

Jesus the Christ: Why the Only Way?

John 14:6 Jesus said to him [Thomas], "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me

Acts 4:12 Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved."

Acts 17:30 In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now He commands all people everywhere to repent. **31** For He has set a day when He will judge the world with justice by the Man He has appointed. He has given proof of this to everyone by raising Him from the dead

Jesus Christ: Why the Only Way?

This year 2017 we mourned deeply the loss several of our family members that meet here at GB:

Tracey Dawn Varney (3/18),
Don Dotson (4/26),
Snooks Francis Devoe (5/14),
Jean Adlington (5/30)

They have gone on ahead of us.

What will they tell us who are left behind; living under the sun?

Jesus Christ: Why the Only Way?

3 Wishes of Alexander the Great on dying

1. Only the best doctors should carry my coffin
2. All money and gold placed on way to the cemetery
3. Both of his hands left outside the coffin for all to see.



Jesus Christ: Why the Only Way?

3 Wishes of Alexander the Great on dying explained

1. Only the best doctors should carry my coffin **In the face of death, even the best doctors in the world are completely powerless/useless to cure death**
2. All money and gold placed on way to the cemetery **That material wealth acquired on earth, stays on earth**
3. Both of his hands left outside the coffin for all to see. **We come to this world empty handed and we leave this world empty handed**



Jesus Christ: Why the Only Way?

View from Word of God

Job 1:21 "Naked I came from my mother's womb, And naked I shall return there. The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away. Blessed be the name of the LORD."

Ecclesiastes 5:15 Everyone comes naked from their mother's womb, and as everyone comes, so they depart. They take nothing from their toil that they can carry in their hands.

1 Timothy 6:7 For we brought nothing into the world, and neither can we carry anything out of it.

Matthew 16:26 What will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul?

So why is Jesus Christ the Only Way?

No human physician can heal us

NO ONE can save us except God Himself, the creator

Let us hear what Christ has to say

So why is Jesus Christ the Only Way?

Jn. 8:24 “Except ye believe that **I AM** he, ye shall die in your sins”

Greek –ego i-mee— is I AM, there is no He.

Exo 3:14 God said to Moses, “I AM WHO AM”; and He said, “Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, ‘I AM has sent me to you,’”

John 8:58 Jesus said to the people, “Very truly I tell you before Abraham was born, I AM”

Not I was, nor I will be. But I AM!

So why is Jesus Christ the Only Way? 400 years before Alexander the Great

[Isaiah 9:6](#) For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.

Fulfilled >700 years later

[**Mat 1:21**](#) She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus,^f because he will save his people from their sins.”

Many other prophecies fulfilled

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Prophecies about Jesus	Fulfillment	Time when prophesied
Moses: God would raise up a prophet <u>Deut 18:15,17-19</u>	Acts 3:17-21 <u>Jn 12:49-50</u>	>1400 BC
Psalmist: Your throne O God is forever ... <u>Ps 45:6-7</u>	Jews wanted to stone Jesus <u>Jn 5:18; 10:33</u>	>900 BC
Isaiah Mighty God and King Forever <u>Isa 9:6-7</u>	<u>Jn 5:18; 10:33</u>	730 BC
Micah Ruler from old and everlasting & Shepherd <u>Mic 5:2-4</u>	<u>Jn 18:36; Jn 18:37</u>	720 BC
Jeremiah King and Savior <u>Jer 23:5,6</u>	Mat 1:21; <u>Mt 18:11; Lk 9:56; 19:10</u>	530 BC
Zechariah Priest <u>Zec 6:12-13</u>	<u>He 4:14-16</u>	520 BC

Prophecies made 500-1400 years before occurrence were not only fulfilled but backed by archaeological finds

Archaeological Evidence from Dead Sea Scrolls

Dead sea scrolls refer to 1200 manuscripts found in caves in hills on the western shore of the Dead Sea

Discovered “accidentally” by a Bedouin shepherd in a cave near Khirbet Qumran in 1947

**Written in Aramaic and Hebrew on papyri and parchment (animal skin)
23 out of 24 books of OT found**

**Before 1947 critics of the Bible were certain
Bible was fairy tale**



Archaeological Evidence



Before discovery of the dead sea scrolls, “scholars” thought Isaiah was written after the fact of Jesus Birth 14-Carbon dating from 4 different labs (Harvard in US, ETH in Switzerland, Univ Arizona US, Weissman Institute Israel) indicate dates of 335-107 BC.

Source Radiocarbon Vol 34, 1992, p834-49.

Historical evidence that Jesus lived?



Pagan non-Christian, non-Jewish, anti-Christian

1. **Pliny the younger AD 112**
2. **Governor in the Roman province of Bithynia (modern day Turkey) cf I Pet 1:1**
3. **Wrote to Emperor Trajan for advice on how to deal with Christians who were been brought to his court. He had been killing men, women, boys, and girls who professed Christ. He asks them to curse Christ and bow to statues of Trajan-Pliny noted a genuine Christian cannot be induced to do.**

Historical evidence that Jesus lived?

