

## "JESUS, THE WAY"

### Finding Jesus, The Way

#### INTRODUCTION

1. In this series, I have attempted to present Jesus as **The Way** to many blessings; indeed, He is the source of **every** spiritual blessing that God has to offer - cf. **Ep 1:3**
2. But how can we be sure that we have found the **true** Jesus and are truly His disciples...?
  - a. Jesus made it clear that simply believing in Him does not constitute true discipleship - **Jn 8:31**
  - b. How can we be sure that we are not actually following some caricature
    - 1) A misrepresentation of Jesus, presented to us in error by others?
    - 2) By those sincerely mistaken themselves (such as our parents, preachers, churches)?
3. To be sure that we have truly found Jesus, The Way, we must begin with the only reliable source of information about Him: **The Bible!**

[Surprising as it may be to some, a good place to start is with the **Old Testament...**]

#### I. FINDING JESUS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

##### **A. IT CONTAINS MANY THINGS ABOUT JESUS...**

1. Though completed hundreds of years before He came
2. As stated by Jesus on at least two occasions - **Lk 24:27,44-47**
3. It imparts wisdom that leads to salvation in Jesus - cf. **2 Ti 3:14-15**

##### **B. WE SEE JESUS THROUGH THE EYES OF PROPHECY...**

1. For example, from Isaiah we can learn things regarding:
  - a. The birth of Jesus - **Isa 7:14**
  - b. The suffering of Jesus - **Isa 53:4-6**
  - c. The sovereignty of Jesus - **Isa 9:6-7**
2. Many more prophecies could be taken just from Isaiah alone (one reason why he is commonly called "The Messianic Prophet")
3. Other prophets have much to say about Jesus
4. It has been estimated there are more than 300 prophecies about Jesus in the O.T.!

[So we should read the Old Testament in our efforts to find the true Jesus! But as important as it is in helping us to find Jesus, it's purpose was **predictive**, to **prepare** people for Jesus (cf. **Ga 3:24-25**). Therefore, to find Jesus more fully, we must also come to the gospels...]

#### II. FINDING JESUS IN THE GOSPELS

##### **A. FOUR RECORDS WITH A SIMILAR GOAL...**

1. Four accounts of His life...
  - a. **Matthew** emphasizes the "teachings" of Jesus (especially in regards to the kingdom)

- b. **Mark** features the "miracles" of Jesus, showing His power
  - c. **Luke** underscores the "humanity" of Jesus (without detracting from His divinity)
  - d. **John** stresses the "divinity" of Jesus (without detracting from His humanity)
2. The goal as expressed by John: to create faith - **Jn 20:30-31**
    - a. To see Jesus through the eyes of **fulfillment**
    - b. As they carefully document how He fulfilled prophecy

#### **B. REVEALING WHAT HE ACTUALLY TAUGHT...**

1. No one can know Jesus without reading these gospels carefully
2. We may often be surprised to find out how **different** the real Jesus is and what He actually taught, from the one imagined by many!
3. For example, many feel that they are going to heaven when they die
  - a. Jesus taught that most will not - cf. **Mt 7:13-14**
  - b. Many will be surprised at the Judgment Day - cf. **Mt 7:21-23**
4. Contrary to the "simple believism" many think is what is involved in following Jesus...
  - a. The real Jesus taught self-denial - **Lk 9:23-25**
  - b. The real Jesus expected disciples to "observe all things" - cf. **Mt 28:18-20**
  - c. Does this sound like the "Jesus" proclaimed by many today?

[By reading the gospels, then, we come much closer to finding Jesus. But Jesus did not reveal the complete truth while on earth (cf. **Jn 16:12-14**)! He left it up to the Holy Spirit to complete the work of guiding the apostles into all the truth. Therefore, to truly find Jesus and what His Will is for us today, we must also turn to the rest of the books of the New Testament...]

### **III. FINDING JESUS IN THE ACTS AND THE EPISTLES**

#### **A. IN THE BOOK OF ACTS...**

1. We see the fulfillment of Jesus' promise to send the Holy Spirit Who would guide them into all the truth - **Ac 2:4**
2. We see the Holy Spirit:
  - a. Guiding the apostles and early church in its formative stage - **Ac 13:2,4**
  - b. Guiding them into all the truth - e.g., **Ac 15:28**
  - b. Revealing things taught during Jesus' ministry not recorded in any of the four gospels - cf. **Ac 20:35**

#### **B. IN THE EPISTLES...**

1. The words of the apostles (i.e., the epistles) were to be received as if from Jesus Himself!
  - a. As Paul wrote to the church at Corinth - **1 Co 14:37**
  - b. And to the church at Thessalonica - **1 Th 2:13**
  - c. As Jesus said it should be - cf. **Jn 13:20**
2. The Holy Spirit did in fact guide the apostles into all the truth - cf. **Jn 16:13**
  - a. I.e., with the gospels, the book of Acts and the epistles (including Revelation) we find the teachings of Jesus and about Jesus **completely, fully, and finally** revealed!
  - b. I.e., no more revelation is needed
    - 1) We have all that is needed to live godly lives - cf. **2 Pe 1:2-3**

