

## Morning Worship

February 21, 2016

Pastor — Allan Lane

Organ --- Alva Lou Schottel

Worship Leader — Tim Waters

Piano — Sharon Waters

**As you enter for worship, please silence your cell phones.**

(CCLI permit # 424692 covers all copyright song lyrics)

Hymn # 197	" <i>Rejoice, the Lord Is King</i> "	Tim/People
Worship Prayer		Allan Lane
Welcome and Fellowship		Allan/People
Hymn # 219	" <i>Majestic Sweetness Sits Enthroned</i> "	Tim/People
Offering Prayer		John Lewis
Tithes and Offerings		People
Offering Music		Sharon Waters
Chorus # 234	" <i>King of Kings</i> "	Tim/People
Anthem	" <i>He Is the King</i> "	Worship Choir
Hymn # 204	" <i>Glorious Is Thy Name</i> "	Tim/People
Chorus # 203	" <i>His Name Is Wonderful</i> "	Tim/People
Children's Worship		
Scripture Reading		Allan/People
Message		Allan Lane
Hymn # 305	" <i>I Have Decided to Follow Jesus</i> "	Tim/People
Prayer Concerns		Allan/People
Chorus of # 567	" <i>Share His Love</i> "	Tim/People

## Is Jesus the Only Way?

John 14:1-14

Jesus often surprised people with teachings that cut across the grain of human nature. Lose your life to save it. The first will be last. The meek will inherit the earth. Rejoice in persecution. Pray for your enemies. It's better to give than receive. Turn the other cheek.

But, by far, the most outrageous assertion Jesus ever made — His most politically incorrect claim of all — was when He declared in John 14:6: "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but by Me."

This claim ruffles people like no other. It's been called arrogant and narrow-minded and bigoted and snobbish. For those who are seekers, something inside of them chafes at this claim. It becomes a stumbling block to faith.

So why is this claim so controversial? One reason is that it strikes at the core of three great myths about religion. Maybe you've heard these myths before, or maybe they're myths you believe right now.

### **Myth 1: All Religions are Basically Alike .**

So let's deal with the **first myth**, which is this: **When you get right down to it, all religions are basically the same.**

Perhaps you've heard people say that although there are surface-level distinctions between the various world religions, if you strip them all down to their essentials, all religions fundamentally teach the same thing, so it doesn't really matter which one you follow. In other words, all spiritual paths lead up the same mountain because all religions basically teach the brotherhood and sisterhood of men and women and the universal fatherhood of God.

Now, there may be some common ground between many of the world's religions, particularly concerning certain basic values and morality. But there are significant

differences, too. In fact, with this one outlandish assertion, Jesus boldly puts Christianity in a separate class by itself. If the path to God is through Jesus, then Christianity cannot be reconciled with any other religion. This uniqueness of Christianity is rooted in the uniqueness of Jesus Himself.

Someone once noted that other religious leaders say, "Follow me and I'll show you how to find truth," but Jesus says, "I am the truth."

Other religious leaders say, "Follow me and I'll show you the way to salvation," but Jesus says, "I am the way to eternal life."

Other religious leaders say, "Follow me and I'll show you how to become enlightened," but Jesus says, "I am the light of the world."

Other religious leaders say, "Follow me and I'll show you many doors that lead to God," but Jesus says, "I am the door."

It isn't until after Jesus makes such statements that He then says, "So follow Me." Do you see the difference? For a long time people have tried to harmonize the various religions of the world, but there are drastic and irreconcilable differences between Christianity and other belief systems.

Every other religion is based on people doing something. Through struggling and striving one must somehow earn the favor of God. They say people have to use a special prayer wheel or go on pilgrimages or give alms to the poor or avoid eating certain foods or pray in a specified way or go through a series of reincarnations or whatever. They are the attempts of people to reach out to God.

But Jesus Christ is God reaching out to us. Jesus taught the opposite of what other religious teach. He said nobody can do anything to merit heaven, so we might as well give up trying. He said we're all guilty of wrongdoing — and that's consistent with our experience, isn't it? Nobody here would claim to be perfect. And Jesus said that our wrongdoing separates us from our holy and perfect God — and, again, that's consistent with our experience. Haven't you ever felt distant or disconnected from God? Of course you have.

