

From Pastor's Desk...

### **The Way, The Savior, The Mediator and The Sacrifice**

The Bible's claim about Jesus Christ is very unique. It claims that Jesus Christ is the only Way, the only Savior, the only Mediator and the only Sacrifice; four claims of high importance!

Jesus himself claims, *"I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me"* (John 14:7).

Peter preached, *"There is salvation in no one else! God has no other name under heaven by which we must be saved"* (Acts 4:12). This given name is Jesus Christ.

In 1 Timothy 2:5, we see *"For, There is one God and one mediator who can reconcile God and humanity - the man Christ Jesus."* Furthermore, Hebrews 10:12 says, *"But our High Priest offered himself to God as a single sacrifice for sins, good for all time."*

The aforementioned verses make it clear that Jesus Christ is the one and only Way to reach the Father, the only Savior of the world, the only Mediator between man and God, and the final and only sacrifice for sins.

Is Jesus Christ a legend, lunatic, liar, or the true way, the savior, the mediator and the sacrifice?

In his famous book Mere Christianity, C. S. Lewis makes this statement, "a man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic or he would be the devil of the hell. You must take your choice. Either this was, and is, the Son of God, or else a madman or something worse. You can shut Him up for fool or you can fall at His feet and call Him Lord and God."

Jesus could only have been one of the four things: a legend, a liar, a lunatic, or Lord and God. There is much historical and archaeological evidence to support His existence and every reputable historian agrees He was not a legend. If Jesus were a liar, why would He die for His claim, when He could have easily avoided such a cruel death with a few choice words? And if He were a lunatic, how did He engage in intelligent debates with His opponents or handle the stress of His betrayal and crucifixion while continuing to show a deep love for His antagonist? Christ said He was Lord and God. All these evidences support this claim.

The Bible adds to His claim; Peter presented Him as the only Savior, Paul introduced Him as the only Mediator, and the author of the Hebrews affirms Him as the final Sacrifice.

Jesus is unique and therefore the Church and its beliefs are Christ-centered and not based on human philosophies. Let us sanctify Him in our hearts as our Savior and Sacrifice, Mediator, and the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

God bless you.

**Rev. K. M. Varughese**

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### **Jesus Christ-The Only True Way to Abundant Life**

Regi Varghese, Secretary & Managing Editor

Many people criticize Christianity being too narrow-minded because we believe that Jesus Christ is the only way to salvation. They point to numerous other religions of the world and say, "How can your way be the only way?" Some people believe that all the religions in the world are basically the same. Here is what Jesus meant when he called out "I am the way the truth and the life".

WAY - Jesus wanted to emphasize on the way in his call "Follow me" by charting a path. There is no other path to heaven, no other way to the Father. Peter reiterated this same truth years later to the rulers in Jerusalem, saying about Jesus, "Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved" (Acts 4:12). The exclusive nature of the only path to salvation is expressed in the words "I am the way."

TRUTH - Jesus said that He came to fulfill the Law and the prophets (Matthew 5:17). Jesus, as the incarnate Word of God (John 1:1) is the source of all truth.

LIFE - He spoke of His authority over life and death as being granted to Him by the Father. In John 14:19, He gave the promise that "because I live, you also will live." The deliverance He was about to provide was not a political or social deliverance, but a true deliverance from a life of bondage to sin and death to a life of freedom in eternity.

When we follow Him in "The Way" we can be assured of following Him all the way to Heaven. When we follow him in "The Truth" We believe his commands are true. We know in "The Life" he gave us, we have life in abundance.

### **Good News: There is Hope**

Lijo J Mathew, Managing Editor

In today's world, uncertainty is at its rise from war, terrorism, poverty, sickness, discrimination, natural disasters and so on with an endless list adding to it! Mankind by nature are continuously failing to find lasting solutions or a quick fix to these problems even with the technology, culture, medicine, finances or social advances that are at its helm.

Undeniably, we have reached the crossroads; is there any hope left for mankind who is relentlessly working to get the answers that can satisfy his inner needs in this ever changing world?

The good news is, yes! There is Hope; a hope that comes through none other than our Lord Jesus Christ who said "I am the way, the truth, and the life." - John 14:6.

According to the Bible, Jesus is the only way to God. He is the one and only Mediator between God and man. By the virtue of His life on earth, His death on the cross and resurrection, Jesus is truly the only way to God.

In John 8:32 Jesus says, "And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." When Jesus speaks of truth, it describes that which corresponds to reality, which is factual and absolute. It clearly says "So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed" (John 8:36). No one else in this world other than Jesus Christ can give us the true freedom.

And finally, Jesus offers us the life which is abundant and eternal in nature. Jesus said that one who believes has eternal life and he is the bread of life (John 6:47-48). Let us look unto Jesus who is our savior and redeemer and most importantly introduce Him to our fellow beings who may be hopelessly seeking for a true way in their journey towards their ultimate destination.