

John 14:1-7; Isaiah 35:8-10 (tax: Acts 9:2)

THE WAY

- I. It is the way to life
- II. It is the way of life

INTRODUCTION

You know **Bible** uses many names to describe the being & behavior of an authentic Christian.

- we are called God's sheep.
 - we are also called a tree or a branch, a soldier, a body or a temple, & the like
- & these names bring us much comfort & encouragement, as well as remind us of the serious responsibilities we have as those who believe & belong to Jesus.

Well, there is another name **Scriptures** give to Jesus' followers to inform & instruct & inspire us about who we must be & how we must live as true Christians.

- & that name is: THE WAY.
- & it is 1 of 2 names there were not given to Jesus' followers by themselves.

But the name, the **Way**, & the other name, **Christian**, were given to the early believers by the people & the enemies around them.

- probably as a way to mock them.
- but they do tell us something about those followers of Christ.
 - that they were living in such a distinct way for Lord that those who lived around them saw they were different.
 - they saw Jesus, the Way, in their lives so that called them Christians, or little Christs & the Way.

Now it is only the name, **Christian**, that has remained as a honorable & popular title.

- but, sad to say, it has lost its true meaning & significance so that almost everybody calls themselves a Christian today, & it brings no opposition as it did in NT.
 - although, if you watch today' news the opposition to Christians is on the rise.
- still, as whole, being called a Christian can mean anything today.
 - & it is quite a popular name people call themselves even if they believe Bible is a man-made product, & even live a deviant lifestyle.

Well, the fact the name **Christian** is quite popular & has lost much of its significance today is no doubt due to the fact many so called Christians aren't really living Christ in every area of life.

- if they did, then maybe the other name, the Way, would become current again to describe those who are Lord's as distinct & different from the rest.
- for that name, the Way, like Christian, is from the name of Jesus Christ, the only true Way to real eternal living with God.

And if we are truly & totally Christians, proudly & publicly believing & proclaiming & practicing Jesus,--

- living up to the names, Christian & the Way, then people will also be calling us the Way.
- they will be seeing in us the only way to life & the only way to live if people are ever going to find & experience true peace & joy now & forever.

Th'fore, the name the **Way** gives us a very profound & important view of what genuine Christianity is.

- & it surely teaches us some very significant lessons about who we must be & how we must live in this world as those who are God's redeemed people.

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- & so it is good to consider that biblical name, THE WAY.
 - & ponder the points that, **1st**, it is the way to life, & **2nd**, it the way of life.

I. IT IS THE WAY TO LIFE

Now name, the **Way**, is used 6 times in **Acts** to describe Christianity or Christians.

- & it is interesting to note that each time it is used in connection with hate & hostility against those who loved & lived for Lord.
- th'fore it surely means, as I said, those NT.Christians were living Jesus in their community & country as they proclaimed Him as the only Savior who brings life with God.
 - as they stood firm against all evil & error in their society.
 - & that, of course, made the world around them take notice, turn against them, & mockingly call them, the Way.

And the world was absolutely correct, for true Christianity & Christians are the **Way**.

- for note well: Christianity isn't a way or 1 of many religions, or just 1 of the many ways we can use to get to God & find heaven & happiness.
- no, for Bible makes it clear & certain through this name, & elsewhere too, that Christianity is the Way.
 - it is unique & exclusive.
 - that in it we have the only right road to God & real salvation & everlasting life.

For in the name, the **Way**, we have the remarkable reference to Jesus' words in **Jo.14**.

- to His amazing words: "I am the way, the truth, & the life. No one comes to God but by Me."
- that is to say, Jesus is stating here He has a unique relationship to God and to all human beings, as God Himself & as a real human being.
 - & because of that there can be no doubt about it: He is the sole instrument of communication & communion between God & human beings.
 - the only way we can get to God, be rescued from sin & death, & live eternally.

Now that same exclusiveness is reflected & revealed in the name, the **Way**, that Christians are called in **Acts 9**.

- it is asserting then that all other religions in the world are man-centered.
- for they claim to find real life & joy, we must save ourselves by our own energies & efforts & endeavors, or raise ourselves up to God by our own boot straps.

But the Christianity of **Bible** is like no other religions on this planet, for it is God-centered.

- it tells it like it really is, for it recognizes that all human beings are so sinful that we are totally unable to save ourselves & get to God on our own.
- th'fore, it proclaims the central truth that God Himself has come down to us as Jesus of Nazareth to accomplish the only way we can be freed from sin & death & live with Him.
 - He did that by becoming just like we are, even becoming sin for us.
 - He did that dying on a cross to pay for our sins.
 - by rising from dead, & by returning to heaven to rule & run all things to give new, eternal life to all who believe in Him as their only Lord & Savior.

And so the fact Christianity & Christians are called, the **Way**, asserts that Jesus, as God in human flesh, crucified, risen, & reigning, is the only Savior from sin.

- that in Him & obedience to His teachings & will are the only true path that climbs up to God.
- the only way we can take to be saved & live joyfully now & forever with Him.

Th'fore we see that Christianity is the only way to the true knowledge of God & of ourselves.

- for Scriptures make it plain, as in Jo.1, that Jesus is God & God's Word, who came from the very being of God & became human & lived among us.
- He did that to declare & reveal God to us; to tell the truth about ourselves & the only way be saved.

And so the Jesus of Christianity is the only tie between heaven & earth, the only revealer of God.

- the only hope & help for our world full of falsehood & filth.
- for without Jesus there is just no way to know God & find real life & happiness.
 - Jo.14 says we can only see & know God when we are in Christ.
 - & Jo.17 says only, when we know God in Jesus Christ, do we have eternal life.