Because God is a righteous judge, our wrongdoing has to be paid for. So out of His love, Jesus voluntarily offered Himself as our substitute to pay the penalty that we owed for our sin. And when we receive His sacrifice on our behalf, we become reunited with God for eternity.

As someone put it, other religions are spelled "D-O," because they teach that people have to do a bunch of religious rituals to try to please God. But Christianity is spelled "D-O-N-E" because Christ has done it all on the cross — and we just need to receive Him.

So, friends, it does matter which path you follow in your spiritual journey. Jesus' own words dispel the myth that all paths lead to God.

### **Myth 2: All Religions are Equal .**

The **second myth** that Jesus dispels is related to the first. This myth says that **even though Christianity might be different, it's still just one philosophy among many, and that it's only as valid as any other religion.** In other words, even if there are differences between religions, they all have equal claims on the truth. You know — you have your truth and I have mine.

This myth has a certain amount of appeal because, on the surface, it seems to reflect the pluralistic attitudes of our nation. And we do want to be tolerant of other views, don't we? The Bible tells us we should be loving and accepting and respectful toward all people, regardless of their faith.

And here's another thing. Under our Constitution, all religious viewpoints are equally protected. People can believe whatever they want. But some people jump to

the erroneous conclusion that because different philosophies are equally protected, they must be equally valid. And that's just not the case.

The concept behind what the Supreme Court has called our "marketplace of ideas" is that truth and falsehood will grapple in unhindered debate so that, in the end, truth will prevail. So even though all religions are equally protected under our Constitution, that has nothing to do with whether they're based on truth. In this country people have the right to believe whatever they want. Every church is protected under the Constitution as much as any other religious institution. But that doesn't mean that its teachings are true.

And, of course, that means everybody is free to make the claim, as Jesus did, that they are the way, the truth, and the life, and that nobody can come to God except through them. I could say it or you could say it, but that wouldn't make it true. The question becomes how do we know Jesus was telling the truth? Well, Jesus backs up His claim with unique credentials that make Him uniquely credible.

For instance, Jesus authenticated His claim of being God by fulfilling dozens of centuries-old prophecies against every mathematical odd. These prophecies were like a thumbprint that only the Messiah would be able to fit — and, in all of history, it only fits Jesus.

Unlike other religious leaders, Jesus performed great miracles that further authenticated His claim to being God. And in the most spectacular demonstration of His deity, Jesus fulfilled His own prediction by being resurrected from the dead in an historical event that was witnessed by more than 500 people and which sparked a spiritual revolution unparalleled in history.

Christianity isn't just a philosophy, it's a reality. Jesus didn't just claim He was the one-and-only Son of God, but He validated His claim like nobody else in history.

So we've seen that the first myth — that all religions are basically the same — isn't true because Christ's teachings set Christianity apart from all other faiths. And the second myth — that Christianity is just one philosophy among many and only as valid as any other religion — isn't true because the unique credentials of Christ give Him credibility like no other spiritual leader. In other words, when He claims to be the way to God, His credentials back Him up.

### **Myth 3: All Christians are Narrow-minded .**

**The third myth** is the one that says **Christians are narrow-minded** or snobbish when they say Jesus is the only way to heaven.

Now, I'd agree Christians would be acting in a narrow-minded way if there really were lots of paths to God and they were saying that theirs is the best way. But they're not saying that.

They're saying that the truth of the matter is that someone has got to pay the penalty for our obvious wrongdoing that keeps us away from God. And Jesus, by virtue of His sinless-ness and divinity, is the only one qualified to be our substitute. That's just the reality of the situation. And it's not narrow-minded to act upon the evidence and pursue truth.

Let me draw you an analogy. Our daughter Aleana developed jaundice shortly after she was born. Jaundice is a liver disorder that caused her skin and the whites of her eyes to develop a yellow tint. The pediatrician told us that this is a potentially devastating disease but it's easily treated. All we had to do was put the baby under a special light for a while and this would stimulate her liver properly and she'd be all right.

