



**SERIES: Pursuing Spiritual Fitness**

**SPEAKER: NAT CRAWFORD**

**Tuesday, July 25, 2023**

**Scripture: John 14:6 / Acts 4:12 / Eph. 2:8-9**

**TITLE: Jesus Is the Way**

Intolerant. Unpopular. Close-minded. These are the words used to describe the claim that the path to God is through Christ alone. But is this claim intolerant? It surely is unpopular. Is it close-minded? Well, let's see what the Bible has to say about this topic.

In John 14:6 (NLT), Jesus said,

*"I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me."*

From the Man Himself, Jesus claimed to be not *a* way to God - not a novel opinion - but *the* exclusive way to God. But what about the Muslims? What about the caring Hindu? What about the sincere agnostic? Will they not experience salvation if they don't go through Jesus Christ?

Well, according to Jesus, no.

The Apostle Peter, when presenting before the Sanhedrin, declared in Acts 4:12,

*There is salvation in no one else! God has given no other name under Heaven by which we must be saved.*

You see, together, we are trying to become spiritually fit. True spiritual health must be based on reality and a solid dose of truth. We have discovered over the past couple of weeks that Jesus is God-in-the-flesh and the Savior for the world. The world is full of sinful people who can't earn their way to God. That's why Jesus came. He came to seek and save the lost. And this Salvation He offers us freely through grace by faith.

This is why Paul wrote in Ephesians 2:8-9,

*God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it."*

You see, there are a lot of truth claims about religion and how to experience peace with God. But the world religions can't all be right. It's popular to say that all religions lead to God, but that's simply impossible. They can all be wrong, but they cannot all be right.

So Jesus was either right when He said, "I am the way. No one comes to the Father but through me." Or... Well, if good works are the way to God, we're all hosed. If it's religion that's the

ticket, we're all doomed. So God paved the way and offered Salvation through His Son. He won't force us to choose God. He won't trick us into Heaven either.

C.S. Lewis wrote, "I willingly believe that the damned are, in one sense, successful, rebels to the end; that the doors of hell are locked on the *inside*." (*The Problem of Pain* C.S. Lewis). This is why universalism – the notion that everyone makes it into Heaven because of what Christ did – is dead wrong! No, we all have a choice to believe or to reject His gracious offer.

So here's my challenge for you today: Believe this and share the message of the Gospel. It may surprise you that 34% of Christians reject Jesus' claim. So my challenge for you is to take His words seriously and then act upon them. You and I have friends, relatives, and connections who are lost and progressing towards an eternity estranged from God - go and share your story of God's goodness. Share your belief in the words of Jesus. It's not intolerant. It's not close-minded. It's the truth. And as Jesus said, "the truth shall set you free." Now that you know it and believe, let's go and win the day.