

**Only One Life**  
**Pastor Ty Blackburn**  
**John 14:4-6**  
**October 5, 2014**

Amen. Please turn with me in your Bibles to John 14. We come to our third message on one verse, John 14:6. We've taken this much time because there is so much time packed into these very few words, the Lord Jesus, "***I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.***" We've noted in the previous two weeks that Jesus is making an exclusive claim that doesn't always play well. It didn't play well in the 1st Century actually. We noted that a couple of weeks ago. The 1st Century was very much like today, very pluralistic, relativistic. Pontius Pilate, an educated man, who had been to the universities of his day, so to speak, a Roman, the governor. When confronted with Jesus when He said, "I came to testify to the truth," to Pilate, he said, "What is truth?" He sounded like somebody in the 21st Century that you might hear on some CNN show or something. "What is truth?" Jesus says, "I am the truth," and He makes that claim boldly, unapologetically.

And that is the reason that we should also, as we share with people, be ready to make that same assertion without apology. It is not because we know anything, but because Jesus knows everything. We point to a person who is the only way to God. There is no other way. Jesus and Jesus alone, this is emphatically clear. The world likes to pretend to give allegiance to Jesus, and say some good things about Him, but in reality, when you take the claims of Christ, He is either Lord of all, or He is worth nothing. You can't just have Jesus with *some* honor, one among many. No, He claimed to be God, He claimed to be the only one. C. S. Lewis' famous, *Lord, Liar, or Lunatic?* argument. Either He was crazy, either He was a charlatan, if not crazy, if not a charlatan, then He is the sovereign Lord of the universe. You can't have any in between.

Today we come to look at this, we've noted that basically He is answering the question, *What is the way to Heaven?* He's been asked that by Thomas, "How do we get to Heaven? What is the way to Heaven?" Jesus says, "You know the way." Thomas says, "How? We don't know where You are going. How do we know the way?" Jesus says, "You do know the way because you know Me." "***I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.***" And we've noted that really 'way', though there is in these grammatical structure, "***I am the way, and the truth, and the life;...***" you could use that grammatical structure and have equal weight on all three. But I think when we really look at the

context, and we look at the flow of the passage, that the primary focus is on ‘way’, and that the two other nouns there, ‘truth’ and ‘life’ are supportive of that one main statement. “I am the way. No one comes to the Father but by Me and I am the way because I am the truth. And I am the way because I am the life.” So He is making a claim that is exclusive in each case. We titled the messages this way, two weeks ago ‘*The Only Way*’ was the title of the message, and He is the only way because He is the only truth. Last week, the title of the message was ‘*The Only Truth*’. So today, He is the only way because, the title of the message today is ‘*The Only Life*’. He is the only one who possesses life, the only way to find life.

This exclusivity, as I said, doesn’t play well in today’s society in which certainty, the only thing modern man is certain about is that he can’t be certain, which is a nonsensical statement. He’s certain about one thing, that he can’t be certain. Well, that means that you are certain. But in reality, He believes in real truth, and He believes that the real truth ought to be proclaimed. Now, please understand, he thinks that he doesn’t believe in real truth, and he thinks that it shouldn’t be proclaimed, but think about this, if someone were to discover a cure for the Ebola virus, a terrible virus that is ravaging North Africa, and even now we are seeing some possible cases here in the states, a virus that is mysterious in many ways.

First, experienced in 1976 when outbreaks happened in two countries in Africa—the Sudan and the Congo, at the same time. The name Ebola comes from the river that runs through the Congo, the Ebola River. This virus is one that has always manifested a high fatality rate, much higher than your normal, even serious, potentially deadly viruses. Estimates now are that between, depending on the severity of the outbreak and that kind of thing, some people think 25% is the fatality rate. That is one in four who get it will die. Others think it is closer to 50%. Some even possibly think it is 90%. So somewhere between 25 and 90 percent, at least in the reading that I did on that. Epidemiologists, scientists, people at the Center for Disease Control here in America, and many places, and all over the world are desperately searching for a cure to this virus which, among other things, has this amazing ability to disguise itself, to mask itself so that the immune system does not attack it when it infects a person.