Now, as her parents we could have said, "That sounds too easy. How about instead if we scrubbed her with soap and dip her in bleach? And if we worked hard enough, surely we could get her normal coloring back."

But the doctor, if he was any count at all, would have said, "No, there's only one way to handle this."

We could have then replied, "Well, how about if we just sort of ignore this and pretend everything's OK? You know — the jaundice is your truth, Doc, not our truth. And if we sincerely believe it, things will work out for the best."

The doctor would have said, "You'd jeopardize the life of your baby if you do that. Look, there's only one way to cure her. You're hesitant because it sounds too easy, but look at the credentials hanging on my wall. I've studied at medical school and I've used what I've learned to cure countless babies like yours. You must trust me!"

Now, would anybody accuse us as parents of being narrow-minded if we trusted that doctor and pursued the only course of treatment that was going to cure our little girl? That's not narrow-mindedness; that's acting rationally in accordance with the evidence.

Well, we all have a terminal illness called sin, and the reason we cling to Christ is because He's the Great Physician who has the only cure. We can try to scrub away our sin with good deeds, but it won't work. We can ignore it and hope it goes away, but it won't. We can sincerely think there's another way of dealing with it, but we'd be sincerely wrong. The truth is that only the Great Physician offers a treatment that will erase our stain of sin. When we turn to Him, we're not being narrow-minded; we're acting rationally in accordance with the evidence.

It's not snobbish to believe what Jesus taught about being the only way to God. Frankly, Christianity is anything but snobbish. Let's pretend there are two country clubs. The first one only admits people who have earned membership. To get in, you've got to obtain superior wisdom or fulfill a list of demands and fulfill certain spiritual requirements. Despite their best efforts, lots of people just won't make the grade and will be excluded. This is what other religions are saying by teaching that people have to work their way to God.

But the second country club says, "Anybody who wants in can come in because Jesus has already paid for your membership. Rich or poor, black or white, regardless of your ethnic heritage or where you live, you are encouraged to be included. Entry isn't based on your qualifications but only on accepting Christ's invitation. So we'll leave the matter to you. You decide. But remember, we will never turn you away if you seek admittance." That's what Christianity is like. Which country club would you say is being snobbish?

## **Conclusion**

Christianity is unique. It can't be reconciled with any other religion. And it backs up its truth claims with the credentials and credibility of Christ. That's why when Jesus said He is the way, the truth, and the life, history hasn't laughed at it. Instead, history has been revolutionized.

We know that apart from the payment that Jesus made on the cross, nobody has a chance of getting off Death Row. But exactly how much detailed knowledge a person has to know about Jesus or precisely where the lines are drawn, only God knows. The Bible says in 1 Corinthians 4:5 that only God can expose the motives of a person's heart.

The issue for you and me isn't ignorance. It's obedience. We've heard what Christ has to say — even today — we have access to the evidence, and it's clear we're

responsible for our decision on how we respond. When you do respond to Him and as you grow in your relationship with Him, you'll find out —

- That Jesus is the way — He's the path to a lifetime of adventure, fulfillment, challenge, and purpose.
- That He is the truth — and He will provide you with wisdom that works for everyday life and for the turbulent times as well.
- And He is the life. He — and He alone — can give you confidence for your future, for all of eternity.

### ***Faith Must Be Acted Upon!***

## **January Bible Study**

### **2 Corinthians**

*Today we conclude our study of 2 Corinthians. Hopefully it has been enlightening as well as beneficial for your spiritual journey. Allow me to thank Bro. Jack and Bro. Don for their help throughout the study. Here's a brief overview for today.*

*In chapters 8-9, Paul urges the Corinthians to give the offering to the believers in Judea, as they had promised. He taught that if they gave generously they would also "reap generously" (9:6).*

*Chapters 10-13 Paul defends his ministry and responds to attacks about his Apostleship. They had been questioning his authority and opposing him. Paul declares that if anyone preaches a different Gospel or a different Jesus, other than what Paul and the Apostles were preaching, they are false teachers and deceitful workers and should not be accepted.*

