

**Elders:**

Rufus Barfield \* Dan Jackson \* Donnie McDaniel

**Deacons:**

Paul Byas \* Chris Gorham \* Rhett Moeller \* Michael Myrick \* Sheldon Smith

**Evangelist:**

Antoine Holloway

**Worship Times:**

Sunday Bible Study/9:30AM      Sunday Morning Worship/10:30AM  
Sunday Evening Worship/6:00PM      Wednesday Bible Study/7:30PM

**Meetings:**

**Men's Leadership Class**      **Saturday Evangelism Class**

December 22<sup>nd</sup> @ 9:00am

November 17<sup>th</sup> @ 9:00am

**Elders/Deacons Meeting**

**Women's Thursday Bible Study**

November 11<sup>th</sup> @ 5:00pm

TBA

**2013 Spring Gospel Meeting w/ Ethan Longhenry of Venice, California**

April 18<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>, 2013

**2013 Vacation Bible School w/ David Graham of Cincinnati, Ohio**

June 17<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>, 2013

THEME: TBA

**2013 Fall Gospel Meeting w/ Larry Wright of Savannah, Georgia**

October 10<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>, 2013

**Prayer Requests (Health Problems & Sick Presently)**

Thelma Findley \* Anne Harrison \* JoAnn Harrison \* Andrew Madison \* Bruce McDonald \* Janet Ostroff \* Isaac Parker \* Earl Sellers \* Lewis & Anne Wise

**Prayer Request (Unable To Attend Services Here)**

Anne Harrison \* Steven Chung \* Angelita Dillon \* Bruce McDonald \* Carlos Vargas

**Prayer Request (Traveling)**

Antoine Holloway \* Calvin Mitchell \* Cindy Turney

**Additional Announcements**

- Song Practice Today @ 5:00pm

**Contribution & Attendance Figures**

November 4 <sup>th</sup>	\$6,936-Contribution	122-Attendance
October 28 <sup>th</sup>	\$3,699-Contribution	116-Attendance

**WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?**

Hear The Gospel (Acts 15:7) \* Believe In Jesus (Acts 8:12) \* Repent Of Our Sins (Acts 3:19) \* Confess Christ To Be The Son Of God (Acts 8:37) \* Be Baptized In Water (Acts 22:16) \* Remain Faithful (Acts 2:42)

**TODAY'S DATE: November 11, 2012**

**Wildercroft  
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**Updated Weekly By Various Brethren**

***"A Going Church For A Coming Lord, Which Does  
All The Lord Authorizes" - Romans 16:16***

## Jesus: The Way, the Truth, and the Life



*Thomas saith unto him, "Lord, we know not whither thou goest; how know we the way?" Jesus saith unto him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life: no one cometh unto the Father, but by me. If ye had known me, ye would have known my Father also: from henceforth ye know him, and have seen him" (John 14:5-7).*

Sometimes it is all a matter of emphasis.

John 14:6 is a famous Scripture, and rightly so: in it Jesus neatly encapsulates the essential claim He makes as the Son of God: He is the way, the truth, and the life, and the only way to the Father is through Him. When discussing this Scripture we often emphasize "the": Jesus is THE way, THE truth, and THE life. This is well and good: since the fulness of Godhead dwells in Jesus bodily, and He is the exact imprint of the divine nature, He truly is the embodiment of God and all God is (John 1:1, 14, 18, Colossians 2:9, Hebrews 1:3). In our day and age the claim seems arrogant but is really the necessary conclusion: if God is life, love, holiness, and truth, and Jesus is God embodied, then He is **the** way, **the** truth, and **the** life, since anything can only be true if it is consistent with Him and His purposes.

But Jesus is not making this statement in a vacuum. He is speaking to His disciples and is trying to encourage them. He encourages them to believe in God and in Him, trusting that He is going away to prepare a place for them and will return to receive them to Himself (John 14:1-3). He assures them that they know the way to where He goes (John 14:4). This sounds strange to the disciples: Thomas speaks up, confessing that they do not know where Jesus is going, and therefore, how can they know the way (John 14:5)? Jesus tells them: I AM the way, and the truth, and the life (John 14:6). He will go on to show them how they have seen the Father through Him since the Father has spoken and worked through Him (John 14:7-11). The Spirit will come to assist them; if they love Jesus, they will do His commandments (John 14:12-19). Therefore, the disciples really do know the way: they have lived with Jesus, they have seen Jesus teach and work, and it is now for them to follow after Jesus and think, act, and feel like Jesus!

So yes, Jesus is **the** way, **the** truth, and **the** life. But it is also true, as Jesus says, that **I am** the way, the truth, and the life.

It would be difficult to believe that this **I am** has no theological undertones. In John 8:58, Jesus declares that before Abraham was born, **I am**, and the

Jews picked up stones to stone Him for blasphemy (John 8:59). **I am** is the name which God gives to Moses to tell the people of Israel in Exodus 3:13-15; the Divine Name YHWH (likely pronounced Yahweh) is a nominal form of **I am** and means "The Existent One" or "The One Who Is." Jesus says that if you have seen Him you have seen the Father; He says, "**I am** the way, the truth, and the life" (John 14:6-7). Jesus is YHWH just as the Father is YHWH! As God, He most certainly is the way, the truth, and the life.

In many ways this declaration is the type of statement on which the entire Christian religion is built. Christianity is based upon the Person of Jesus and the "good news," the Gospel, of His life, death, resurrection, ascension, lordship, and ultimate return (Acts 2:36, 1 Corinthians 15:3-8). So much of Christianity is tied up within Jesus as a Person: the Gospel is superior to all which came before it because God has now spoken to us through His Son (Hebrews 1:3). Law codes had existed for years; in Jesus we have truth embodied, walking around, teaching, doing, serving (John 1:14, 18). Little wonder, then, that Paul encourages Christians to imitate him as he imitated Christ (1 Corinthians 11:1), and how after saying that we know that we know Jesus if we do His commandments, John says that we know we abide in Jesus if we walk as He walked (1 John 2:3-6).

We do well to remember that Jesus says that He, **Jesus**, is the way, the truth, and the life (John 14:6). Yes, the Scriptures have been inspired by God, and we do well to know them and to use them to guide our thoughts, feelings, and deeds (cf. 2 Timothy 3:15-17), but we must remember that even the Scriptures confess that they are written so that we might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing in Him we may have life in His name (John 20:31). The Scriptures are the way by which we learn about Jesus, the Way. The Scriptures tell us the truth about Jesus, the Truth. Through Scripture we are directed to Jesus, the Life. They provide the means to the end and are not the end in and of themselves. One can know the Scriptures from cover to cover, but if that knowledge does not lead to trust and confidence in Jesus the Way, the Truth, and the Life, then it is all in vain, and will not save (2 Thessalonians 1:6-9).

The Bible testifies to the truth that Jesus is Lord, the Way, the Truth, and the Life, the only Way to the Father. The Bible is not Lord; Jesus is Lord. As we seek to understand the truth of God in Jesus as revealed in Scripture, and as we affirm our faith in Jesus as the exclusive way to the Father, let us keep in mind that we are serving an actual Person, fully God and fully man, and it is that Person, Jesus, who embodies the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Let us pattern our lives after Jesus, abide in Him, and be saved!

- **Ethan R. Longhenry**