

Word notes Sunday 05/02/2012 Tony Hodge
Jesus: One Way

Summary (read this bit out to remind cell members what was said on Sunday)

Key Text: John 14:6

When Jesus said “I am the Way, the Truth and the Life, no-one comes to the Father except through me” he didn’t give the disciples or us any “wriggle room” at all. Only through Jesus can anyone come to the Father. When Jesus claimed to be eternally existent (Jn 8:58) or one with the Father (Jn 10:30) this upset the religious people of the day and the claim of Christianity that there is only “One Way” has the same reception today amongst people of other faiths and none. Yet when we teach or preach this, or say we believe it we are only repeating what Jesus himself said – you can try to argue around it but it’s quite cut and dried.

In today’s world of post-modernism it’s OK to believe what you will – everyone has a “right” to their point of view yet the cardinal sin is to say only one view or belief is right. No wonder Christians are having difficulties in this world – Jesus claims to be the only way.

It all comes down to who you say Jesus is. If, like Peter, you say he is the Messiah, the Christ, the Son of the Living God (Matt 16:15,16) then you have to take him at his word – he is the only way. If you say he is anything else then you must wonder why he claimed to be such – is he mad? Nor can you pick and choose which bits of the gospel to believe – that isn’t the gospel of Jesus but your own.

Jesus is the only person who completely pays the price for sin and makes us fit for heaven. That’s why the Bible says, 'For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.' (Romans 6:23).

Application (this is the bit where cell members get to participate. Lead discussions around these points)

What would your response be to a fantastic claim – for example if someone on TV said they could enable you to live forever what would be your reaction? How do you think other people – your non-Christian friends for example would react?

Read John 3:13-18. What is Jesus claiming for himself? Is this a fantastic claim – too big for people to accept? If so what key does the passage contain to show how people might believe? Read John 13:34 & 35 to check your answers: what is God’s secret weapon?

Does Jesus statement in John 14:6 add anything to his words to Nicodemus?

Read Numbers 21:4-9. Why did Jesus refer to this passage? How are the people of Israel in Numbers like people of today? What was the result of their unbelief and rebellion? What was God’s answer then and what now? What did the people have to do then and what now?

How can we “lift up Jesus” in a way that others can see and believe?

Witness (this is the bit where the cell talks and prays about how to share the Good News)

C. S. Lewis wrote: “Christianity, if false, is of no importance, and if true, of infinite importance. The only thing it cannot be is moderately important.” Do you think people today would agree with him, give your reasons. How can we as individuals and together help change their minds?