

Morning Worship

June 10, 2018

Pastor — Allan Lane

Organ ---

Worship Leader — Don Beavers

Piano — Alva Lou Schottel

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

(CCLI permit # 424692 covers all copyright song lyrics)

Welcome and Fellowship

Allan/People

Scripture Reading Psalm 62:5-8

Chorus # 386

The Family of God

Don/People

Worship Prayer

Allan Lane

Hymn # 514

When We All Get to Heaven

Don/People

Hymn # 515

There's a Land that is Fairer than Day

Don/People

Hymn # 453

How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds

Don/People

Offering Prayer

John Lewis

Tithes and Offerings

People

Offering Music

Alva Lou Schottel

Children's Worship

(Children are dismissed)

Message

The Way, The Truth, The Life

Allan Lane

Hymn # 280

Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross

Don/People

Prayer Concerns

Allan/People

Chorus # 217

Oh, How I Love Jesus

Don/People

The Way, The Truth, The Life

John 14:1-6

We live in a pluralistic society. That means you and I can have differing views but we must both be understood as equally correct. While that might work on some things, when it comes to the claims of Jesus in God's Word, there is only one correct view – and that's God's.

1. The Declaration of Personal Exclusivity .

a. His followers believed it.

Much of Jesus public ministry was attended by large crowds who came to see the miracles that he performed and to receive the meals that he provided. Miracles and meals were the attraction but when Jesus started preaching some very hard things about the demands of discipleship and its cost the crowds left him. When this happened Jesus turned to his disciples and asked them if they were leaving also. We have a record of what they said (John 6:68). These men were so convinced that Jesus was the only way that they went all over the known world with the message of the Gospel and sealed it with their own blood.

b. His Father declares it.

(Matthew 17:5, Philippians 2:5)

c. His foes rejected it.

In this one statement Jesus turned the religious world of His day upside-down. The religious establishment of his day taught that keeping a system of rules and regulations was the "way" to God and that they were the arbiters of who would and who would not go to heaven. Jesus explodes this in just 18 words. For this audacity they plotted and planned and killed Him. Paul sums up just what Jesus did to the Jewish system (Hebrews 9:11).

2. The Declaration of Perfect Enlightenment . (verse 13)

Again Jesus used the definite article to emphasize Himself as "the only truth." It is important to appreciate that a cultural issue is often linked in with this debate: it is implied that to defend Christianity is to belittle non-Christian religions, which is unacceptable in a multicultural society. Especially to those of liberal political convictions, the multicultural agenda demands that religions should not be permitted to make truth-claims, to avoid the dangers of imperialism and triumphalism. Indeed, there seems to be a widespread perception that the rejection of religious pluralism entails intolerance, or unacceptable claims to exclusivity. In effect, a liberal political agenda dictates that all religions should be treated on an equal footing. It is but a small step from this political judgment to the theological declaration that all religions are the same. But is there any reason for progressing from the entirely laudable and acceptable demand that we should respect religions other than our own, to the more radical demand that we regard them all as the same or as equally valid manifestations of some eternal or 'spiritual' dimension to life?

In its most extreme form, this view results in the claim that all, religions lead to God. But this cannot be taken seriously, when some world religions are avowedly non-theistic. A religion can hardly lead to God if it explicitly denies the existence of a god or any gods. We therefore need to restate the question in terms of 'ultimate reality', or 'truth'. Thus refined, this position might be, stated as follows. Religion is often determined by the circumstances of one's birth. An Indian is likely to be a Hindu; an Arab is likely to be a Moslem. On account of this observation, it is argued, all religions must be equal paths to the truth.

This makes truth a function of birth. If you were to be born into Nazi Germany in the 1920-30's, you would likely be a Nazi. But does this makes Nazism true? If you had been born in ancient Rome, you would probably have shared its polytheistic worship of Jupiter, Apollo or Neptune; if you had been born in modern Arabia, you would be a monotheistic worshipper of Allah. So according to today's multicultural agenda they are all true? Or were they only true in their day? No other intellectual discipline would accept such a superficial approach to truth. Why accept it here? It seems to rest upon an entirely laudable wish to allow that everyone is right, which ends up destroying the notion of truth itself. Consider these two propositions:

- (1) Different people have different religious views.
- (2) Therefore all religious views are equally valid.

Is proposition (1) in any way implied by proposition (2)? For the form of liberalism committed to this approach, mere existence of a religious idea appears to be a guarantor of its truth. Yet no one seems prepared to fight for the truth/content of defunct religions, such as classical polytheism – perhaps because there is, no-one alive committed to them, whose views need to be respected in a multicultural situation.

The fatal weakness of this approach usually leads to its being abandoned, being replaced with a modified version, which could be stated thus: "Any view which is held with sincerity may be is regarded as true." I might thus be a Nazi, a Satanist, or a passionate believer in the flatness of the earth. My sincerity is a guarantee of the

truth. On this view, it would follow that if someone sincerely believes that modern Europe would be a better place if six million Jews were to be placed in gas chambers, the sincerity of those convictions allow that view to be accepted as true. According to questions.org British philosopher of religion John Hick summarizes the absurdity of this view, "To say that whatever is sincerely believed, and practiced is, by definition, true, would be the end of all critical discrimination, both intellectual and moral."

a. His claim as the truth.

