

The Great I Am

I Am The Way, The Truth & The Life

(Jn 14:1-6)

INTRODUCTION

1. Good Morning,
 - a. Greeting...
2. Series of lessons on "The Great I Am."
 - a. We have noticed thus far that Jesus is...
 - i. The great "I Am."
 1. **Jn 8:58**
 - ii. The bread of life.
 1. **Jn 6:35**
 - iii. The light of the world.
 1. **Jn 8:12**
 - iv. The door.
 1. **Jn 10:7**
 - v. The good shepherd.
 1. **Jn 10:11**
 - vi. The resurrection and the life.
 - b. Today we see the fifth "I am" statement of Jesus...
 - i. I am the way, the truth, and the life.
 1. **Jn 14:6** "Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."¹
3. There are a number of passages that highlight the importance of Jesus.
 - a. We have looked thus far at five different "I Am's" of Jesus that show thusly.
 - b. However there are none that completely sum up Jesus more than this simple verse.
4. With that in mind let us look more closely at this all import passage **Jn 14:6**.

I. The Way

- A. Humanism suggests they are "the way" to social and economical peace
 1. "The major thesis of humanism is that there is really nothing much wrong with man as he already is." (from Coffman's Bible Commentary, Copyright © 1971-1993 by ACU Press, Abilene Christian University. All rights reserved.)
 - i. The Bristol Humanist Group wrote, "Humanism is an approach to life based on reason and our common humanity, recognizing that moral values are properly founded on human nature and experience alone." (<http://goo.gl/CzDPW>)
 - ii. The International Humanist & Ethical Union wrote, "Humanism is a democratic and ethical lifestance which affirms that human beings have the right and responsibility to give meaning and shape to their own lives. It stands for the building of a more humane society through an ethics based on human and other natural values in a spirit of reason and free inquiry through human capabilities. It is not theistic, and it does not accept supernatural views of reality." (Ibid)

¹ All Scriptures are taken from the ESV unless otherwise noted. If other translations are used this is not necessarily an endorsement of the translation.

The Great I Am

2. When this philosophy is the case we see many problems with mankind spring forth.
 - i. Crime is rationalized.
 - ii. Morals are selective.
 - iii. Ethics are situational.
 3. Thus humanist look to humans to "fix" the social and economical problems that might arise.
 - i. But is this the case...NO!!!
- B. Jesus is the answer to man's sin
1. Apart from Jesus there is no solution for the sin of mankind.
 - i. **Ac 4:12** "And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."
 2. Jesus alone was able to...
 - i. Suffer and die on behalf of mankind.
 - a. **Mk 8:31** "And he began to teach them that the Son of Man **must** suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes and be killed, and after three days rise again." (emphasis mine)
 - ii. Be resurrected to never die again.
 - a. **Ro 6:9** "We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him."
 - iii. Wash away our sins through His blood.
 - a. **1 Jn 1:7** "But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin."
 3. Brother Coffman said concerning this, "The sin problem is solved only in Christ. He alone reveals man's sin, ransoms him from the tyranny of it, removes him from the practice of it, remits it, and even overrules it for his benefit - provided only and always that the sinner must yield himself to the Lord and walk in his way; for he is the way." (from Coffman's Bible Commentary, Copyright © 1971-1993 by ACU Press, Abilene Christian University. All rights reserved.)

II. The Truth

- A. Humanism suggest they are "the truth" and in no need of any other
1. The Humanist Society of Western New York wrote, "Humanists take responsibility for their own lives and relish the adventure of being part of new discoveries, seeking new knowledge, exploring new options. Instead of finding solace in prefabricated answers to the great questions of life, humanists enjoy the open-endedness of a quest and the freedom of discovery that this entails." (<http://goo.gl/CzDPW>)
 2. Steven Schafersman wrote, "Humanists seek to understand the universe by using science and its methods of critical inquiry-logical reasoning, empirical evidence, and skeptical evaluation of conjectures and conclusions-to obtain reliable knowledge." (Ibid)

