

**"The ONLY Way to Heaven"**

**John 14:6**

This past week I felt the need to bring to you a very simple message on the HOW A PERSON CAN BE ACCEPTED BY GOD.

In John 14 Thomas asked the most important question ever asked by any person.

**John 14:4-6**

<sup>4</sup> *And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know.*

<sup>5</sup> *Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way?*

<sup>6</sup> *Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*

When Jesus answered Thomas His answer was very narrow. Jesus said He was the WAY to the Father and there is NO OTHER way. Notice what Peter said in Acts when he was speaking of Jesus.

**Acts 4:12**

<sup>12</sup> *Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.*

Then in Matthew Jesus stated again the NARROWNESS of salvation.

**Matthew 7:13-14**

<sup>13</sup> *Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat:*

<sup>14</sup> *Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.*

The end of verse 14 is very alarming. Jesus tells us that the WAY of salvation is found only by a few. So with that said I want to walk you through the WAY of salvation.

I. **The Dark Picture**

1. **We are all sinners.**

**Romans 3:23**

<sup>23</sup> *For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;*

What does God call sin?

### **1 Corinthians 6:9-10**

<sup>9</sup> *Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind,*

<sup>10</sup> *Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.*

Let me define some of the terms here.

- ✓ **Fornicators** - Sexually immoral
- ✓ **Idolaters** - Those who worship idols
- ✓ **Adulterers** - Those who are unfaithful in marriage.
- ✓ **Effeminate** - Perverted
- ✓ **Abusers of themselves with mankind** - Homosexuals
- ✓ **Thieves** - Those who steal.
- ✓ **Covetous** - Greedy, desiring what others have.
- ✓ **Drunkards** - Those who have been intoxicated.
- ✓ **Revilers** - People who use their words as weapons to slander, humiliate, insult, and intimidate.
- ✓ **Extortioners** - Swindlers

### **Revelation 21:8**

<sup>8</sup> *But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.*

Let me show you the Ten Commandments.

1. ***Thou shalt have no other gods before me.***

2. *Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.*
  3. *Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain;*
  4. *Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.*
  5. *Honour thy father and thy mother:*
  6. *Thou shalt not kill.*
  7. *Thou shalt not commit adultery.*
  8. *Thou shalt not steal.*
  9. *Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.*
  10. *Thou shalt not covet*
2. Sin separates us from God.

**Isaiah 59:2**

<sup>2</sup> *But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.*

3. All sin must be paid for.

**Romans 6:23**

<sup>23</sup> *For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

4. We cannot earn the forgiveness of sin.

**Ephesians 2:8-9**

<sup>8</sup> *For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:*  
<sup>9</sup> *Not of works, lest any man should boast.*

**II. The Love of God**

5. God loves us and provided a sacrifice for our sins.

**John 3:16**

<sup>16</sup> *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.*

6. Jesus died for you and me to pay for our sins.

**1 Corinthians 15:3**

<sup>3</sup> For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;

<sup>4</sup> And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:

**Isaiah 53:4-6**

<sup>4</sup> Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.

<sup>5</sup> But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

<sup>6</sup> All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.

7. Forgiveness is a free gift from God.

**Romans 6:23**

<sup>23</sup> For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Ephesians 2:8-9**

<sup>8</sup> For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

<sup>9</sup> Not of works, lest any man should boast.

8. You need to do 2 things.

a. Repent

**2 Peter 3:9**

<sup>9</sup> The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

b. Believe

**Acts 16:30-31**

<sup>30</sup> And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved?

<sup>31</sup> And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.

**John 1:12**

<sup>12</sup> *But as many as received him, to them gave the power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:*

III. **The Danger of Walking Away**

You may be thinking that NOW is not the proper time for you to be saved. Let me show you something that you need to consider.

**John 12:37-40**

<sup>35</sup> *Then Jesus said unto them, Yet a little while is the light with you. Walk while ye have the light, **lest darkness come upon you**: for he that walketh in darkness knoweth not whither he goeth.*

<sup>36</sup> *While ye have light, believe in the light, that ye may be the children of light. These things spake Jesus, and departed, and did hide himself from them.*

<sup>37</sup> *But though he had done so many miracles before them, **yet they believed not on him**:*

<sup>38</sup> *That the saying of Esaias the prophet might be fulfilled, which he spake, Lord, who hath believed our report? and to whom hath the arm of the Lord been revealed?*

<sup>39</sup> *Therefore **they could not believe**, because that Esaias said again,*

<sup>40</sup> *He hath blinded their eyes, and hardened their heart; that they should not see with their eyes, nor understand with their heart, and be converted, and I should heal them.*

Let me show you something we have looked on Sunday evenings.

**2 Corinthians 4:3-4**

<sup>3</sup> *But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost:*

<sup>4</sup> *In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.*

Conclusion:

*About 1830, a man named George Wilson killed a government employee who caught him in the act of robbing the mails. Wilson was tried and sentenced to be hanged. The President of the United States, Andrew Jackson, sent Wilson a pardon. But, Wilson did a strange thing: he refused to accept the pardon.*

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*AM Service*

*No one seemed to know what to do because of this, so Wilson's case was sent to the U. S. Supreme Court. Chief Justice Marshall wrote the opinion: "A pardon is a slip of paper, the value of which is determined by the acceptance of the person to be pardoned. If it is refused, it is no pardon. George Wilson must be hanged." And he was.*

*The death of Christ on the cross is the pardon God has sent. But before it becomes a pardon, we must accept it in faith and obedience. It is through the cross, and only through the cross that we can be saved from sin and its consequence of eternal separation from God in hell.*

*Have you accepted God's pardon in Christ Jesus? If not, will you'*