

Christian Apologetics (09)
[I Am The Way, The Truth and The Life]

The word apologetics is derived from the Greek word, apologia. Apologia refers to a speech made in defense or a verbal response.

“Christian apologetics is a field of Christian theology that presents a rational basis for the Christian faith and defends the faith against objections, and exposes the perceived flaws of other world views.” (Wikipedia)

All of the lessons in the series entitled, Christian apologetics, will be taken from the Gospel of John.

Today will study the eighth outrageous **I AM** claim made by Jesus in the Gospel of John:

The Son of Man	The Door of Sheepfold
The Messiah	The Good Shepherd
The Bread of Life	The Resurrection and Life
The Light	The Way, The Truth and The Life

Today we will study the eight “I AM” claim made by Jesus in the Gospel of John - “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through Me.” (Jn.14:6)

Our final two “I AM” claims are taken from the **Upper Room Discourse** (Jn.14:6 and 15:1).

We will examine our lesson text by the following four homiletical points.

- Heart (Jn.14:1) Trust or trouble
- House (Jn.14:2) Occupancy or vacancy
- Hereafter (Jn.14:3-4) Heaven or hell
- Highway (Jn.14:5-7) Narrow or broad (Matt.7:13-14)

“If Christ is in your heart now, you will be in His home forever.” (Eph.3:17)

This lesson will study SIX aspects of the outrageous claim of Jesus - “I am the way, the truth, and the life.”

(Acts 9:2; 16:17; 18:25-26; 19:9, 23; 22:4; 24:14, 22) [The name of early Church, “The Way”]

1. The Upper Room Discourse is taken from John 13-17.

The NIV study Bible divides John 13 into three sections for study:

- Jesus washing the Disciples feet (Jn.13:1-17)
- Jesus’ prediction of betrayal (Jn.13:18-30)
- Jesus predicts Peter’s denial (Jn.13:31-38).

The section on Jesus predicting Peter’s denial sets up our lesson text:

(Jn.13:33) “Little children, I am with you a little while longer. You shall seek Me; and as I said to the Jews, I now say to you also, ‘Where I am going, you cannot come.’”

It led to Peter’s engagement in a discussion about where Jesus was going and he couldn’t come that led to Jesus’ statement - “You know the way to the place where I am going.” (Jn.14:4b)

2. Jesus' answer brought Thomas into the discussion – “Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?” (Jn.14:5)

Thomas is thinking in worldly terms and not in spiritual terms (Col.3:1).

This brought the outrageous claim of Jesus:

(Jn.14:6-7) **“I am the way, the truth, and the life.** No one (oudeis / nsm) comes (erchomai / p.m.ind 3ps) to the Father but (ei-me) [except] through (dia+gen of agent) Me. **If (2cc) [contrary to fact]** you had known (ginosko / plupf.a.ind.2pl) Me, you would have known (oida / plupf.a.ind.2pl) My Father also; from now on you know Him, and have seen Him.”

The disciple's questions are the reason Jesus used the second class condition of “contrary to fact”.

3. This is why the disciples “hearts are troubled and cannot trust” Jesus' teaching regarding His departure. (Jn.13:33-14:1).

They have exhibited negative volition in the past on this same teaching and refused to cycle this specific doctrine through the faith cycle.

Hearing	(Rrom.10:17)
Believing	(Heb.4:2)
Applying	(2 Cor.5:7)
Completing	(James 2:22)

We will use Peter to illustrate this principle (Matt.16:21-23; 17:22-23; 20:17-19; 26:2, 33-35, 64-75).

4. Like Peter, Thomas had plenty of time and opportunity in bible class to learn the answers to these questions but he chose not to believe. Why did these believers do this?

Why have they sought to explore the faith of others rather than to explore the word of God to develop their own faith?

Why have they have sat in Jesus' bible classes for over 3 years and heard Him teach on the very subject they are questioning?

Because they didn't choose to put off previously held beliefs that were in conflict with this teaching of Jesus (Luke 24:6-8; Acts 2:6; Eph.4:22-24).

If you are in a “teaching for growth” church, your questions will get answered in time. Then it is up to you.

5. Notice that Jesus taught that their future place was with Christ in heaven. We take this principle for granted but it was not so for them.

This was difficult to understand since the norm theology of the Jewish Age was for the believer to die and go to Abraham's bosom in Hades (Luke 16:19-31)

(Luke16:23) “And in Hades he lifted up his eyes, being in torment, and saw Abraham far away, and Lazarus in his bosom.”

Hades is where Jesus spent 3 days and nights after crucifixion (Matt.12:40; Luke 24:7-8, 21-25; Acts 2:22-33; 1 Pet.3:18-19; Rom.8:11).

(Luke 24:25) “O foolish men and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken!”

It took Jesus’ ascension to the third heaven to be seated at the right hand of God for them to believe (Acts 1:9-11).

The disciples of Jesus were born in the Jewish Age, but died in the Church Age; all except Judas Iscariot (Matt.27:1-10; Acts 1:15-20).

6. In the Church Age, all believers go to third heaven immediately after death (2 Cor.5:6-8; John 14:1-4).

(2 Cor.12:2) “I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago – whether in the body I do not know, or out of the body I do not know, God knows – **such a man was caught up to the third heaven.**”

Unbelievers go to Torment of Hades to await the Great White Throne Judgment (Rev.20:11-15; Luke 16:22-23).

(Jn.14:6)

**I AM THE WAY, THE TRUTH, AND THE LIFE;
no one comes to the Father, but through Me.”**