But the name, the **Way**, for Christianity also affirms that there is only one way to life because teaches Jesus is the only road to true fellowship with God.

- you see, we can't get to God, who is holy, by ourselves because of our sin.
- & unless our sin is dealt with--forgiven & taken away—we will never find & possess true, eternal life with Him.

But **Bible** & the Christian religion have good news for us: that God, as Jesus, has cleared away the wall of sin by His death & resurrection.

- by them has He rescued us from death, & restores us into His family forever.
- & with the knowledge & experience of God's great love, love is kindled in us.
 - love in which we love Lord & for His sake we love each other.
- we see then that Jesus Christ has become the only new & living way that is open for us to have full & free entrance to God, & to enjoy His love & live eternally with Him.

Well, that's what name, the **Way**, reveals we Christians & Christianity are & must be.

- we must be proclaiming & practicing that truth that believing & obeying Jesus are the only way to God & His love & life.
 - Acts 4 says there is no other name or being in heaven or in all the universe by which we are saved.
- & so, if we aren't yet walking that only way to God by faith in Jesus, then we must, for all other ways lead to eternal death apart from Him forever.

And those of us, who are Christians, must then be the way to life to our world today.

- we must declare & demonstrate, by our lips & lives, to everyone that the only way out of today's mess & misery, & to God & complete, eternal happiness is Jesus.
- & that people must embrace Him as their only Lord & Savior.

II. IT IS THE WAY OF LIFE

But now, the name, the **Way**, for Christ & Christianity & Christians also states that they are & must be the **ONLY WAY OF LIFE OR LIVING** if we are going to really live happily now & forever after.

- you see, the phrase “the way ” is used in Bible & other writings & speaking as the symbol for outward life & conduct.
- that means then Christianity isn't just a creed or system of doctrines & teachings.

But it must also be lived so that its creeds control & color our conduct.

- its doctrines must influence & impact our daily lives, & be lived out in our deeds.
- its beliefs must underlie & shape & be expressed & exercised in our behavior.

Th'fore, **Christians**, our Christianity must be the way of life for us.

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- but again, not only a way to live as 1 way among many.
- instead it is & must be the only way to live as the sole path to God.

And surely we need to know this only way today in our society where people want to live their own way or have their own lifestyle with no absolutes, no final authority, no standards.

- & we are told to live this or that way, & then we will find true success.
- but, you see, all these other ways are man-centered which claim we can be happy & really live if we have a better education or environment, or more cars & clothes.

- or get a higher-paying job, have more vacations, indulge in drugs & free sex, & the like.
- however, Scriptures warn repeatedly that these human ways only lead to suffering & death.

So then, it is only Christ & we Christians & Christianity that provide the path to live excitedly & eternally.

- for it is the only way to become a new person living with God in His will & way.
- it is only Christianity that “molds our life into unity, that prescribes line of direction we [must] follow, that has the [only true] starting-point & stages, & end [for all our thinking, feeling, working, & living]. It [is] the only mode of conduct which corresponds with all the obligations & nature of man, & which reason, conscience, & experience will approve.”

Th'fore, to be a genuine Christian with new life by faith in the Way, Jesus Christ, & to show the only way to life & the only way to live, **Bible** says we must walk solely in the way of Lord.

- & that way is, as we read in Isa.35, the highway of holiness.
- in other words, as the Way of life, Christianity involves a complete surrender & sacrifice & service to God,
 - it involves imitating Christ with our whole being & all our living.
 - it then involves loving Him always & totally as our only God, & loving our neighbor as ourselves.
 - that we must obey His will so we are holy & honest, concerned & caring for others.
 - that we must worship & witness & work for Lord in all we say & do & think.
 - & that we stand for all that is good & true, & against all that is ugly & mean, wicked & wrong.

That's what it means to be a bona fide Christian as the **Way** to life & of life.

- we must walk only in the true, living Way, Jesus Christ, so that we are distinct & different in our thinking as we let it be guided only by His Word.
 - as we make the fact that God has spoken the starting point of all our reasoning.
- then we will be distinct & different in the way we feel as we center our trust & love only on Lord so that our emotions are controlled only by Him.

And then we will also be distinct & different in the way we **live & work**: only according to God's rules.

- we will live for Him without any formalism, but from heart.
- we will use all we are & have for God's service so that we seek to fulfill the purpose for which we live on this earth: His glory & the good of others.

CONCLUSION

Well, what about you & me, **Christians**?

- are we really living up to that name, the Way?
- are we then being the authentic way for people to find Jesus?
- are we living evidences that God's person & presence & power & grace are real?
- are we living Jesus in such way that, if we were taken to court today for being a Christian, would there be enough evidence to convict us?

You see, if our religion isn't producing the path of life for us in which we are following the only Way, Jesus Christ,--

- & we aren't walking only in the way of faith & obedience to Him,--
- then all our believing & living are really nothing; just a big waste of our time!

And worst of all, if our daily lives aren't showing Christ, then we are really being stumbling-blocks or barriers to Him.

- we are blocking peoples' way to finding God & salvation & eternal life.
 - for we aren't pointing people to Him, as the only true way to salvation & life.
 - & to the only way to live to experience true, everlasting happiness.
- &, you know, Jesus once said, if we are stumbling-blocks to Him, then it would be better for us to have a heavy stone tied around necks.
 - & that we be thrown into sea & drown.

O, may God give us the grace to turn ourselves & our lives completely over to Jesus, the only, true Way to eternal life, if you haven't really done that yet.

- & He may give us Christians, who are already in the Way, the desire & courage to make our lips & lives always be saying to people:
 - THIS IS WAY! WALK IN IT!

AMEN