

**John 14: 5-7 The only way to God**  
**By Irving Steggles, December 06 2009 (Evening)**  
<http://www.birchleighbc.co.za>

These notes are posted on our website because some people are finding them useful. Please note the following:

1. They are notes in advance of the preaching of the sermon. The final sermon preached may differ substantially from the notes. These are not a transcript of the sermon.
  2. The notes have not been checked for typographical errors or even words which may mislead and will have been hopefully corrected in the preaching.
  3. You are strongly encouraged to use these notes in association with the download of the actual sermon and not as if they were a transcript.
  4. Sources of quotations are not always acknowledged in the notes, but as far as is possible are acknowledged in the sermon.
  5. Download the sermon here: <http://www.birchleighbc.co.za/2009/12/06/the-only-way-to-god-evening/>
- 

God, the way to God, the only way to God

## God

We are reading the Bible and the Bible makes it clear there is only one God. He is God who created the world – *in the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.*

The one God speaks about Himself in *Isaiah 44: 9-20*. Men can and do make their pretend gods – they are called idols – but the one true and living God is not threatened by them.

God is not distant from His creation, but controls it and relates personally to those in His created universe who were made in His image – humans, men and women. The first man and woman were born in a living relationship to God who walked in their garden home with them. He spoke to them and they spoke to Him. Man and woman could know God.

He commands them to obey Him. He requires their obedience because He is God. For a very short while the first man and woman obeyed Him, but then they rebelled. Because He is God their disobedience cannot be ignored. Their relationship with him was fatally damaged, they were banned from His presence and there was no way back into the presence of God in the garden.

Adam was representative of all men who would follow him. The second man Cain murdered the third man Abel. God told him *sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is for you, but you must rule over it*. Sin had entered the world through Adam and every future generation was going to be in the same position as Cain.

The one living and true God is holy and no-one who is sinful can come into His presence. There is no way to God without sins being removed.

God provided a means through sacrifices for the forgiveness of sins – but they did not deal with the problem of the rebellious and sinful heart. *There is no peace for the wicked, says God.*

The Bible's description of man is lost, lost, lost – no way to God, no way, no way. Until God provides a way.

That way is the man who is speaking in our passage – it is Jesus.

But before we look at Him who is the way – see what He says about God. He calls Him 3 titles in the passage we read – He calls Him “*God*”, He calls Him “*My Father*” and He calls Him “*The Father*” (vv 1,2,6)

So that is our brief look at God – creator, all powerful, holy, unapproachable in His awesome perfection, Judge, angry with sinners who have rebelled against Him. He is God the Father, and He is the Father of Jesus – who is therefore the Son of God.

## **The way to God**

A way goes from point A to point B and is only of use to us if we are at point A and we want to get to point B.

The gospel news that Jesus is saying here is that there is a way from where you are at point A to God where He is at point B.

We have looked at God, who He is and where He is. He is infinitely powerful, infinitely Holy, the supreme Governor of all Creation. He is in a place where only morally perfect creatures can dwell who have always bowed before Him in obedience and perfect humility. That is point B - the place of God the Father, the place of the Father of Jesus.

We have looked at man, creatures like you and me. We are on earth. We are sinful, in fact infinitely sinful. We are like the dust in the balance compared to God in all His power. We are wrecked, ruined, broken creatures descended from Adam and with Adam as our representative – until we have found the way to God and travelled on that way. We are at point A until we get on the way.

A way goes from point A to point B – it has a beginning and an end – and a middle.

Thomas in his ignorance does not know where Jesus is going and claims therefore not to know the way there. He does not know point B. But Jesus assures him that he is looking face to face at the way. *I AM THE WAY.*

The way to God *IS* Jesus. He does not just point to the way. He does not just teach the way. He does not just walk on it and command us to follow even in His perfect life – because we cannot do so. He is the rescuer from the quicksands of sin. He is the personal Saviour. He is like the man into whose arms the young John Wesley jumped when the home at Epworth was on fire – a brand plucked from the burning.

He is the payer and the payment for our privilege of travelling the road to God – it is indeed a toll road where the toll charge is infinite.

He is the priest and the sacrifice. He is the innocent one who takes our guilt. He lived the life we should have lived and He died the death we should have died.

Point A is our position of alienation from God – we are enemies of God. Point B is our position of acceptance by God. Jesus is the way from alienation to acceptance.

Point A is our position of being in the total grip of sin and Satan. Point B is our position of sinlessness and beyond the reach of Satan – in the middle, in Christ, on the way, we are the first time in our lives able not to sin.

Point A is our position of a guilty status before God with His wrath upon us. Point B is our position of righteousness before God with His wrath having been removed for ever. Jesus is the way – he is our wrath remover, the One who takes God's wrath on Himself.

Jesus explains how He is the Way. His triple assertion is the answer to the one question "*How can we know the way*".

He is the way because He is the truth. He is the full and perfect revelation of God. If you see Jesus you see God. If you know Jesus you know God. If you trust Jesus you trust God. No one knows God without knowing Jesus. C.f. *John 1:14* Jesus is the self-expression of God.

He is the way because He is the life. c.f. *John 1:4* He has "life in Himself" (*John 5:26*). He is the resurrection and the life (*John 11:25*). The person who is not "in Christ" exists but has not spiritual life – no desire for God, no motivation for obeying God, no desire for heaven. The person in Christ has vibrant spiritual life with all its fruits.

So what is the way? It is Jesus. For us to get on the way we must bind ourselves to Him. We must believe into Him. That means trusting absolutely ourselves, our present and our future to Him. It means taking the conscious act of our will to accept what He says about Himself – that He is God and to be obeyed as God and that we acknowledge our total dependence on Him.

You accept Jesus as Saviour by accepting Him as Lord.

### **The only way**

*No one comes to the Father except through me.*

A Christian cannot countenance the common phrase "There are many ways to God". It is the trendy language of pluralism which engulfs so many of our fellow men. It is the language of political correctness. But it is not the language of Christ. Therefore it is not true – it is the most dangerous of all errors because it seductively leads people to a sure road to hell and not the way to God.

There is One God. There is no other God but God. There is no other way to God but Jesus.

Works is not a way – or even part of the way. C.f. the *via moderna* of Luther's time in the RC church. C.f. Spurgeon's conversation.

Sincerity is not a way. Because Jesus is the Truth.

Ceremonial observance is not the way.

Belief in the love of God is not the way – *I believe that a loving God would never send anyone to hell.*

Peter preached to the very men who murdered Jesus – as he preached before the Council in Jerusalem, and these were his uncompromising words to Annas and Caiphas the High Priest: *There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.* (Acts 4:12)

Do not be seduced by the siren voices of the inclusivists, the ecumenists, the pluralists, the tolerationists (who say we must tolerate all religious ideas except for the exclusivism of

Christ!), the anti-dogmatists (who are dogmatic about ruling out all dogmatic opinions, the phobia labelers (who claim that to say Islam is not a way to God is to be islamaphobic).

Instead of getting worried about there only being one way to God, get on that way while you can – in other words now. Many men seek God all their lives and never find him. You are now in a place where you can hear the very words of Jesus. You are in Thomas's situation – face to face with Jesus.

Jesus is the way for you to come to God – no man or angel can stop you if you identify with Jesus by trusting Him, taking Him at His word, and saying "I am in your hands. I will simply trust you and obey you, because I know you are God". Of course in doing that you will express your sorrow for your past in ignoring Him and your grievous offences against God His Father. Dear Jesus, take me to your Father, the Father – may I know He is my Father.