

# SIGNS

January 31-February 1, 2009

**"One Way"**  
**Garth Leno**

For the past 4 weeks we've been talking about SIGNS. Signs of life. Signs of God at work. And we've been using road signs as markers along the way:

Information  
Under Construction  
Stop  
Bumpy Road

And today we come to the last sign in the series. ONE WAY. We begin with a short interview titled "Three Minutes with Three Lost People."

## DVD Clip: "Three Minutes with Three Lost People"

I don't know many Christians who have had honest conversations like Jim had with those 3 students...! But it's true that many of the people who live beside us and work beside and go to school with us are spiritually confused people. Many of them believe there is a God. But beyond that they're sure of much at all. They are not bad people. They're not stupid. They may be confused or perplexed. They may big philosophical questions that are hard to answer. They may even be lost. Yes. But they are not the enemy.

Sooner or later most of us encounter people who just can't wrap their heads around the suggestion that there is only one way to God. They would much rather believe in the idea of a god who lets everybody into heaven regardless of what they believe. They prefer the concept of an all-loving god who is absolutely and unequivocally inclusive. He affirms everyone's belief system. "It doesn't matter what you believe, as long as you are sincere."

"She gets to god through Islam, and he gets to god through Buddha, and my Aunt Mildred gets to god by watching Oprah. It's all the same thing, right?" *There are many ways to God.*

## DVD Clip – "One Way"

One day Jesus was teaching his followers about heaven. And he said to them:

John 14:1-6 NLT

*"Don't let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust also in me. There is more than enough room in my Father's home... When everything is ready, I will come and get you, so that you will always be with me where I am. And you know the way to where I am going."*

*"No, we don't know, Lord," Thomas said. "We have no idea where you are going, so how can we know the way?"*

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

Jesus did say he was the only way to get to God. *No one can come to the Father except through me...* But what if Jesus was not telling the truth? What if Jesus was a liar? If, when Jesus made his claims, he knew that he was not God, then he was lying and he deliberately deceived his followers.

But Jesus didn't lie about anything else, so why should he lie about who he is? Yet, if he lied about who he is, then you have to conclude that everything else he said and did was untrustworthy. But this view of Jesus simply doesn't coincide with what we know of him or the results of his life.

So, if he's not a liar, maybe he's a lunatic! I mean, he thought he was the only way to God! He thought he was the Son of God. But what is he was mistaken? What is he was delusional or even misguided? After all, it is possible to be both

sincere and wrong. But in light of all that we know about Jesus, it's hard to imagine that he was mentally disturbed. Here is a man who spoke some of the most profound sayings ever recorded. His instructions have liberated millions and millions of people over the ages.

So if we conclude that Jesus was not a liar, and he was not a lunatic, what's the alternative? He is the Lord. He is the Christ. He is the Son of God, just like he claimed. And if Jesus is God, then what he said in John 14:6 has to be true:

John 14:6

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

He is the only way to eternal life. He's the only way to personal forgiveness and healing and hope.

Some of you know about my background....

I grew up in a home that was riddled with alcohol abuse and violence. By the time I started public school my family was fragmented. I lived in fear. My mother beat my sister and subjected her to a degree of humiliation and degradation that no teenaged girl should ever have to endure.

When I reached high school I began to drink and smoke dope and whatever else I needed to do to gain acceptance from the people around me. As much as I hated what booze did to my family, I headed down the same path. It was fun at first. Then it became addictive. Then I didn't know how to find the way out. The shadows grew longer...and eventually...I lost my way.

But I had made friends with a family of Christians who loved me and took the time to talk to me about Jesus. And one afternoon Mrs. Storfield read some verses from the Bible that went straight to my heart, and one of them was

John 14:6 where Jesus said

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

Mrs. Storfield went on to explain to me that

**Just as there are physical laws that govern the physical universe, so are there spiritual laws which govern our relationship with God.**

**God LOVES us, and offers a wonderful PLAN for our lives.**

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life." (John 3:16)

Jesus said, "I came that they might have life, and might have it abundantly" (that it might be full and meaningful) (John 10:10)

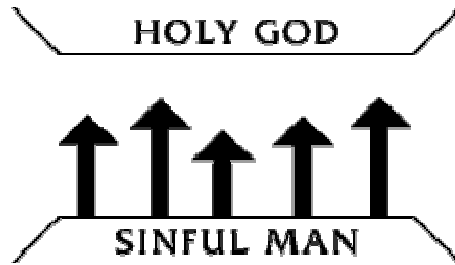
But most people do not experience this abundant life because...

**People are SINFUL and SEPARATED from God. Therefore, they cannot know and experience God's love and God's plan for their lives.**

"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." (Romans 3:23)

Men and women were created to have fellowship with God; but, because of our stubborn self-will, we chose to go our own independent way and fellowship with God is broken.

The diagram below illustrates that God is holy and man is sinful. A great gulf separates the two. The arrows show that man is continually trying to reach God through his own efforts, but they all fall short.