Now imagine that someone tomorrow finds the cure for the Ebola virus. They figure out exactly the mechanics of the virus enough to attack it and cure it. If they find that out, should they declare that they know it? Of course! Even all the people who believe there is no absolute truth would say it would be criminal not to share it, right? And if it is the only cure, that is the only one cure. If it is the only cure, it’s the only cure, well get that cure, right? If somebody was really being consistent

as a post-modern they might say, “Well, really I can’t, well I certainly don’t want to act like I know something other people don’t know. This has worked for me, and this has worked in my lab, but it might not work for you. So I’m just going to keep it quiet.” Now that is absurd, patently absurd. Well, Jesus is making the claim that He alone is the cure for what ails every single human being that has ever lived, and that ailment is death. He is making the statement, and the declaration, “I am the only way to cure the one thing that you cannot escape as a man, or a woman, or a boy, or a girl, is one day you will die, and in fact, you are already dying.” In fact, if you don’t know Jesus Christ, you are already dead. But if you come to know Christ, you will find life, you will find the cure.

So when we understand it that way, doesn’t it make sense that this claim should be made with clarity, with certainty, with confidence, and with urgency? We need to especially be praying for our brothers and sisters in Liberia. I mean, certainly all over west Africa, but especially think about the New Hope Children’s Village there in Liberia, where Myer and Marie Torbor minister. Ron Sheintal has been a part of that ministry for a number of years, and we’ve had the joy of getting to know them, and support them in some ways. So pray for them, pray for their protection, pray for the glory of Jesus Christ to be lifted up even in times of uncertainty, because when death is moving like that, people fear, reality sinks in about the fact that we’re really all dying, but there is a unique opportunity for the glory of life to be lifted up. In fact, let’s go to the Lord in prayer right now.

*Our Father, we come to You this morning asking that You would pour out Your grace upon us through Your word. We thank You that in Your word we find life, because in Your word we find Jesus. We pray that You would speak to our hearts, and even as we seek You for life ourselves this morning, we pray that You would be with our brothers and sisters in Liberia, for the children there, New Hope Children’s Village. We pray that You would bless Marie and all the others that are caring for them. We pray that You would give them the assurance that truly, as we just sang about, it could be well with our souls because we realize that You are the one that is governing, and reigning, and ruling over every molecule in the universe, and that means every cell in the body, every bacteria or viral agent. You are sovereign. What comfort there is that, oh Lord. We pray for Your protection for their physical lives, Lord. We pray for the eradication of this virus because Lord, we know that death is our enemy, and it is good for us to pray for these things, but most of all, we do pray for the life of Christ to be made known in a fuller and fuller way in the hearts of our brothers and sisters, and in our own hearts, Lord. We pray this in Jesus’ name, Amen.*

Jesus said, ***“I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.*** I want us to consider this subject, that He is the only life, the only way to find life under really two headings, two points this morning. The first is: *‘Man’s Great Need’*, and the second is: *‘God’s Great Answer’*. Man’s great need is seeing that we exist in the realm of death, and death is something that is utterly and completely inescapable.

### 1) Man’s Great Need:

I watched a movie not too long ago, we did as a family. I wouldn’t necessarily recommend the movie, unless you want to be a little bit depressed, and brought into reality. The movie was called *‘The Book Thief’*, some of you may have seen it, and it is certainly a compelling movie. It is about a Jewish girl who lives in Germany as World War II, the circumstances of the Holocaust are beginning to manifest themselves. The Germans are beginning to arrest the Jews, and put them in concentration camps, and so her parents, she has blonde hair, and her parents worked through the network that was happening, and in many ways in that time they would find places for Jewish children to be raised by non-Jewish parents, so that they could then be passed off as non-Jews. So this little girl is adopted by a family, and you watch her life, and just the struggles of living in Germany during the war.

The father becomes a soldier, you watch her fear for his life. They house a Jewish boy, a young man, for a period of time and the authorities are looking for Jews, and you have all of just the intensity of, “What must have it been like to have lived like that?” And you watch her life, and just the helplessness of the people with these great, powerful forces at work. Throughout you have this narrator, you know when you are watching a movie, or you are reading a book, and the narrator comes in. Well in a movie you get to hear the narrator’s voice. So you are hit with, “I wonder who that is. It is about this girl, but it is not a female voice, so it is obviously a man. Is it her dad? Is it the Jewish man that ends up...” You know, you are wondering if he is going to survive or not when they are hiding him. Later in the movie you begin to figure out that it is something much more interesting going on, and finally at the end, when things kind of work out in a way, you think everything is okay. Her dad comes back from the war, and then bombs are basically... I don’t want to ruin the movie, but anyway, be prepared for a bad turn.