Pliny the younger letter to Emperor Trajan

Pagan non-Christian, non-Jewish, anti-Christian

... However, they assured me that the main of their fault, or of their mistake was this:-That they were wont, on a stated day, to meet together before it was light, and to sing a hymn to Christ, as to a god, alternately; and to oblige themselves by a sacrament [or oath], not to do anything that was ill: but that they would commit no theft, or pilfering, or adultery; that they would not break their promises ...

Historical evidence that Jesus lived?

Pagan non-Christian, Jewish, anti-Christian

Josephus :

About this time there lived Jesus, a wise man, *if indeed one ought to call him a man*. For he was one who performed surprising deeds and was a teacher of such people as accept the truth gladly. He won over many Jews and many of the Greeks. *He was the Messiah*. And when, upon the accusation of the principal men among us, Pilate had condemned him to a cross, those who had first come to love him did not cease. *He appeared to them spending a third day restored to life, for the prophets of God had foretold these things and a thousand other marvels about him*. And the tribe of the Christians, so called after him, has still to this day not disappeared.

- *Jewish Antiquities*, 18.3.3 §63

Babylonian Chronicles (British museum)

Skeptical scholars claimed Daniel never existed



This historical chronicle describes Nebuchadnezzar's first campaign against Jerusalem in 597 BC.

Pilate Stone in Israel Museum Jerusalem

Skeptical critics claimed Pilate never existed

Until discovery of stone in 1961

The partial inscription reads (conjectural letters in brackets):^[3]

EDIC AUGUSTUS TIBERIVM



**This is in line with Luke
3:1-3**

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar--when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea ... John baptist forrunner of Christ started his ministry

Jesus Christ: Why the Only Way?

Both archaeological finds link OT prophecies about Christ with a historical Figure Christ who fulfilled them.

If our Bible contains factual history, do you have any excuse for living in open/direct disobedience to God and the way to Him, Christ? Outside the family of God?

Are you in the Family of God?

If Christ is the only way, how do we access the grace of God through Christ?

1. Galatian Christians “are all sons of God by faith” (Gal. 3:26).
2. The next verse indicates how they became children of God by faith. “For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ” (Gal. 3:27).
3. They “are all sons of God by faith” — present tense. For they “were baptized into Christ” — past tense.
4. Interpretation: the Galatians were children of God by faith because they were baptized into Christ.

Joy as a part the Family of God!

God blesses us only in Christ: Ephesians 1:3-14

3 ... God ... has blessed us ... in Christ.

4 God chose us in Christ 5 God adopted as sons through Jesus Christ 6 God has freely given us His grace in Christ. 7 Through God's rich grace, in Christ we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins 8 God has lavished His grace on us with all wisdom and understanding 9 made known in Christ, 10 God will fulfill all these under Christ. 11 God chose us in Christ, 12 We praise God via our hope in Christ 13 God marks and seal us in Christ with the Holy Spirit when we obey the gospel, 14 We are God's possession in Christ sealed by the Holy Spirit.

Joy as a part the Family of God!

Joy comes from having a confident trust in God

Philippians 1:25 And being confident of this, I know that I shall remain and continue with you all for your progress and joy of faith,

Romans 15:13 Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Joy as a part the Family of God!

Obedience to the Word of God produces joy in the hearts of the obedient eg Ethiopian eunuch and Thessalonians

Ac 8:35-39 So he commanded the chariot to stand still. And both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him. ³⁹ Now when they came up out of the water, ⁹the Spirit of the Lord caught Philip away, so that the eunuch saw him no more; and he went on his way **rejoicing**.

1 Thessalonians 1:6 And you became followers of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Spirit,

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Jesus Christ: Why the Only Way?

Alexander the Great was right we will all die and no human can cure of that death sentence.

All those we have lost this year will tell us Jesus the only Way because

He is the great I AM-as prophesied by the prophets of Old (Moses, David, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Daniel),

Only He can forgive our sins and heal us of death undo the death sentence of all human. That is good news. That brings great joy. That puts in God's spiritual family

Acts 4:12 Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved."

Jesus Christ: Why the Only Way?

We have seen our Bible contains factual history,
not fairy tales.

So what is your excuse for living in open/direct
or even indirect/quiet disobedience to God and
the way to Him, Christ? **Why are you outside
the family of God?**

Jesus Christ: Why the Only Way?

If you have not yet done so, why not begin experiencing **the way of joy found only in the God's family on its way home** today by...

a. Obeying the gospel of Christ - [Mk 16:15-16](#)

Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned

b. Receiving the forgiveness of sins through the blood of Christ – [Eph 1:7](#)

c. Participate in the fellowship of Christian love as you work toward bringing others to salvation in Christ - cf. [Ac 2:38-42](#)

Are you experiencing the joy that Christ intends for you to experience as you follow the Way of Christ...?

Jesus Christ: Why the Only Way?

The Choice of yours? Will you put your trust in the master healer, physician of our souls or world and its pleasures?

Where will you spend eternity? You can only go through Christ, there is no other Way.