*In chapter 12:7-10, Paul explains a theology of his own suffering. He asked God to remove a suffering from His life but God refused. God responded to him, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness." Paul understood that God is sovereign and in control over even his sufferings. Therefore, Paul embraced sufferings because God allows them into life for a purpose regardless of how difficult they may be. In times of calamity, he understood that these were seasons when he depended on God's strength and mercy the most.*

*Paul responded, "Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ's sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong." Paul knew he was the strongest when he felt the weakest because he depended on God, the one who has infinite strength.*

*The last thing Paul teaches in 2 Corinthians is how to test yourself. If you want to know if you are a Christian, if you want to know if you are a believer and follower of Jesus Christ, then you must test yourself, "to see if you are in the faith." Examine yourself with Scripture (13:5).*

### ***Evidence of God's Presence***

Out in eastern Kansas along the historic Santa Fe Trail is a spot called the 110 Mile Creek Crossing. Originally it was called Jones Creek but was renamed for its distance from Ft. Osage, the place where the Santa Fe Trail originated in Missouri. The trail wandered the path of least resistance for some 775 miles to Santa Fe, New Mexico. 500 of those miles went through Kansas.

A man named Fry McGee owned a tavern, hotel and a toll bridge across the creek. Not so

long ago some of the buildings of the settlement were still standing. An exploration of the creek bank reveals the site of the original toll bridge. And not too far from the toll bridge is where those who wished to avoid the toll had worn a rutted and muddy path down into the creek and up the opposite bank. Such crossing was only possible when the water was very low.

Tumbled down buildings, grain storage areas, and even a trash dump does not reveal any people, but plenty of evidence they had once been there. In the springtime along the nearby Dragoon Creek where the Osage Indians were known to winter you can still find arrowheads and broken shards. You won't see any of the Osage Indians but you know they have been there.

One person was walking along an old dirt road and noticed Irises growing. After some investigation through the undergrowth and back into the nearby woods what was left of a very old, long abandoned house was discovered. Poking around further there were the remnants of an old coal-oil cooking stove and a rusted out wash tub and other stuff left behind. People were not seen but it was evident they had been there.

Those trailblazers of the Santa Fe, the Native Osage along the Dragoon Creek and those who lived in that old house were nowhere to be seen. But it was apparent that they had been there.

Walking through the area certainly peaks the curiosity of any who are willing to investigate the landscape. There is overwhelming evidence of human presence having once been there. The same is true with all nature. While observing the beauty of all creation, it becomes very much apparent that, though we do not see God, we know God has been here. Though we may have never seen God, the evidence of God's existence is sufficient proof that God has been and continues to be here (Romans 1:19-20).

God Bless You!  
Bro. Allan

## Opportunities For Service

### Living out Your Spiritual Commitment . . . and Fulfilling Christ's Divine Plan

#### **Sunday, February 21, 2016**

Choir Rehearsal..... 9:00 am  
Sunday School ..... 9:15 am  
Morning Worship.....10:30 am  
Nursery: Volunteers as needed  
Ushers: John Lewis, Gary Yarbrough,  
Joseph Coats, Isaac Waters

Alternate: Larry McKahan

#### **January Bible Study — Noon**

No Evening Worship.....6:30 pm

#### **Wednesday, February 24**

Youth Study..... 6:30 pm  
Prayer / Bible Study ..... 6:30 pm  
Adult Choir ..... 7:30 pm

#### **Thursday, February 25**

W Team.....6:30 pm  
**Sunday, February 28, 2016**  
Choir Rehearsal..... 9:00 am  
Sunday School ..... 9:15 am  
Morning Worship.....10:30 am  
Nursery: Volunteers as needed  
Ushers: Larry McKahan, Bill Schottel  
Isaac Waters, Ken Kirkpatrick  
Alternate: Isaac Waters

Evening Worship.....6:30 pm

**Wednesday, March 2**

Youth Study.....6:30 pm

Prayer / Bible Study .....6:30 pm

Adult Choir .....7:30 pm

**Thursday, March 3**

G Team.....6:30 pm

**Up-Coming Events.....**

**GROW Team**

Commit to **GROW!** **Everyone make a contact!** Invite someone to Bible Study and Worship this week. ☺

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**Sunday Nights**

We will not have Sunday Evening Service here tonight.