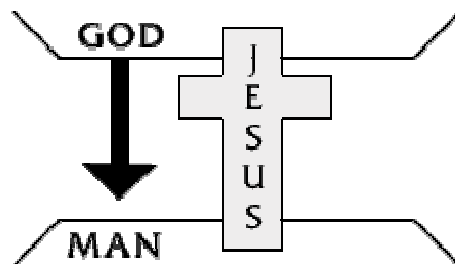


And there is only one way to bridge this gulf between a Holy God and Sinful People...

**Jesus Christ is God's ONLY provision for our sin. Through Him you can know and experience God's love and plan for your life.**

"But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8)

He died for us and opened up a new and living way for us to have fellowship with God. Jesus bridged the gap between us and God.



But it's not enough just to know this information. Knowledge alone will not change your life...

**We must individually RECEIVE Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord; then we can know and experience God's love and plan for our lives.**

"But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name" (John 1:12)

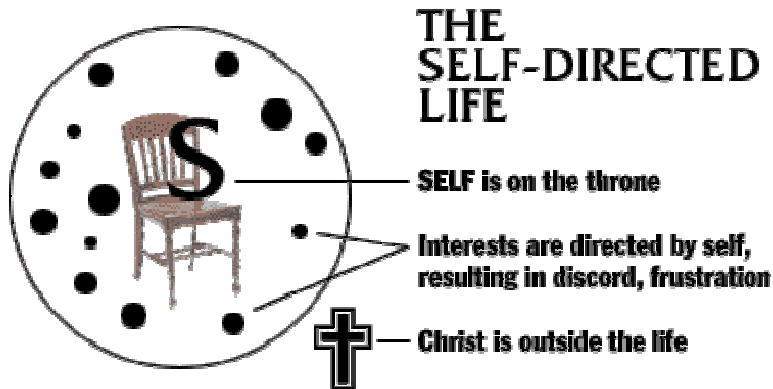
**We Receive Christ Through Faith**

"For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, that no one should boast." (Ephesians 2:8-9)

**We Receive Christ by Personal Invitation**

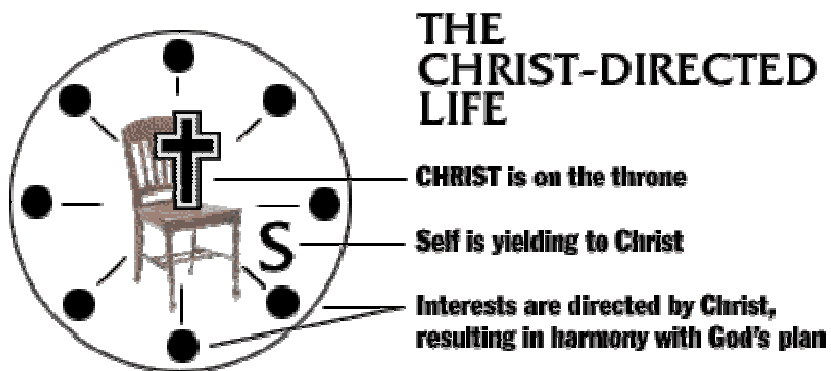
Jesus said, "Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him." (Revelation 3:20) Receiving Christ involves turning to God and trusting Christ to come into our lives to forgive our sins and to make us the kind of people He wants us to be.

*For so many years, this is what my life looked like... My will, my self, sat on the throne of my life – and it was a mess! Discord, frustration, drunkenness, you name it. My life was a mess.*



*And then I received Christ by faith...*

Suddenly Jesus was sitting on the throne of my life giving me direction and purpose. Self began yielding to Christ, and I started to experience the abundant life Jesus came to give us.



Which circle best represents your life today?

If you have never done so, you can receive Jesus Christ today through prayer.

Prayer is talking with God. It's a conversation with your creator. God knows your heart and He's not as concerned with your words as He is with the attitude of your heart. You can express your faith in a prayer, something like this...

Lord Jesus, I need you. Thank You for dying on the cross for my sins. I open the door of my life and receive You as my Savior and Lord. I now understand that you are the Only Way to God. Thank You for forgiving my sins and giving me eternal life. Take control of the throne of my life. Make me the kind of person You want me to be.

It doesn't matter where you've been, or who you've been with, or how long you've been away. Jesus saves completely. Jesus forgives absolutely. And we believe He's the only way to God.

Does this prayer (on the screen) express the desire of your heart? If it does, then pray this prayer with me...now!... and Christ will give you new life, just like he promised.

If you wish to become a genuine follower of Jesus today, then pray this prayer with me as I pray out loud:

Lord Jesus, I need you. Thank You for dying on the cross for my sins. I open the door of my life and receive You as my Savior and Lord by faith. I now understand that you are the Only Way to God. You died on the Cross and you came out of the grave alive, and I put my trust in the facts surrounding your life and death on my behalf. Thank You for forgiving my sins and giving me eternal life. Take control of the throne of my life. Make me the kind of person You want me to be.