But at one point in the movie, where a number of people are killed, you find out that the narrator itself is death. Death has been talking all throughout the movie. And basically, death is claiming his victims wherever he wants to, and you see the

helplessness of people before the power of death. Nothing they can do. That is true. Now we believe that God is sovereign over death, but if you want to look at things in this world, the reality is we are utterly and completely helpless, and our lives are frighteningly frail. In an instant we can be gone. That is the reality of what it is to live as a fallen human being in a fallen world.

Remember what God said to Adam and Even in the garden? When they lived with God, walked with God in the cool of the day, God giving Adam so much dignity, letting him name the animals, fellowshiping with him, giving him everything. There was only one commandment. Look at the goodness of God, “You can have any tree in the garden, only the tree that is in the center of the garden, the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, that you will not eat.” There was only one *‘Thou shalt not’* in Eden. If you think about it, we tend to think that God fences everything in. This is how fallen people think, “If you let God control your life, you will feel like you live inside a little fence, like a dog in a little, tiny pen, in a crate.” You know crate-training? Dogs like crates, I’m not trying to say anything against crates, but if you left your dog in a crate all the time, never took him out. So many unbelievers feel like if they give their life to God, that is what it is going to be like. “I’m in a crate and I have no freedom,” but the heart of God was, when He said, “Obey Me,” the fence was here, and everything else was open. That is the goodness of God. “Enjoy everything, only this one thing not.”

Now, now that sin entered the world, there has to be a lot more fences, but it’s not the heart of God, and the only reason the fences are there is to protect us now from ourselves, and our craving for death. Genesis 2:17, God said, “In the day that you eat of it, you shall die. You shall surely die if you eat from that fruit, the fruit of that tree.” Satan came along and said to Eve, “Has God said that you can’t eat from any tree of the garden?” The wisdom of Satan in his deceptiveness, “Has God told you that you can’t eat from any of the trees? He’s got all these trees here, I bet He doesn’t let you eat from any of them, does He?” And she says, “No, it’s only the tree in the center of the garden. That’s the only one we can’t eat, or even touch it.” She adds to the word of God a little bit there, “You can’t touch it.” And he says, “You shall surely not die if you eat of that.” She ate of the fruit, her husband ate of the fruit, and just like God said, in the day they ate it, they died.

Now, what do I mean? Well, they died spiritually in the instant they ate it. They were disconnected from God and you see that because what happens? God comes down to spend time with them, and as they hear Him coming, they run and hide from Him. They had never hidden from God before. Now He is their enemy, they sense that, and they are afraid of Him, and they hide from Him. And God says to

Adam, “Where are you, Adam?” God knew where Adam was. I mean, He is accommodating Adam in a way Adam can understand. He is baby-talking with him, and baby-talking with us. Adam says, “I was afraid to see You because we are naked.” “Who told you that you are naked?” “That woman You gave me. She gave me the fruit. If You had done a better job and not given me a helper like that. The woman You gave me, she gave me the fruit, and we ate.” And God, of course, expounds upon what the reality in the curse is, that death is now your reality. And in reality, they began dying at that moment, physically. That was the moment that death entered the world, physical death, and just like it is true even when a child is born, you bring a child, a woman brings forth a child, you bring the child home, and you see the child grow. In reality, death is already at work, even in that little child because cells are dying, and the principle of death is there.

It is just that the principle of growth is stronger than the principle of death, apparently to us as we see the child grow until about 25 years old or so. Then the dying accelerates over it, and as we get older, we can tell that we are on a downhill slope, and it gets steeper every day. In reality, it is a fight for life. We see there is this fight for physical life. Our bodies have immune systems that fight off viruses and bacteria. We’re set up, the Lord has graciously set us up so that our vital organs are protected from impact, so that we don’t just accidentally get killed as easily as we could. A skull encases our brain, a ribcage protects our heart and other vital organs. There are all kinds of things around us that can kill us and in reality, we are moving every day closer and closer to death. None of us knows how quickly it may come, but the reality we know is that we are one day closer today than we were yesterday.

