John 14:1-6

<u>Verse 1</u> There were no chapter and verse divisions when John wrote this account of the gospel. When Jesus tells them to not let their hearts be troubled, He is saying this on the heels of Him being troubled as He declared that His hour has come (John 12:27), Him being troubled in spirit prior to announcing that one of them would betray Him (John 13:21), telling His disciples He is soon to leave them (John 13:33), and telling Peter that he would deny Him (John 13:38). Jesus tells them to not let heart or be troubled despite of all that they were facing and would face as He directs their focus past this temporary world to the eternal glory of dwelling with God forever in a place He is going to prepare.

- Romans 8:18-25 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us. ¹⁹ For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God. ²⁰ For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, ^[i] in hope ²¹ that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²² For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now. ²³ And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for *our* adoption as sons, the redemption of our body. ²⁴ For in hope we have been saved, but hope that is seen is not hope; for who hopes for what he *already* sees? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, with perseverance we wait eagerly for it.
- 2 Corinthians 4:16-18 Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day. ¹⁷ For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison, ¹⁸ while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal.
- 1 Peter 1:3-9 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ to *obtain* an inheritance *which is* imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, ⁵ who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶ In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various ^[c] trials, ⁷ so that the ^[d] proof of your faith, *being* more precious than gold which ^[e] is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ; ⁸ and though you have not seen Him, you love Him, and though you do not see Him now, but believe in Him, you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and ^[f] full of glory, ⁹ obtaining as the outcome of your faith the salvation of ^[g] your souls.

Jesus declared deity by telling them if they believe in God, they should believe in Him because He is God. He is also sent from the Father and exegeting the Father. His works are a witness He is from the Father (John 5:36).

Verse 2 In His Father's house are many dwelling places or rooms. Jesus is God and He cannot lie. Therefore, if His Father's house didn't have many dwelling places or rooms, He would have told them. He has told them that His time on earth is nearing and end. It would be to their advantage if He is left as He would send the Holy Spirit (John 16:7) and He would be going to prepare a room for them as well as all the elect. Interesting to note is that Jesus waited to say He was preparing a place for them until after Judas left. Judas was not one of His chosen and therefore, Jesus was not preparing a room for Him in the Father's house, but rather he would have a place reserved in hell. His preparation is personal as each of His sheep will have a place perfectly prepared for them by Christ.

<u>Verse 3</u> Jesus then makes a promise to them, and this promise extends to all of His people. He tells them that for all that He goes and prepares a place for, He will come and personally receive you unto Himself. He receives His elect so that they will be with Him where He is. The preparation is personal and so is the receiving.

• John 6:37-40 All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will certainly not cast out. ³⁸ For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me. ³⁹ This is the

will of Him who sent Me, that of all that He has given Me I lose nothing, but raise it up on the last day. ⁴⁰ For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him will have eternal life, and I Myself will raise him up on the last day."

- 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a [a] shout, with the voice of *the* archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ Then we who are alive [b] and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord.
- John 17:22-26 The glory which You have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one, just as We are one; ²³ I in them and You in Me, that they may be perfected [a]in unity, so that the world may [b]know that You sent Me, and loved them, even as You have loved Me. ²⁴ Father, I desire that they also, whom You have given Me, be with Me where I am, so that they may see My glory which You have given Me, for You loved Me before the foundation of the world. ²⁵ "O righteous Father, [c] although the world has not known You, yet I have known You; and these have known that You sent Me; ²⁶ and I have made Your name known to them, and will make it known, so that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them."
- Revelation 21:1-4 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer *any* sea. ² And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will [a]dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them[b], ⁴ and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be *any* death; there will no longer be *any* mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away."

<u>Verses 4-5</u> Jesus states that they know the way where He is going. Thomas demonstrates confusion and misunderstanding on where Jesus is going and the way to get to where He is going. Jesus responds to his question with an "I AM" statement which will declare His exclusivity as the only way to God and ultimately to the Father's house.

