



+ **YOU**

Fall 2023

Confident in the Face of Hard Questions

**Sermon Title:** Christ Is the Only Way

**To be used with Session #4:** Is Jesus the Only Way to God?

**Scripture:** Romans 10:9-13

**Connection with Unit Theme:** To complement the Bible study *Is Jesus the Only Way to God?* this sermon expounds upon the teaching of Paul to the church at Rome. The passage reveals the character and nature of Jesus which provides the needed evidence to show that Jesus is truly the only way to God for all of mankind.

**Introduction:** One of the first things many of us do after getting in our cars and putting on our seatbelts is to put the address of our destination in our GPS. While we wait on the data to load, we pick the music we want to listen to, check the various routes and pick the one we want to travel. Most of the time, we want the quickest route. Sometimes, however, we are willing to forgo the quicker route for the more scenic one. We get to pick and then we make the turns as directed.

When it comes to spending eternity with God in heaven, we do not have multiple routes from which to choose. God has made it simple for us in that He has given us one route, and that is through a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Today's sermon is going to outline how we know this to be true and challenge us to either accept this fact personally or commit to share this with someone this week.

**1. Jesus is the only way because He is Lord (Rom. 10:9-10).**

Salvation is gained when someone confesses with their mouth that Jesus is Lord and believes in their heart that God raised Him from the dead. The word Lord simply stated means boss. When we confess that Jesus is the boss of our lives, then we must acknowledge that we are not the boss.

C.S. Lewis once said that each of us will afford Jesus one of three titles. He is either a liar, a lunatic, or Lord. Lewis went on to say that if Jesus was a liar, the disciples would not have ultimately died for their beliefs as no one is willing to die for a lie. If Jesus was a lunatic, then His followers would have dispersed upon His death. This leaves us with the title of Lord, and God's Word supports this fact. When we look at the life of Jesus as a whole, we can conclude that He is truly Lord. His words and His actions, along with the words and actions of others within the Bible, show that He was and truly is Lord.

**2. Jesus is the only way because of the empty tomb (Rom. 10:9-10).**

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Paul told the church at Rome that salvation is had when one believes in their heart that Jesus was raised from the dead. We have two important details to look at here. First, we are called to believe and not simply to know. If we look at the word *believe* in the original language, we see that it means to have a deep and personal knowledge about someone or something. I can know that a chair will hold me by observing it from a distance. If, however, I chose to sit into the chair, my knowledge has shifted to belief. We are saved when we believe in our hearts that Christ was resurrected.

The second detail is the fact of the resurrection. We can trust that Jesus is the only way because the tomb is still empty, and no one was ever able to find the body of Jesus. If the religious leaders or the Roman government had been able to find the body of Jesus, Christianity would have been stopped before it had the chance to start. But they were not able to show the body of Jesus because He was and is alive. We can go to the graves of various religious and political leaders and acknowledge where they currently buried or entombed. We are unable to go to the graveside of Jesus because He is not there, and He is therefore Lord.

### **3. Jesus is the only way for all of mankind (Rom. 10:11-13).**

It is common for us to divide ourselves based on personal preferences. Some of us squeeze the toothpaste from the bottom, while others smash it in the middle. Some of us order water when we are out to dinner and others want a glass of tea. One area in which there is no need to divide ourselves is the fact that Jesus died for us all. He did not just die for one race or ethnic group, westerners or easterners, rich or poor, or any other way we classify ourselves. He died for all of mankind.

Our world today finds itself divided on a host of fronts, and we need to return to a biblical worldview. The church can stand on the truth of God's Word and proclaim a message of hope and healing to a world that desperately needs to hear this. The gospel message bears no distinction; Jesus is available to all who will call upon Him.

**Conclusion:** We should always ask ourselves, what do we do with a message like this? For those here today that may not know Jesus as Lord and Savior, would you be willing to confess with your mouth that He is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead? If yes, then you too can have a saving relationship with Him. The issues that divide us today are not a hinderance in coming to faith in Jesus. For those of us who do have a relationship with Jesus, can we too be challenged by this message? Let us be found faithful in sharing the hope that Jesus is the only way with those we encounter today and throughout our lives.

#### **Author Bio**

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