God graciously gave us physical death. Now please understand, He had told them, “In the day you eat it you will die,” and so man is responsible for bringing sin into the world. God makes this real clear in Romans 5, through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin. But God, in setting up the economy of this universe, when He made that command, decreed that what would happen when man sinned was physical death would enter the world to be a picture of spiritual death. The reason that we are dying every day is because we are disconnected from life, and the reality is, even if you are a Christian, your body is still disconnected from life.

Think about it this way, you know you plug in a battery that you charge, you plug it into the power source, and then you take it out, and then you use it. You know I have a cordless drill, I do that with that. I don’t use my drill enough to run my battery down, so it lasts a really long time, but if you were using it a lot, what is going to happen? The moment you begin using it, you begin using up the power.

And if you can't get this connected again, what is going to happen? Eventually it runs out. That is a picture of what life, physical life is. We are disconnected from life, therefore we are running out every day. God graciously allowed His universe, His creation to be subjected to death in futility because He knew that we were so dead spiritually that if we didn't die physically we would never figure out how much we needed Him. If we lived forever physically, we wouldn't even be concerned about knowing Him, and we would be subjected to a life of eternity being essentially like a demon, living life separated from God. So death is His gracious, sovereign reminder of our great need. Man's great need is he is dying and he needs to be connected to life.

## 2) God's Great Answer:

It is like a fountain that is running, and the fountain that feeds a river, suddenly the river gets disconnected. You know, this happens sometimes, things change, and so the water takes another course. Well this part of the river dries up, and an old dry riverbed is evidence that one time it was being fed by the fountain, by the source, but now it is not. We are all old, dry riverbeds, and the water is slowly evaporating. Man's great need is met by God's great answer and that is given to us in John 14:6 when Jesus says, ***"I am the way, and the truth, and the life;...*** When Jesus says, "I am the life," this is God's great answer. This is His sufficiency. He is everything that we need. We are cut off from life. He is the one that is going to make us live forever, but in reality, we don't realize how being cut off from Him means that we are not living. This is one of those things that even as believers who have known the Lord for years, we still don't even begin to grasp what it is to be really connected to God, and how it impacts life. Remember we are getting farther along in it, but when we go to Heaven it is going to be so much farther than we ever imagined, how much it surpasses our lives now.

No, you know, to try to explain this, when you are living, and you feel like some days you go through and you are just like, "Man, that was just...I just kind of walked through that day. Nothing really good happened, food was all bland," I don't have many days like that, but I've heard some people do. No, but you know, "There was nothing vital and vibrant today. There wasn't any laughter, there wasn't any joy. It was just a day of just making it through." But then there are moments where you really feel alive, where there are moments of real joy, or real connection with other people, and you are sharing something deep, and intimate, and you feel like, "We did something of value. Our conversation advanced God's work in our lives. We connected on a different level. Something happened." Or maybe it is work that you are doing, and you accomplished something, you built

something, you forged a deal, you did something, you worked together as a team, you accomplished a goal, and you feel alive. Those are just glimpses of what it was in the garden. Everything was that all the time. But man now, we are just sitting there with little puddles in our riverbed, unbelievers only have puddles in their riverbed, and then Christians, we still are dealing with so much less than we will have. But for those who are lost, who are dying, who feel disconnected, who are still in the dark, what is the answer? There is only one answer. The only way that you can recover vitality, the only way that you can recover life is to know Jesus Christ, and all people really feel this need though they don't fully understand it.

This is why everything is about anti-aging products. Why is the self-help section at the bookstore so big? People know, "Something is wrong with me. I need help. I'm not what I ought to be. I'm just not where I should be." Those are all symptoms. The real problem is we need to know the living God. We need to be in His presence, be connected to Him in a real, vibrant, living way. That is the only thing that satisfies, and God's great answer to the problem is given in that Jesus Christ is life. He is the only way because He is the only life. John has been making this real clear. I love the way when you look back over John's Gospel, as we make our way through it, I get more amazed at how the Spirit has woven together such a beautiful portrait of Jesus. The themes that run through this book are so wonderful.

