

I AM Part 8: "The Way, Truth, and Life" (12-31-2017)

This series . . . Today we are wrapping up the I AM series where we have been exploring the identity & mission of Jesus through the eyes of the apostle John.

Today: Part 8 – "I AM The Way, Truth, and Life"

John 14:6 (ESV)

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

Notes:

Way - a traveller's way or road, a course of conduct, a manner of thinking, feeling, deciding

Matt 7:13-14 – broad & narrow way

Truth - truth, in reality, in fact, certainty

John 8:32 – and you shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free

Life - the state of vitality, as opposed to death, fullness of life, active, vigorous

John 3:16 – eternal life & John 10:10 – abundant life

John 14:1-3 (ESV)

(1) "Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. (2) In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? (3) And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.

Notes: Jesus' way addresses fears & offers eternal life in relationship with Him

John 14:4-7 (ESV)

(4) And you know the way to where I am going." (5) Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" (6) Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. (7) If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."

Notes: Jesus is saying I have made the way clear to you . . . I am the way. Know me, know the Father, know the Way, Truth, and the Life. Jesus is the answer to all of life's questions . . . And the answer to the final question.

Why am I here? How should live? Why do bad things happen? . . . What happens after everything happens?

GK Chesterton spoke of this as a **Key** fitting all the doors, **CS Lewis** as the **Sun** – you see it and everything else by it.

Laodicea History: **Map of the 7 churches**

Scroll through pictures: **Street, Temple, Theatre, Pipes, Baths**

The existing remains attest to its former greatness. The ruins are well preserved and as of 2012 are being substantially renovated. Its many buildings include a stadium, baths, temples, theatres, and a gymnasium.

School of Medicine – primarily eye & ear – known for their eye salve

Center for Banking – very wealthy, in fact unlike other towns in the area, when affected by the earthquake, they refused Roman aid and rebuilt from their own wealth

Trading – Famous for their black wool garments

Sister City – Colossae

Laodicea is 11 miles from Colossae

Paul's letter to Colossians was meant to be read to Laodicea and vice versa. He apparently wrote them a letter too.

Colossians 4:15-16 (ESV)

(15) Give my greetings to the brothers at Laodicea, and to Nympha and the church in her house. (16) And when this letter has been read among you, have it also read in the church of the Laodiceans; and see that you also read the letter from Laodicea.

Our Series last summer 2016 was on the book of Colossians. And it's primary message: Christ is the King, and here is what it looks like when you make him King of your life!

Notes: 2 cities & 2 letters – both to be shared. The letter to Laodicea is lost (even that says something), but Jesus wrote a letter directly to Laodicea, and it's found in the book of Revelation.

Colossians: written by Paul in A.D. 64

Revelation: written by John in A.D. 96

30 years after Paul writes letters to these 2 cities, we see the results for Laodicea . . .

Revelation 3:14-16 (ESV)

(14) "And to the angel of the church in Laodicea write: 'The words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of God's creation. (15) I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were either cold or hot! (16) So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth.

Notes: Luke warm . . .

Laodicea lacked a natural water supply. Water piped in from hot springs six miles to the south, like any cold water that could have been procured from the mountains, would be lukewarm by the time it reached Laodicea.

Jesus says: "Were you hot [i.e., for bathing] or cold [i.e., for drinking], you would be useful; but as it is, I feel toward you the way you feel toward your water supply—you make me sick."

Revelation 3:17 (ESV)

For you say, I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing, not realizing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked.

Notes: Laodicea: Banking Center, Textiles (like wool), Medical School (ear & eye)

What really is important? What are true riches? Beware of the warning Paul gave . . .

Colossians 2:8 (ESV)

See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ.

Notes: The world will offer ways to live apart from Jesus, but they are empty! They might have an appearance of success, but they are rotten to the core. Be careful is the warning, don't fall for the lie!

Unfortunately Adam & Eve still eat apples! Time doesn't make us smarter, how do you think ruts happen?

Revelation 3:18 (ESV)

I counsel you to buy from me gold refined by fire, so that you may be rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself and the shame of your nakedness may not be seen, and salve to anoint your eyes, so that you may see.

Notes: Jesus' offer . . . From rags to riches!

- Rich City – Banking & Trade – Jesus says you are poor, buy gold from me
- Fine clothes – Famous for black wool, Jesus says you are naked & need his white garments
- Eye salve – There medical center made a famous eye salve, Jesus says you are blind & need his salve

Revelation 3:19 (ESV)

Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline, so be zealous and repent.

Notes: Love & Correction – go hand-in-hand, so be zealous & repent! (This is the opposite of our natural reaction!)

Revelation 3:20-22 (ESV)

(20) Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me. (21) The one who conquers, I will grant him to sit with me on my throne, as I also conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne. (22) He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

Notes: Will we heed these letters? Will we receive Jesus in – to be our way, truth, and life?

Behold the great I AM stands at the door and knocks . . .

1) True Vine

2) Resurrection & The Life

3) Bread of Life

4) Light of the World

5) Good Shepherd

6) The Door

7) The Way, The Truth, The Life

Will I hear what the Spirit says to the churches and let Him in?

Revelation 1:3 (ESV)

Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear, and who keep what is written in it, for the time is near.

Note: I've read it aloud . . . Now will we be a church that keeps these words?