

Scripture reading

Matthew 7:13 "Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.

While I will be moving around, I'm going to spend some time in the Gospel of John today. I'm going to start with John 14:1-7 but I'd like to take a minute to look at why John wrote a Gospel.

John 20:31 But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

Paint the picture

Jesus has told the disciples that he will die and predicted Peter's denial

John 14:1-7

*"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. You know the way to the place where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?" Jesus answered, "**I am the way and the truth and the life.** No one comes to the Father except through me. If you really knew me, you would know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him."*

9b Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father.

I want every one to think about that, “**I am the way and the truth and the life**.” No one comes to the Father except through me.

I read an interview done in 2004 by Cathleen Falsani a Chicago sun Times Religion reporter¹. She interviewed an up and coming senator. A senator who later on used his Christianity to help him while running for office. The woman asked the question What do you believe.

Wow, how I would love to be in the position that he was to proudly proclaim The Good news to everyone that yes Jesus is the Way to Heaven, he is the only Truth and The Life that gives everlasting Life

What do you believe?

Well the young man answered her and I'm going to read his Qoute:So, I'm rooted in the *Christian tradition*. **I believe that there are many paths to the same place**, and that is a belief that there is a higher power, a belief that we are connected as a people. That there are values that transcend race or culture, that move us forward, and there's an obligation for all of us individually as well as collectively to take responsibility to make those values lived.

Many ways to the same place. Does anyone agree with that?

Well I do, I think that man nailed it on the head.

That's right it doesn't matter if you are buddist, muslim, atheist , Pick your religion. Pick your god.

¹ <http://blog.beliefnet.com/stevenwaldman/2008/11/obamas-interview-with-cathleen.html>

They all are one of many ways to the same place. They are all a one way ticket to eternal damnation. Revelation 20:15 *If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.*

And whose book was that Revelation 13:8 the book of life belonging to the Lamb that was slain from the creation of the world.

So there is truth to that statement there are many ways to the same place.

If your name is not in Jesus book of life you have a one way ticket to hell.

Many ways to the same place!

“I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

All right I want to back up for a minute. Research polls tell us that 57 % of Christians do not believe that Jesus is the only way to heaven.

So this man isn't alone many Christians believe that same thing.

The problem is Matthew 7:22-23 tells us that many will say Lord, Lord did we not prophesy in your name, and Jesus will reply “I never knew you, away from me you evil doers.

Just because you pray when things aren't going your way, just because you tell people you are a Christian, Just because you force yourself to get up on Sunday morning and go to church. Does not mean you have a saving understanding of Jesus.

All right you believe there was a man named Jesus, and he died on a cross.
But he wasn't just a great man he wasn't just a prophet.

He was the son of God.

Let's look at that statement **I am the way** . The way to what?

The way to Heaven? Simply, Yes, but there is much more to be found in that phrase.

When Jacob was at Bethel he had a dream of a ladder. And this Ladder went up to Heaven. The angels ascended and descended on it. Jacob's Ladder is Jesus. Jesus is the mediator he **is the way** that all God's blessings come to us.

In Leviticus Chapter 4 God's word tells us of the Sin offering. When someone sins they are to bring their offering which must be without defect. And the Priest After sprinkling the blood will burn the offering. Now Listen to the last part of v35 In this **way** the priest will make atonement for them for the sin they have committed, and they will be forgiven.

In this way the Priest will make atonement. **This Way** But that is no longer the way. We have Jesus as our Priest and as our Lamb and our **way**.

The blood of these lambs and bulls and Goats was not what caused forgiveness for these people.

That is why God tells us he is tire of our offerings in Isaiah????

It was the Faith they showed God by Obeying.

Hebrew 10:4 It is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins. The offering was a way to make them realize they were sinners.

And we must first realize we are sinners. The law and the commandments were given to us not to punish us but to help us realize we are sinners. I constantly challenge myself to look in the mirror that the commandments provide. Oh and I don't like what I see. But I know that the faith I have that I believe in my heart that the blood that Jesus shed on that cross will make atonement for my sin.

Hebrews 10:14 because by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy.

Jesus is our perfect lamb and our one sacrifice. Through Him we have found a way to heaven and God.

John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but **have everlasting life**.

What is the only requirement in that verse? that whoever believes in Jesus.

1 John 5:5 ⁵Who is it that overcomes the world? Only the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.

1 colosians 20-23

Acts 16:30-31

Romans 10:9

Romans 10:13