Turn back to John 5. This idea of Jesus being the life is one of the main themes of this Gospel. It started in John 1:1-4.

***John 1:1 ~ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. 4 In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men.***

Everything that exists came into being through Him, and He in Jesus Christ, in the Man Christ Jesus, was life, the principle of life. Think about that. Isn't it funny too, one of the things, this whole deal about looking for life on other planets, that's another evidence. It's another symptom of the problem. Why are they so bent out of shape to find water on Mars? Or listening for signals coming from Heaven? They've watched too many sci-fi movies. I know that, but I remember seeing a statistic in a book. My statistic is a little bit old, but I'm sure it's pretty close to this still. They were talking about the mushroom patch in Arizona, I think it is, or New Mexico. It was Arizona, I believe, where they have all these giant satellite dishes, that from the sky it looks like a giant mushroom patch. I don't know how many of

them there are. It makes your satellite thing on the side of your house look so tiny, and then imagine just scores of them, hundreds of them, and they're pointed to the sky, listening for aliens. They started in the 70s. I read a book that was published in like 2002, that said in the 30 years that they've been listening, if they combined the sound—they've had some sounds come in. "We've had some signals come in." If they combined all the sounds into one sound to get the volume, for 30 years, it's the sound, all of that together added all up, is the sound of one snowflake hitting the ground. "But let's keep listening." Why is it man is questing? He's trying to find life. He's trying to find something to give him vitality, something to give him meaning. He's determined to find it everywhere else except the one place that he truly can find it, at the foot of the cross of Jesus Christ.

As I mentioned, in John 1:1-4, he says, "In Him was life," but look at John 5:26.

***John 5:26 ~ For just as the Father has life in Himself, even so He gave to the Son also to have life in Himself;***

Verse 21, skip back a few verses.

***John 5:21 ~ For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so the Son also gives life to whom He wishes.***

He's making really clear, "The Father has life, I have life, and if you want life, you have to come to Me. You have to come to the Father. If you want to come to the Father, there's only one way, through Me." But here He is saying, "I have life. You are in death. You need life. I have it." He gives life to whomever He wishes. You have the *I am* sayings throughout this book, which are echoing this same main theme. Think about it. Turn over to John 6 for a moment. The first I am with a predicate in the Gospel of John, I am something, what is it? It's in Verse 35, "I am the bread." Not merely, "I am the bread," but, "I am the bread of life."

***John 6:35 ~ ..."I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me will not hunger, and he who believes in Me will never thirst.***

He echoes that same statement in look at Verses 47 and 48:

***John 6:47 ~ Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes has eternal life. 48 I am the bread of life.***

Look at Verse 51:

***John 6:51 ~ I am the living bread that came down out of heaven; if anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread also which I will give for the life of the world is My flesh.***

“I am the living bread...” He’s the bread that is living, that imparts life. Why does Jesus use that metaphor? Why did they come out there? Remember, they come out there because they’re hungry. He fed them the day before. He fed 5,000 men plus women and children, with five loaves and two fishes. He did a miracle, and it must have been great bread. And they come back and they want seconds. They’re basically saying, “You claim to be a prophet, you claim to be the Messiah, so do another miracle for us. Hey, we’ve got an idea. Do bread again.”

Jesus says, “You only have come out because you want the bread that passes away. They say, “Well, you know, Moses did a miracle like this, remember? He made bread come down out of Heaven,” and Jesus says, “Well, I’m glad you mentioned that. Yeah, God used Moses to make bread come down out of Heaven, and God gave bread out of Heaven. I am the true bread out of Heaven. I Myself am the bread. I’m what you need. I’m what you’re hungry for.”

What do you need for life? You need food. And in modern days, we’ve lost this a little bit, because our bread is not that good for us anymore, but when you used to make bread, bread really was the stuff of life. Why? Well, it was the one thing that you could harvest that was not perishable. If you have grain and you don’t break it into flour yet, it has a long shelf life, and when you leave it in the grain in the kernel, and then you grind it up to make your bread right away, and you bake the bread, and you eat it, it’s full of nutrition. Jesus says, “You’re hungry. You need nutrients to live on. Your body must be fed. I am what you need to eat.” He’s baby-talking with us. “You need bread every day to live. I am the bread.”

