



Sermon Series: Confident in the Face of Questions

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

Sermon Title Possibilities: The Way to God

Scripture: 1 John 5:1-13

Connection with Unit Theme: To complement the Bible study “Confident in the Face of Questions,” this sermon helps to settle once and for all the argument that there is more than one way to heaven. Some people believe they can work their way to heaven; some believe they can buy their way to heaven; and still others believe reaching heaven is all about transcending to different states of consciousness. Most do not believe Jesus to be the Son of God. They see Him as only a talented teacher. This includes people who embrace various religions. Only the Bible offers clear evidence that Jesus is the way to heaven and to the God who loves us.

Introduction: The apostle John who was often called the disciple that Jesus loved (John 13:23) understood the work of his Lord and Master and the reason God sent Him to earth. Jesus died on a cross, was buried, and rose again (1 Cor. 15:3-4) so that we might not have to face the judgment of God. In his own way John shared this doctrine of salvation in his writings. He shared in terms of love, faith, and hope which offers more clarity to our salvation experience and communicated about an intimacy that flows from God to the world. John presented God as One who longs to save us. He adds these layers to our salvation experience to deepen our love for God.

1. Believe in Jesus (vv. 4-5).

In John 3:16, Jesus told Nicodemus what it means to be born again. It is a classic verse that believers and non-believers know well. Many times, the verse is written on signs as an evangelistic strategy at public events such as football games and parades. So, when John used the phrase, “born of God” (v. 4), the readers in his time and today’s readers know what he means. To be born again means a change of heart or a spiritual transformation must take place. Moreover, what is indicated here is that to be born again or transformed, one must believe in Christ. To his statement about rebirth, John adds an additional caveat. He says that a person who is born again

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“conquers the world.” We know that nothing is impossible with God, so those who follow Christ will live in the same victory that Christ experienced when He rose from the dead.

This victory comes to fruition through faith (v. 5). It is a faith that is exercised not only at the moment when we trust Christ as Savior, but it is a faith that is lived day after day in the lives of those who follow Him. When we find ourselves in trouble or facing difficulty, we should be mindful that when we seek victory to overcome what we are going through, we are seeking God from a place of victory.

2. Believe the Water, Blood, and the Spirit (vv. 6-8).

The whole of Jesus’s life is a life of extraordinary events, from His birth to His death. He was born by the power of the Holy Spirit to a virgin. He lived and walked on the earth as a man even though, He is also God. He performed many miracles that healed the bodies, minds, and the lives of people everywhere He went. He died on a cross but rose from the dead and is now seated with God in heaven.

Jesus’s birth testifies of who He is even though during Jesus’s day, there were some who said, He was “the Christ” only between His baptism and His death. But John dispelled this false teaching when he said, Jesus “came by water and blood.” Biblical theologians and scholars have different interpretations for water and blood. However, it has been widely accepted that John meant the water of Jesus’s baptism, and the blood of His crucifixion. At all points before and after, Jesus remained the Son of God. The water, the blood as well as the Holy Spirit are all consistent witnesses that tell us who Jesus is.

3. Believe God’s Testimony (vv. 11-13).

God is the central figure throughout the Bible. From Genesis to Revelation, we see His handprint in every event and in the lives of biblical people. His omniscience, omnipotence, and omnipresence present a powerful argument for His historical sovereignty and divine providence over the earth. Moreover, everything God did, He did because of His great love for humanity. That’s the reason when God speaks, He speaks with an authority that can be trusted.

John pointed out that those who accept the testimony that God has given about His Son will have eternal life. Jesus is all you need. You don’t need to question your salvation because it has been given by God Himself.

Conclusion: The way to God is not difficult. One needs only to believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God who was born, died, buried, and rose from the dead. Eternal life is all about Jesus. In essence, it is an acceptance of the loving gift of God who desires that all people are saved.

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