The Great I Am

3. Thus humanist think humans are "the truth."
 - i. This however is far from the case, "Man's vaunted knowledge has only multiplied his ignorance." (from Coffman's Bible Commentary, Copyright © 1971-1993 by ACU Press, Abilene Christian University. All rights reserved.)
- B. Jesus is the answer to man's ignorance
 1. It's only through Jesus that man can become wise because...
 - i. Jesus is the "Word."
 - a. **Jn 1:1** "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."
 - ii. Jesus is the "Truth."
 - a. **Jn 17:17** "Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth."
 2. Man falls short of wisdom every time without Jesus.
 - i. **I Co 1:20-21, 25** "Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? 21 For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe...25 For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men."
 3. Brother Coffman, "In Jesus, the soul is secure in the fact that ultimate truth is not another gadget, or a new formula, but a person, God in Christ, man's friend from above, who is at once the Cause and the explanation of all things. Jesus is the Life." (from Coffman's Bible Commentary, Copyright © 1971-1993 by ACU Press, Abilene Christian University. All rights reserved.)

III. The Life

- A. Humanism believes they are the life and they hold the keys understanding man's mortality
 1. This comes from the idea that life is now and ends so "live it up" and "die with no regrets."
 - i. Doug Muder, a humanist, writes, "Many Humanists glory in the image of mental and psychological toughness: We are the people who have the courage to live without comforting fairy tales. We face the cold, hard truth, whatever it turns out to be." (<http://goo.gl/nwvpv5>)
 - ii. He also writes, "What happens when we die? Our bodies get buried and they rot." (Ibid)
 2. Therefore humanist believe humans are "the life."
 - i. This once again could not be farther away from reality.
- B. Jesus is the answer to man's mortality
 1. Humanist rejoice over every new medicine or surgical skill but has he abolished death? No, he only concedes to it and that only recently.
 2. It is only through Jesus, the Life, that man can...
 - i. Face death with true anticipation.
 - a. **II Ti 4:7** "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."

The Great I Am

- ii. Thank God for death.
 - a. **I Co 15:57** "But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."
3. Brother Coffman, "Only in Christ does the redeemed soul march onward in the security of him who is the resurrection and the life. Jesus broke up every funeral he ever attended, promised to raise from the dead all who ever lived, and taught his disciples not to fear them that may kill the body. His is the glorious religion that teaches men how to live with all the facts of life and of death. His is the only name that means anything when spoken over the cold form of the dead. This is the sublime truth that has sent his church shouting down two thousand years, "O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?" Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life." (from Coffman's Bible Commentary, Copyright © 1971-1993 by ACU Press, Abilene Christian University. All rights reserved.)

CONCLUSION

1. George Buttrick once wrote, "Man is constitutionally ignorant, endemically wicked, and irrevocably mortal... There is no book logic to refute or uphold these contentions, only the logic of life... Man is not delivered from his lower life by his own power but remains helpless without the Great Companion." (from Coffman's Bible Commentary, Copyright © 1971-1993 by ACU Press, Abilene Christian University. All rights reserved.)
2. Question: Are you "one that relies on self or are you "one that relies on God?"
 - a. One leads to life everlasting.
 - b. The other leads to death everlasting.
3. Invitation
 - a. For those that are Christians but are not living for Christ repent by confessing your sins to God that He may forgive you and dedicate your life/time back to Him.
 - i. **I Jn 1:7, 9** "But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin...9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."
 - b. For those that are not Christians or for those that think they are Christians and want to know for sure notice what is required to become a child of God or Christian according to God and God only.
 - i. Hear/Study **Rom 10:17; II Tim 2:15**
 - ii. Believe Jesus Is The Christ **Jn 3:16; 8:24**
 - iii. Repent/Turn To God **Ac 17:30; Lk 24:47**
 - iv. Confess Jesus As Lord **Mt 10:32; Rom 10:9**
 - v. Immersed For The Forgiveness of Sins **Ac 2:38; 22:16; I Pt 3:21**
 - vi. Live A Faithful Life **I Jn 1:7; Eph 5:8**