Christians believe that the Scriptures are clear and precise on this matter. We are reminded of what Peter said preaching to a hostile crowd (Acts 4:12). And Paul plainly stated his agreement (1 Timothy 2:5).

Again, according to questions.org "Exclusivism or restrictivism is the traditional evangelical Christian view dealing with the salvation of non-Christians. This is the view that a sinner can only be saved by a conscious, explicit faith in the gospel of Jesus Christ. Exclusivists argue that a positive response to general revelation is simply insufficient to ensure salvation from a Biblical perspective. Exclusivists appeal to multiple scriptures to support their view, including John 14:6; John 3:16-18; and Romans 10:13-15. A straightforward reading of these texts reveals the inspired Scripture is clearly teaching Christian exclusivism (that one must place his faith in Christ in order to be saved)." John 1:14, 17 declare the incarnate Christ is the only full of grace and truth.

b. His embodiment as the truth.

Jesus told Mary at the tomb of Lazarus that He is the resurrection and the life (John 11:25-26). Then He clarified that whoever believes in Him, though he were dead, shall he live. He closes with the question "Does she believe this?" Our salvation is secured by our belief in Jesus Christ as the embodiment of truth.

3. The Declaration of Powerful Enablement .

a. He activates physical life.

Jesus is source of all physical life. He is the creator and in Him we live and move and have our being (Colossians 1:15-17).

b. He animates spiritual life.

This is the great question for us this morning. If Jesus is who He says He is, and Who the Father says He is, and who His disciples said He is and who the church has proclaimed for 2,000 years that He is then is was, is and shall be the one and only way to God. There is no other way.

Conclusion

Jesus is the only way to heaven for several reasons. Jesus was "chosen by God" to be the Savior (1 Peter 2:4). Jesus is the only One to have come down from heaven and returned there (John 3:13). He is the only person to have lived a perfect human life (Hebrews 4:15). He is the only sacrifice for sin (1 John 2:2; Hebrews 10:26). He alone fulfilled the Law and the Prophets (Matthew 5:17). He is the only man to have conquered death forever (Hebrews 2:14-15). He is the only Mediator between God and man (1 Timothy 2:5). He is the only man whom God has "exalted . . . to the highest place" (Philippians 2:9).

Thomas a Kempis, in his work "Imitation of Christ," summarized Jesus' words this way: "I am the way, the truth, and the life. Without the way there is no going; without the truth there is no knowing; without the life there is no living. I am the way which thou shouldst pursue; the truth which thou shouldst believe; the life which thou shouldst hope for."

The lyrics of *In Christ Alone*, a contemporary song by Keith and Kristyn Getty, say it this way:

*In Christ alone my hope is found,
He is my light, my strength, my song;
This Cornerstone, this solid Ground,
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My Comforter, my All in All,
Here in the love of Christ I stand.*

It's All in Christ Alone!

Leader or Follower?

A father was filling out an application form for his daughter who was seeking entrance to a very exclusive college. He came to the question on the form which asked whether the applicant was a leader. In honesty he wrote, "No, but she is a really good follower." The application was sent in and a month later a letter arrived notifying him that his daughter had been accepted. At the bottom of the page the dean had written, "Since the entering class of 500 has 499 leaders, we thought that there ought to be room for one follower."

Perhaps the church today needs to listen to this. While there are many leaders, there's only one we should be following – Jesus Christ.

Do you remember playing the childhood game "follow the leader?" The leader leads a line of followers (one or more) through difficult places or maneuvers. Anyone who does not duplicate the leader's course or actions is out of the game. The last follower in the game becomes the leader in the next game.

When Jesus said to Peter and Andrew, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men," they left their nets and followed Him for a lifetime. To Levi (who we know as Matthew) Jesus said simply, "Follow me," and he got up and left his tax collector's booth and followed Jesus. These and the rest of the twelve followed Jesus literally from place to place, observing, learning...following Him.

But Jesus does not expect all of us to traverse the territories of Galilee, Samaria, Judea, Caesarea Philippi, and The Decapolis. His meaning in the Scriptures is something other than literal, mechanical actions. Following Jesus is a lifelong vocation of adhering to His teachings and commands, and emulating His values, attitude, and actions.

Following Jesus is an analogy or metaphor, like when Scripture declares that we are God's sheep. Jesus said the Good Shepherd knows His sheep, and His sheep hear His voice, and they follow Him (John 10:27). He not only knows His sheep, but He cares for them enough to go out in search of a lost one (Luke 15:4-6). After all, sheep do get lost. They cannot exercise independent judgment about where they are going and how to get there. But if we are His sheep, we will follow His voice. That's what faithful sheep do.

Mark Batterson said in his book *All In*: "Most people in most churches think they are following Jesus, but I'm not so sure. They may think they are following Jesus, but the reality is this: they have invited Jesus to follow them."

