

HOW TO GET OUT OF THIS WORLD ALIVE John 14:1-10

INTRODUCTION

- ∅ Is their life before death? Does heaven exist? How can we get out of this world alive?
- ∅ Objections to Christianity:
 - § Boring, untrue, irrelevant
- ∅ Jesus said he was 'the way, the truth and the life'
 - § Direction for the lost
 - § Reality for the confused
 - § Life for those in the dark

1. DIRECTION FOR A LOST WORLD

- ∅ Hunger for meaning and purpose
 - § what am I doing on earth?
 - § what is the point of life?
 - § where am I heading?
- ∅ We need a map to show us the way – even better is a guide
- ∅ The Bible and other books
 - § an abundance of information
 - § many religions, with contradictory answers
 - § Jesus speaks with authority
- ∅ Jesus is able to help us, because he not only knows the way, he is the Way. By following him, we won't get lost.
- ∅ And he won't let us down: 'I am with you always, even to the very end of the age.'

Jesus said: "I am the way"

2. REALITY IN A CONFUSED WORLD

- ∅ Does it matter what we believe?

- § Is truth relative, subjective?
- § Can we ever know the truth?
- § If Christianity is true, it is of supreme importance

- ∅ Truth as something understood
 - § The evidence that convinces
- ∅ Truth as something experienced
 - § Living in relationship

Jesus said: "I am the truth"

3. LIFE IN A DARK WORLD

- ∅ Created in God's image
- ∅ Fallen in to sin
- ∅ Forgiven in Christ

Jesus says to those who trust and follow him: *I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.*

Jesus said: "I am the life"

CONCLUSION

- ∅ God reveals himself in his Son
 - § Not a set of rules to follow or a religion to devote your life to
 - § but a person to know – it's all about Jesus, knowing him, loving him, obeying him
 - § Stumbling block to some but the power of God for those who believe
- ∅ Knowing Jesus is:
 - § Not boring; it's living life to the full
 - § Not untrue; it is the truth
 - § Not irrelevant; it transforms the whole of our lives
- ∅ And it is not just for this life only but for eternity. We **can** get out of this world alive!

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John 14:1-10

Jesus comforts his disciples

- ¹ "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me.
- ² 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.
- ³ 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.
- ⁴ You know the way to the place where I am going."

Jesus the Way to the Father

- ⁵ Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?"
- ⁶ Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.
- ⁷ If you really knew me, you would know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him."
- ⁸ Philip said, "Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us."
- ⁹ Jesus answered: "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"
- ¹⁰ Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you are not just my own. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work.

All I once held dear, built my life upon,
all this world reveres and wars to own;
all I once thought gain I have counted loss -
spent and worthless now, compared to this.

*Knowing you, Jesus, knowing you,
there is no greater thing:
you're my all, you're the best,
you're my joy, my righteousness;
and I love you, Lord.*

Now my heart's desire is to know you more,
to be found in you and known as yours;
to possess by faith what I could not earn,
all-surpassing gift of righteousness.

Knowing you . . .

Oh to know the power of your risen life,
and to know you in your sufferings;
to become like you in your death, my Lord,
so with you to live and never die!

Knowing you . . .

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Karl Barth, one of the most famous theologians of the 20th Century, was lecturing once to a group of students at Princeton University. One student asked him a question that has probably crossed your minds from time to time: "Sir", said the student, "don't you think that God has revealed himself in other religions and not only in Christianity?"

Barth's answer stunned the assembled company. He answered, "No, God has not revealed himself in any religion, including Christianity. He has revealed himself in his Son."

That is the challenge and the scandal of our faith. That is the great claim that Jesus makes - and the great stumbling block for many people.

We are not called primarily to believe in a religion nor to follow the teachings of a religion. We are called to believe in a person, a living person; a person who claimed to not only speak for God - but to be God.

He tells his disciples: "I am in the Father and the Father is in me" He tells them "Whoever has seen me has seen the Father" and he tells them "I am the way, the truth and the life"

We all have to make up our minds who Jesus is. Is he self-deluded, mad? Or is he a con man, deceiving his disciples into thinking he was God? Have his followers and the writers of the New Testament invented the stories? Or is he really who he says he is, the Way, the Truth and the Life? If he is indeed a great Teacher, then we have to take his claims seriously.

While God is loving and kind, and while it is of the utmost importance that we love one another, we should never water down the claims of Jesus. Likewise we should never set up ourselves as the judge of who is going to heaven and who is going to hell.

What we are called to do as ones who believe in Jesus, to be people of the Way (an early term used to describe Christians).

Our job is to point to The Way - to point to Jesus - and to testify as to who he is and what he has done, - with no apologies - with no attempt to say what God will or not do to them if they refuse to listen to us - and with no judgment upon those who refuse to accept our testimony.