Jesus went to prepare a place for His elect and our place for eternal rest is guaranteed. Our inheritance is being reserved for us and we are being reserved for our inheritance. His sheep will not get to the front desk of our eternal home and hear "we can't find your reservation," "your reservation has been lost," or "we don't have enough rooms." The reservations of all the elect were made before the foundation of the world when God wrote their names in the Lamb's book of life and that reservation is eternally set. Our salvation and redemption is personal. Christ has personally prepared each room for all who the Father has given Him and will personally come to receive them on the Last Day. On that day we who are weary exiles will personally be welcomed home!

<u>Verse 6</u> Jesus answers Thomas' question with an "I AM" statement. The I AM is referring to the name Yahweh that was spoken out of the burning bush when Moses asked whom it was that was sending Him (<u>Exodus 3:14</u>). The I AM in Greek is translated Ego Eimi. By Jesus declaring that He is I AM/Yahweh, He is declaring that He is deity, that He is the Yahweh speaking to Moses via the burning bush.

Verse 6 is one of the most controversial verses in the Bible to the world. Here in this verse Jesus declares that He is the only way to God because He is the truth of God and has life in Himself. This speaks of the exclusive nature of Christ in salvation. This view to the world is narrow minded and bigoted as many people claim there are many ways to God. There are not many ways, but rather only one to God and that is through His only Son, Jesus. Jesus is the monogenes, the only begotten, unique Son (John 3:16). It is the view of Christ being the only way that the world pressures Christians to compromise on.

Verses on the exclusive nature of Christ as the way to God.

- John 10:9 I am the door; if anyone enters through Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. ¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and [a] have *it* abundantly.
- Acts 4:12 And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved."

• 1 Timothy 2:5 For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus

Jesus is God and cannot lie (Titus 1:2)(Hebrews 6:18). Here out of the mouth of the eternal Son of God Himself, He declares He is the only way to the Father. To deny this truth, is to deny God Himself. Jesus speaks what the Father has commanded (John 12:49-50) so by Jesus speaking these truths, He is speaking from God the Father.

Jesus is the Way

Matthew 7:13-14 "Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it. ¹⁴ For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are few who find it.

Jesus is the only way because He is the truth.

- John 1:14 And the Word became flesh, and [k] dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of [l] the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.
- John 1:17 For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth [p] were realized through Jesus Christ.
- Ephesians 4:21 if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him, just as truth is in Jesus,
- God is truth and He is the source of truth. God is truth so everything He says or does is truth.
- Truth cannot be found outside of God.

Jesus is the only way because He is life and has life in and of Himself.

- John 1:1-4 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² 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.
- John 11:25 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies,
- The Greek word for eternal life is zoe/zoen and speaks to the eternal nature of Christ. He has aseity (life in Himself). He has eternal life (Zoe)in Himself and as a result is the only One who can give eternal life (zoe). His aseity is vital to eternal life. Since He is the only one who has eternal life, He is the only One who can give eternal life. Eternal life comes from God and is a gift (Romans 6:23).

To deny that Jesus is the only way to the Father is to deny God Himself as these words were spoken by the second person of the Godhead as He spoke what He was commanded by the first person of the Godhead. To deny that Jesus is not the only way to the Father is to declare God a liar. Let God be found true, though every man be found a liar. Who else was perfect? Who else could atone for sins? Who else has fulfilled all righteousness? Who else could redeem? Who else is the Son of Man, the eternal Son of God, the Monogenes? How could anyone ever look at Christ and who He is and what He has done and say that He is not enough and there has to be other ways to God. The exclusivity of Christ as the only way to the Father is not negotiable as it strikes at the heart of Christianity. All those who believe in Jesus as the only way will enter glory and live forever in a place that He has personally prepared for them. Because there is only one way to the Father and it's through His only begotten Son as He is the Way, and the Truth, and the Life!