Too many times I want Jesus to follow me, to serve my purposes, to do my will. But, I want you to join me in saying: "God, I want You to revive my life. I want to follow You. Help me to get out of the way. Navigate my life into following Your will."

God Bless You!

Bro. Allan

Opportunities For Service

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

Sunday, June 10, 2018

Sunday School.....9:15 am

Morning Worship.....10:30 am

Nursery: Volunteers as needed

Ushers: John Lewis, Joseph Coats, Gary Yarbrough, ? ? ? ?

Alternate: Larry McKahan

Harvest America 6:00 pm

June 12– 13

SBC Annual Meeting, Dallas, TX

Wednesday, June 13

Prayer Warriors

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

Worship Team 7:30 pm

Sunday, June 17, 2018

Happy Father's Day!

Sunday School 9:15 am

Morning Worship.....10:30 am

Nursery: Volunteers as needed

Ushers: ? ? ? ?, Ken Kirkpatrick, Larry McKahan, Bill Schottel

Alternate: Ken Nice

No Evening Service...6:30 pm

Wednesday, June 20

Prayer / Bible Study6:30 pm

Worship Team 7:30 pm

Up-Coming Events.....

June 10 — Harvest America

June 11-15 — Youth Camp Grand Oaks

June 17 — Father's Day

June 24 — Diversicare 5:30 pm

July 16-19— Children's Camp Grand Oaks

July 22-26 — Vacation Bible School

GROW Team

Commit to **GROW!** Everyone make a contact! Invite someone to Bible Study and

Worship this week. ☺

.....

Sunday Nights

We will not have Sunday night services tonight or next week. We will continue our study entitled:

A Case for Faith with Lee Strobel. Don't miss it!

Wednesday Night Prayer and Bible Study

Come pray for the direction of our church. Please plan to attend and pray at 6:30 pm and enjoy a time of fellowship and Bible Study.

Mark Your Calendars Now!

- ♦ **June 11-15**
Youth Camp
- ♦ **July 16-20**
Children's Camp
- ♦ **July 22-26**
Vacation Bible School
- ♦ **August 18**
Men's Conference
Frederick Boulevard
Baptist Church

Vacation Bible School

July 22-26

Mark your calendar!

Let Ellen know if you are willing to serve and what age group. Think about who you can bring.

Tonight at 6:00 pm. Who can you invite?

In Sympathy

*We would like to express Christian Sympathy to the family and friends of
Joyce Cook
who passed away*

Tuesday, June 5, 2018

For the Record

Attendance: June 3, 2018

Sunday School.....23
Visitors..... 0
Total..... 23
Contacts Made..... 8
Morning Worship..... 32
Sunday Night.....N/A
Children's WorshipN/A
Wednesday Night 8

Financial Record:

Weekly Budget \$ 2,286.39
Offering Received ... \$ 3,337.41
Long Family - May... \$ 60.00

Offering Received by Mail:

June Counting Team:

Don Beavers and Jordan Lane

June Van Driver:

Mike Green
Remember to call 232-3747
before 8 am if you need a ride.

June Member Birthdays:

09... Sarah Waters
13... Desiree McDonald
14... Jessica Burgess
14... John Lewis
19....Jordan Lane
25... Martha Green
26... Pam Battreal
30... Randy Harr

June Anniversaries

John and Beverly Lewis

June 11, 1948

Jo and Elmer Mayse

June 27, 1981

Prayer Requests ...

Graduates
Larry Danner Family
Marcia and Don Hart—blessings
Mike Green—infection in knee

Larry McKahan—infection
Sharri Duty—surgery recovery
Swymeler’s Grandsons—kidney issues
Jessica Kirkpatrick and baby Levi
Donna and Bill Dunn—health
Joyce Cook—health
Jack and Flo Conard
Peggy & Gary Fewins—Peggy’s health
Arlette Duty—strength
Gina Harr—strength
Don Beavers—heart and health
Curtis Conard—recovery
Emily Jones & baby Liam
Cynthia Burdick—cancer recovery
Karissa and Matt Long and family
The Waters Family—guidance
Stephanie & Jason Terpack
Shawna Hughes—recovery
Rosella Davis—Flo Conard’s sister
Mary Sharp’s brother-in-law Jim
Bill Clinton—Don and Mae’s son
Lisa Bowers—Jack and Flo’s daughter
LoLeta Middleton—strength
Elvera’s daughter & daughter-in-law
Zella Davis —Doris Richardson’s sister
Rev. A. B. Brown Betty Campbell
George Ferbert Kevin Duty
Jim Winans Nellie Reynolds
Madeline Swink Ann Riddle
Kathryn Beavers Keon McKahan
Jozy Winans Kenny Duty
Pat Means Buddy Means
Bill & Juanita Debbie Sands
Pat Puckett Judy Anderson
Brenda Burgess Roscoe Lane
Carolyn Houts Tim Izer
Nickolay Nazaruk, Peski 2 Church
David and Deborah Grace
Our Nation and Leaders
Our Military Service people
Today’s Prayer Requests ...

Our Nation and our Leaders ...

Five More New Families...