I mean, think about that how the world is always, as He even says in John 12, you always have the poor with you. In a fallen world, there will always be people who are hungry and dying because of hunger. And for people that know what it is to be hungry, how must this ring to them? He is the bread when you have to worry about food so that you will stay alive. And in an agrarian society, it was much more that way, because everybody’s life depended upon the rainy season. Will we have grain? Will we have bread this year? “I am the bread.” Think about it. All the things that are essential to life, He is.”I am the bread of life.”

In John 4, remember He met the woman at the well? He was thirsty and asked her for a drink, and she says, “Why are you asking me, a Samaritan, for a drink? I’m a woman and I’m a Samaritan, and You’re a Jew. What’s wrong with this picture? You’re not supposed to be talking to me.” Jesus doesn’t get into a discussion about Jews and Samaritan relations. He says, “If you knew who was asking you, you would ask Him, and He would give you living water.” That was intriguing to her. Living water, she thought that meant running water, clean water like a fountain, water out of a spring. “Sir, show me where this water is. I want to have this water.” Basically, Jesus then goes on to say:

***John 4:14 ~ but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall never thirst; but the water that I will give him will become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life.”***

“You are thirsty, and I have what you need. I am what you need. If you believe in Me, you will find in yourself a spring of water flowing up (and He’s talking about the Spirit) that will result in you having life.” You will be connected to God, and therefore you will have life. And the Christian really does have this life. I was talking earlier about how our bodies are yet disconnected. They’re still dying, but our souls, our spirits, are connected. If you know Jesus Christ, if you have repented and believed, if you have placed your faith in Christ, if you have joined yourself to Him, then you have bread and you have water. But He also says not just bread and water, but even more essential to life than those things:

***John 8:12 ~ ...“I am the Light of the world;...”***

“If any man believes in Me, he will not walk in darkness, but will have the Light of life.” Light and life go together in an inextricable bond. If there is no light, there is no life. If the sun were to stop shining, we would die in a hurry, but even if we could stay warm for a while and just live on what we had, the process of life would end, because the plants, photosynthesis, would stop. That’s where food originates in the whole food chain is when the sun comes down and beats upon the plants, and they combine that sunlight, they’re able to take the radiant energy of the sun and with carbon dioxide and water, turn it into glucose, and the food chain begins. If you take away the sun, you have no life. Jesus says, “I am the Light of the world, and you who walk in darkness, if you believe in Me, you will have the Light of life. You won’t walk in darkness anymore.” He says, “I am the bread, I am the water, I am the Light.” He even says, “I am the vine.”

***John 15:5 ~ I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.***

“I am the vine, you are the branches. Abide in Me and you’ll bear much fruit.” The picture is if you try to live as a branch disconnected from the vine, what happens? You may look good for a day or two, but then you’re going to wither, and there will be no growth, no new fruit, and there will be death. In reality, all people are basically branches that are disconnected. A person that is born is born physically alive, though he’s beginning to die. He’s physically alive and he’s spiritually dead.

In fact, I meant to cover a couple of things. I need to supplement what I said earlier with a couple of Scripture references I need to call your attention to from the first point, man’s great need. The reason we have this great need, the reason we’re dying physically is because we’re dead spiritually. In Ephesians 2:1, Paul says that before you were saved, before you came to know Jesus Christ, this means everybody, by definition, every son or daughter of Adam is dead. He says you were dead in your trespasses and sins in which you formerly lived. In fact, in Ephesians 4:18, he also says that don’t be like the Gentiles anymore, who live in the futility of their mind, and listen to this:

***Ephesians 4:18 ~ being darkened in their understanding, excluded from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardness of their heart;***

Basically, the unbeliever is cut off from the life of God, dead in sin, because Jesus is the answer. He is the connection. If you come to Him, it’s like eating bread as a hungry man. You will find nourishment. If you come to Him as a thirsty woman, you drink the water, you will find the satisfaction and the replenishment that comes from water. If you are in the dark, He is the Light of the world. But not only that, turn to John 1 for a second. I mentioned this and I want to come back to it. He claims to be the only way, because He’s the only bread. He claims to be the only way, because He’s the only water. He claims to be the only way, because He’s the only Light. He’s the true vine. There are no others. All other pretenders are false. But He’s the only way, because He is the only person that this can be said of.