- 2) We have all that is needed to be complete - cf. **2 Ti 3:16-17**
- 3) Not even an angel from heaven appeared with new doctrines - **Ga 1:8-9**
- c. Our task is to simply remain true to what has been revealed once and for all - **Ju 3**

[With the writings of the New Testament, we are able to see Jesus through the eyes of **completeness!** All we need to know to follow Jesus as **The Way** is there, for us to **learn it**, and **live it!** No other revelations are needed. Having said this, let me finally emphasize that we only find Jesus when we truly obey Him...]

#### **IV. FINDING JESUS IN OBEDIENCE**

##### **A. AS EMPHASIZED BY JESUS...**

- 1. We must abide in His word to be His disciples - **Jn 8:31,32**
- 2. Jesus abides with us as we keep His commandments - **Jn 14:21,23**
- 3. This is how we truly know Him - cf. **1 Jn 2:3-5**

##### **B. AS ILLUSTRATED IN BAPTISM...**

- 1. This is especially true when we come to Jesus in faith and repentance, and submit to His command to be baptized - cf. **Ga 3:27**
- 2. Having received (or "put on") Christ in baptism, we are now in Christ, where all things are "new" - **2 Co 5:17**

#### **CONCLUSION**

- 1. Yes, all things are "new", for in finding Jesus by keeping His commands we find...
  - a. A better life
  - b. Forgiveness for our sins
  - c. Reconciliation with God our Father
  - d. The privilege of being in the Lord's church (and not some denomination begun by men)
  - e. The assurance of eternal life
- 2. Have you found Jesus, or are you following some cheap imitation of the real thing...?
  - a. Which at best is a misconception fostered by honestly mistaken people
  - b. Or at worst a slick promotion marketed by those seeking numbers rather than disciples?
- 3. You have truly found Jesus if you are heeding the implications of His "Great Commission"...
  - a. Accepting the authority (power) He has in heaven and on earth - **Mt 28:18**
  - b. Have been baptized (upon faith and repentance) as He commanded - **Mt 28:19**
  - c. Careful to observe all things that He commanded - **Mt 28:20**

Such are the only ones who have the assurance: **"I am with you always, even unto the end of the world."** They are ones who have "found" Jesus!

Let **Jesus** be **your way** to everything that is truly good! Trust and obey Him today!

## Following Jesus, The Way

As mentioned from the very beginning, the purpose of this study has been two-fold:

- **For those who are Christians**, to increase their appreciation of Jesus as their Lord and Savior, so they will want to serve Him with greater zeal;
- **For those who are not Christians**, to encourage them to let Jesus be **their** way to everything that is truly good, both in this life and in the life to come!

If you are not a Christian (or perhaps thought you were, but now wonder if you are a true disciple of Christ), I hope you will want to follow Jesus as **Your Way** for the rest of your life!

If so, remember that one finds Jesus in obedience. May I suggest that you concern yourself with three things:

- **Obey the gospel of Christ**, and Jesus will be your way to forgiveness and a closer relationship with God.
- **Grow in grace and knowledge**, that Jesus may lead you to a better life now, and to the eternal life to come.
- **Serve Jesus without denominationalism**, by finding a New Testament church, or if necessary, start one in your home.

To assist you in these three things, please feel free to utilize any and all of the outlines at [My Website](#). In particular, you might find the following studies helpful:

### To Obey The Gospel Of Christ

- [Are You Ready For Your Journey Into Eternity?](#)
- [Baptism - A Special Study](#)
- [Conversions In The Book Of Acts](#)
- [The Gospel Of Christ](#)
- [Make Your Calling And Election Sure](#)
- [Why Are You Waiting?](#)

### To Grow In Grace And Knowledge

- [After Conversion, What Then?](#)
- [A Closer Walk With God](#)
- [Growing In the Knowledge Of Jesus Christ](#)
- [Shining As Lights In The World](#)
- [The Significance Of Being A Christian](#)

### To Serve Jesus Without Denominationalism

- [Following Jesus Without Denominationalism](#)
- [The Church Jesus Built](#)
- [What Is The Church Of Christ?](#)

- [What To Look For In A Church](#)
- [Finding A Church In Your Area](#)
- [Starting The Lord's Church In Your Home](#)

If you need any assistance in obeying the gospel of Jesus or finding a church, please do not hesitate to [Write Me](#).

**The Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Grace be with you. Amen.  
(2 Timothy 4:22)**