**Wednesday Night Prayer  
and Bible Study**

We will meet this Wednesday at 6:30 pm. Prayer matters!

**Food Pantry**

Today, February 21 is our collection day for Patee Park Food Pantry. You may donate monetarily or you may place your canned or boxed goods in the hallway basket any time.

**Diversicare  
Nursing Home**

**February 28, 2016 at 2:30 pm**

Please join us as we minister to those who can no longer attend their own churches.

**North American Mission Study**

**March 6 at noon**

**immediately following the morning worship service**

*with a lite lunch (main course provided—bring desserts, finger foods).*

**Daylight Saving Time**

**March 13**

**Remember to spring forward one hour the night of March 12**

**Fellowship Dinner and Business Meeting**

**March 20 at Noon**

Please plan to attend and fellowship with us as we conduct the business of the church.

**St. Joseph  
Christian School  
Faith Promise 2016**

**Dr. Glen Schultz**

Will be sharing on Kingdom Education  
***School: It's More Than Academics***

**Tuesday, March 8 at 6:30 pm**  
**hosted by Frederick Boulevard Baptist Church**

This is a free event. All those interested from the community are invited to attend.

## ***For the Record-***

### **Attendance:** February 14, 2016

Sunday School.....	55
Visitors.....	1
Total.....	56
Contacts Made.....	10
Morning Worship.....	57

### Children's Worship

Feb. 7.....	21
Feb. 14 .....	16

January Bible Study..... N/A

Sunday Movie Night ..... 10

Wednesday Night ..... 14

### **Financial Record:**

Weekly Budget..... \$ 2,040.52

Offering Received... \$ 1,299.62

### **Offering Received by Mail:**

### **February Counting Team:**

Larry McKahan and Jordan Lane

### **February Van Driver:**

Mike Green

Remember to call 232-3747

**before 8 am** if you need a ride.

### **February Member Birthdays:**

05...Matthew Mayse

### **February Anniversaries**

George and Brenda Burgess -- February 25, 1995

### ***Prayer Requests ...***

David Schottel—knee replacement

Ken Nice—surgery recovery

Kathryn Seedorf—Sharon's mother

Joyce Izer—pray for healing

Alicia McKinnon—healing

LoLeta Middleton—eye infection

Bill Schottel—healing

Maxine and George Ferbert

Betty Anslinger—February 15 surgery

Sue Higgins—regain strength

Buddy Means—Mary Sharp's nephew

Ellen Blanton and Lois Ulmer—

Elvera's daughter & daughter-in-law

Bill Haskins—strength

Stacy Gray—cancer treatment  
Muriel Elder—surgery recovery  
Stella Davis and Linda Rails—Doris' Richardson's sisters  
Grant Schottel—advanced training  
Henrietta Caballero—Brigida's Sister  
Austin Chalfant—Abby's nephew  
Gary and Marilyn Singleton—health  
Bob Barquist—cancer

Lester Buck Kathryn Beavers  
Louanne Laurence Dorothy Post  
Allen Jennings Ann Riddle  
Jim Winans Jozy Winans  
Nellie Reynolds Leona Reynolds  
Kevin Duty Kenny Duty  
Madeline Swink Bobby Griswold  
Susan Patten Debbie Sands  
Brenda Burgess Judy Anderson  
Carolyn Houts Roscoe Lane  
Keon McKahan Dorothy Post  
Missionaries Don and Diane Combs  
Nickolay Nazaruk, Peski 2 Church  
David and Deborah Grace  
Jeanette Swackhamer—Beja People  
Our Nation and Leaders  
Our Military Service people  
**Today's Prayer Requests ...**

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**Our Nation and our Leaders ...**

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**Five More New Families...**

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