***John 1:1 ~ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God.***

Now, think about this. All things came into being through Him. He's saying that everything that exists came into being through Jesus Christ. Not one thing that exists came into being apart from Him. In fact, He makes it real emphatic. He could have just said, "All things came into being through Him," and He could have moved on to Verse 4:

***John 1:4 ~ In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men.***

Doesn't that say everything? All things came into being through Him. That is a clear statement, but that wasn't enough. So He says it negatively to make sure we didn't miss the point. Positively, "All things came into being through Him,..." Negatively, "...apart from Him, nothing came into being." Now he's said, "Everything came from Him, and so in case you didn't get this, apart from Him, nothing came." And then I even liked his last little clause: ***...that has come into being.*** I mean, John is hammering it home. Jesus Christ is the source of everything that you see. Everything that you experience has come through Him. He's the Creator.

Paul, in Colossians 1:13-15, says in Verse 15, that He's ***...the firstborn of all creation.*** Now, there are some people who misunderstand that, and there are false teachers who try to twist that around, like Jehovah's Witnesses' theology, and they would look at that and say, "Well, it shows that there was a time when Jesus was not. He's the firstborn of creation." But the word *πρωτότοκος* (*prōtotokos*) there in the Greek doesn't necessarily mean firstborn the way we think of firstborn. That's why firstborn is really not a good translation of that. It can mean the progenitor, which is *that from which everything proceeds*. And you know how to interpret Colossians 1:14. In fact, just turn over there with me, so you can see this for sure.

This is good when you have a question, and exegetical question. Verse 15:

***Colossians 1:15 ~ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.***

He's saying that He is the reflection of God. He is the one who images, shows us what God is like. The invisible God has become visible, is what he's saying in the first part of Verse 15. He is the firstborn of all creation. Are Jehovah's Witnesses right, or is Orthodox Christianity correct? Is this not saying that He's the progenitor and that all things came into being through Him? Look at the next verse and the question is solved. Context, context, context.

***Colossians 1:16 ~ For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him.***

Case closed. He's saying exactly what John said. Paul says, "Yeah, I agree with John. Jesus Christ, I know Him. He is the one who has brought everything into being." Now, if you want to go to somebody to find life, do you want to go to Confucius? Do you want to go to Mohammad? Do you want to go to Buddha? Why would you go there when you could go to Jesus? Jesus is the one who actually created you, and if He created you, if He sustains all things, if He upholds all things by the word of His power, is He not able then to meet your need of life?

He is the fountain of life. One of the hymns, All Creatures of our God and King, says, "All that borrows life from Thee." Everything that lives, the things that are out there alive, the people that are alive today that are going to die and go to hell, the fact that they're alive today, the fact that they're breathing is because they are still having some of the life that God loaned to them. It's running out. The power and the energy are running out, but they got it from God. And if they got it from Him, how are they going to deal with the fact that they're running out? They go to the source. There is only one source—Jesus Christ. This is what John is saying, and he said in 1 John 1, "That which was from the beginning, what we have seen, what we have heard, what we have looked at and our hands have handled..." Isn't that beautiful?

"Listen, I want to tell you. I'm not telling you something I made up," John says. "I heard Him. I saw him. I didn't just see Him. I looked carefully at Him. I looked with careful scrutiny at Him. I touched Him. And now I know that He is the Word of life, that He is the eternal life which was with the Father, and which has been manifested, has been unveiled for us." This life is what you need so that you can have fellowship with God, so that you can be restored to what you were created to be. Jesus is the only way. When you come to Jesus Christ, you come to one—and when you go back to Genesis 1, and I encourage you to do this, look at all the times, where is Jesus in Genesis 1?

***Genesis 1:1 ~ In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.  
2 The earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters.***

In this early stage of creation, for a moment there's this chaos and darkness, and what is it that changes it?

