the food of faith.” A. Taylor said, “Faith is a grace wrought in the soul of a sinner by the Holy Spirit, for strength to perform duty, to follow after holiness, and encounter spiritual enemies; and for eternal life when his work of faith and labor of love is ended, and when he comes to finish with joy his course.”

Jesus is the Way to truth.

The Son of Man

“For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord” (Luke 2:11). “A light to lighten the Gentiles” (v. 32a). “And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom: and the grace of God was upon him” (v. 40). He called Himself “the Son of man” though He also was THE Son of God (Luke 9:26).

As the Son of man, He was grieved at Lazarus’ grave (John 11:33-37). He grew weary and slept in the boat during a raging storm (Matthew 8:24-26). He was hungry and saw a fig tree, hoping to find something to eat (Mark 11:13). YES! Christ the Lord was truly the Son of man.

He wept over His people because they were lost and need a Saviour, because Satan had blinded their eyes. This is a great example for all of us—weeping over the lost.

**Jesus is the Way to be of the
family of God.**

Victory Over Sin

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem, wise men came to worship Him, shepherds came to see him, a multitude of heavenly host came down to earth to praise God for Him, and His mother Mary pondered these things in her heart (Luke 2). What was the purpose of this special Baby? His purpose was TO DO THE FATHER'S WILL (Matthew 26:42)

The Father's will is that humanity be delivered from being servants of sin (Romans 6:6). One of Christ's first official acts was to teach people in their weakest condition that the sin of transgression was a choice, and God had provided them with the tools to be victorious over temptation. In Matthew 4:1-11, we notice that we in times of temptation are not to live by what the world offers, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.

Jesus is the Way to forgiveness of sin.

The Son of Man

This special Baby that was born of a virgin in Bethlehem in the land of Judea had been talked about, written about, and expected for centuries. But when He was born, He caused excitement both in heaven and on earth.

This special Baby had multiple purposes to accomplish as the Son of man and as the only begotten Son of God. As the Son of man, He showed the frailties of the human nature: hunger, thirst, weariness, pain, poverty, homelessness, and temptations. He had need of both short and lengthy times of prayer to God the Father, the need of dependency on God, the need for God's Word, and the power of God's Word in the time of temptation.

Jesus is the Way to joy unspeakable.

The Son of God

Jesus was born of a virgin in Bethlehem in the land of Judea. He had multiple purposes to accomplish as the only begotten Son of God. He was born to always to do the Father's will, to show the value of one soul, to preach repentance for the remission of sins, to seek and save the lost, to proclaim salvation to whosoever will, to show He had power to forgive sins by healing, to provide a pardon to those who would make Him Lord, to display the love of God, and to warn mankind the way was narrow to heaven, and broad was the way to hell.

He also warned against false prophets. Someone once said a false prophet is one who makes the way to heaven broad, and the way to hell narrow. Jesus said reality was the reverse in Matthew 7:13, 14.

He was born to be crucified by Romans, buried three days, and raised from the dead, giving mankind the possibility of eternal life.

Jesus is the Way to eternal life.

Help for Seekers of Salvation

What does Jesus offer to ALL people?

Answer: Forgiveness from sins

To be saved, you must acknowledge that you are a sinner. You must believe you are created by God and have enough faith to believe God's Word. Forgiveness is for "whosoever" shall confess with his mouth the Lord Jesus, and believe in his heart that God has raised Jesus from the dead. The Bible says *that* person "shall be saved" (Romans 10:9). St. John confirmed this when he said, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9). "Whosoever believeth in him [Jesus] should not perish, but have eternal life" (John 3:15). The gospel of Jesus Christ is for you!

What does Jesus have to offer to the world?

Answer: Removal of sin

If a person travels straight north until he reaches the North Pole and then he keeps moving, he will begin going south. If a person travels straight east, though, he can continue indefinitely, never meeting the west. "As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us" (Psalm 103:12). God will "subdue our iniquities" and cast all our sins "into the depths of the sea" (Micah 7:19b). God said, "I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more" (Jeremiah 31:34). Not only does God remove sin and remember it no more, but God also said, "Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool" (Isaiah 1:18).

What must I do to receive God's salvation?

Answer: Believe that God will forgive you of your sins when you ask Him.

Reader, you, too, can be saved and have a personal relationship with Christ. Here is a suggested prayer. "Lord, I know I am a sinner and need to be saved. Lord, I know Jesus arose from the dead and that His blood was shed for my sins. Lord, I'm asking You to forgive me of my sins and cleanse me. Lord, help me grow in Jesus and develop a love for Your Word. Lord, above everything, help me to keep my eyes focused on You and not on people. Lord, Your Word has confirmed that You would save me; I believe You *have* saved me. Please give me a witness from Your Spirit to my spirit that I am Your child. By faith I believe Your Word; still, my faith is weak. Lord, increase my faith. Amen."

Name and Date: _____

Scriptures for Times of Doubt

“Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

“As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.

“Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.

“For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,

“Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 8:35-39).

“. . . Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen” (Matthew 28:20).

Scriptures for Times of Doubt

“I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me” (Galatians 2:20).

“According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love” (Ephesians 1:4).

“In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace” (Ephesians 1:7).

“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God” (Ephesians 2:8).

“Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me” (Revelation 3:20).

Scriptures for Times of Doubt

“All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.

“For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me.

“And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day” (John 6:37-39).

“The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. Selah” (Psalm 46:11).

“The LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower” (Psalm 18:2).

“In my distress I called upon the LORD, and cried unto my God: he heard my voice out of his temple, and my cry came before him, even into his ears” (Psalm 18:6).

“For in the time of trouble he shall hide me in his pavilion: in the secret of his tabernacle shall he hide me; he shall set me up upon a rock” (Psalm 27:5).

Notes

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