*Genesis 1:3 ~ Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light.*

God simply speaks. God said, God said, God said. Ten times in Genesis 1 you hear those words, "God said, and then it was so." Every time you hear, "God said," you can just understand that is God's way of communicating to us that Jesus Christ is active, the active agent in creation. Who is it that created all things? The Word that went forth from God, created all things. That's why John calls Him the Word. He is the revelation of God's heart. He is the active agent in creation and redemption. And so He is the one who spoke. He is the one who said, "Let the lights come on," and the lights came on. He is the one who said, "Let the dry land appear, and the waters be separated into oceans." He is the one who spoke. He spoke. There's just water and there's dry land, and He said, "Let the waters teem with creatures," and then it talks about how all the fish and all the things fill the ocean, He spoke the word, and boom, sharks, killer whales, lobsters, sea urchins, starfish, everything, boom like that, a word. What power. That's the power of life. Then on day six, He said, "Let the creatures be formed from the dry land," and He forms instantly, with His word, the earth begins to form creatures who are alive. The zebra, the elephant, the dog, the cat, the eagle, all of those things in an instant, that's the power of Jesus Christ.

Then you come to Him and you say, "I am dead. I am in the dark. I'm hungry. I'm cut off from life. I'm dying," and you come to one who can say, "Let the waters teem with living creatures," and He fills all the oceans. You don't think He can do what you need? He looks into our dark souls, and He says, "Let there be light," and suddenly someone's alive. They were dead and now they're alive, and so many of you can testify to that. There was a moment when I was dead, and then there was a moment I was alive, and today I'm alive. And the energizing power of the grace of God is coursing through your spiritual veins. You were dead. Now you're alive. You could not see. Now you can see.

Doesn't it make sense that we would then treasure this Savior enough to proclaim Him as the only way? All this foolishness of acting like we don't know, we're not certain, no. If it was up to me or you, we wouldn't know anything, but God has made Him known, and for us to say that He hasn't is incredibly audacious pride and blasphemy. This means that the Christian life is always about seeking more life. To be saved, you have to stop living in death, and you have to put yourself under the authority of Jesus Christ. You have to come to Him and say, "Lord, I'm in darkness, I'm hungry, I'm thirsty, I'm a sinner, I have no health in me, everything I am is of no value, and I look to You to save me. I believe that You have the power to do so. I believe Your word tells me that."

Listen, you can know that He can, because when He died, unlike every other person who claimed authority, when He died, He didn't stay dead. On the third day, His body got up and walked out of the grave, and as Peter said in his first sermon when he preached in Acts 2, "Death couldn't hold Him, for it was impossible for death to hold Him," because He is the author of life. Satan thought he had Him, but then He just flexed His muscles and walked out.

Every day we live in this world that is shrouded with death and darkness. We live in a world where we are getting older every day, where people we love are getting older. We live in a world where suddenly accidents happen and we lose loved ones. We can live in fear of death and fear of losing those that we love. How do you deal with that? Every time you see death in your life, press on to know the One who is life. Every time that you find yourself discouraged by death and decay around you, look to the One who is the fountain of life. Set your eyes on Jesus. Like Ted read earlier, "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. I'm making all things new." Set your hope on that. He is going to do it. There will come a moment when a shout comes from Heaven and He begins to make all things new. Every vestige of death is swallowed up in the life of Christ.

In the death of relationships, you need to go to the One who is life. When darkness presses in, and this is really God's kindness. Isn't it amazing, God wants you to know His life so much that He let this world be as ugly as it is? It's His patience and His tolerance. He made this perfect world and He let it get marred by us. He's like this incredible artist who lets a little kid come up and mess up His painting. It's worse than that. And here He is letting that happen, but He has a purpose in it, because He wants everybody to know, "There's a problem here, and you need to reconnect to Me." So every time you experience death and darkness, and all of the pain of this world, realize that that is God's loving invitation to you. He's saying to you, "Come to Me. I am your life, and there's life in no one else. You forgot for a moment. Come back to Me." How good He is.

Let's go to Him in prayer...

*Our Father, we are so glad that we come to a God who abounds in mercy, whose lovingkindness reaches to the heavens, whose faithfulness, to the skies. We come rejoicing that You have made Your life known, that You truly want to have fellowship with us, to have the joy of really living in Your presence forever, of really being alive with You, and have a life in Your presence that gets only deeper, and richer, and more satisfying.*

*Father, we pray for those that are here that are disconnected from life, that today they would turn to Christ, that they would truly surrender themselves to Him in repentance and faith. Thank You that He has done everything that is necessary, that He is everything that is necessary, and we pray this in His Name, Amen.*

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