Is Christianity the Only Way?

I am sure that I am speaking to a mostly Christian audience this morning while I will not discounting that there might be some here who are undecided or not yet committed to Christ. Now I say this with respect to those of you here today who have not accepted Christ because I realize that no one can convince anyone of anything unless that person is so lead by reason, emotion, or some supernatural force that goes beyond human understanding.

Today, I set out to address you both as Christians and people of other faiths or folks that have no prescribed religious beliefs.

If we are to have a discussion about religion, we must recognize that there are many religious beliefs in the world.

A survey taken in 2006 of the world’s population estimated that only 34% claim that they are Christians. Muslims account for nearly 19% of the worlds religious and Hindus take up 14% of the worlds religious people. All the other religious faiths of the world make up roughly 18% of the worlds population while 14.5 % of the population claim to have no religious beliefs or are atheists.

Here’s the problem: all of these religious or non religious people claim to know the truth. But all can’t be true and all can’t be false. There has to be one truth.

How do you determine the truth?

What really is the true way?

I admit that I haven’t taken the time to understand all religious beliefs and have to give this message today on the basis of knowing only what others have suggested in their investigations of other religious beliefs.

But I can report to you on some fundamental truths that bring Christianity to the forefront of making the most logical sense.

First thing we must do is examine the text to which we claim much of our truth from: the Bible.
The Bible is the first thing that has to be scrutinized. Christians claim that this collection of books is the spoken word of God and that it is to be held sacred. Other religions also have books that they claim is the word of their leader or god. Muslims claim their religious book was revealed by Mohammad. The Mormons claim their book was revealed through an angel to a man, Joseph Smith, in the woods in America on golden plates that are buried and never to be recovered. What makes the Bible so different?

The facts. There has never been a more historically significant recording of ancient times that what we have in the Bible. All over the Middle East, there are archaeological excavations that seek to find past civilizations. More and more of them are confirming the historical accuracy of the Bible.

Let me give you just one example. For years, the walls falling down in Jericho have been a disputed myth among scientists and archeologists. Why? Because there had never been found a city whose walls had fallen like is reported in the Bible where the army marched around the city seven times and the walls came a tumbling down.

Professor John Garstang, a British archaeologist, excavated the site of ancient Jericho and discovered that the walls had in fact fallen outward which would not warrant a typical raid where the walls would be push inward and that caches of food were found in the city which supports that Jericho was not raided.

This is just the tip of the proverbial iceberg when it comes to physical proof supporting the truth of the Bible.

Second, let me ask you this: Have you ever heard of Julius Caesar? Ever read any of Plato’s writings? Have you studied Homer’s Iliad? If someone were to tell you that these people never existed because there wasn’t enough proof, you would think they were crazy!

Yet, looking at the evidence, you might start to think otherwise:
Julius Caesar - The earliest manuscripts were made one thousand years after Caesar lived; only ten manuscripts exist.

Plato – earliest manuscripts thirteen hundred years after Plato live; only 7 manuscripts exist.

Homer – earliest manuscripts five hundred years after Homer lived; 643 manuscripts exist. Homer’s Iliad has the best manuscript support of any ancient test in the world next to the Bible.

Now consider this – there are over 24,000 partial and full Greek manuscripts of the New Testament, the earliest one dating from just thirty years after the Book of Revelation was written.

What about the Old Testament? The Dead Sea Scrolls contain fragments of almost every book in the Old Testament and the scrolls are dated approximately 150 BC, only two hundred years after the last event of the Old Testament took place.

No other book from the ancient world has as much manuscript support or is as closely tied to the original event as the Bible.

The Bible, God’s Word, is also scientifically correct. I’ll give you just one example.

For thousands of years, humans thought the Earth was flat. Christopher Columbus thought otherwise. And what is never taught in public schools is the real reason Christopher Columbus dared to make this epic voyage over what many believed was the edge of the world.

Columbus wrote in his diary: “For the execution of the voyage to the Indies, I did not make use of intelligence, mathematics or maps. It is simply the fulfillment of what Isaiah had prophesied.”

What prophecy from Isaiah was Columbus referring to?

Isaiah 40:22 He sits enthroned above the circle of the earth, and its people are like grasshoppers.
He stretches out the heavens like a canopy, and spreads them out like a tent to live in. That is just one example of scientific evidence that the Bible was written by God through man because the truths are way ahead of man’s discovery. While Columbus spoke of prophecy in the Bible, no other book on this planet can match the Bible’s staggering accuracy in foretelling events. Thirty percent of the Bible consists of prophecy and not one of its prophecies has ever been shown false. The Bible is true, is historically accurate, scientifically proven, and prophetically unmatched. And yet there is one more factor that cements all of the truths together in a way that cannot be expressed except through transformation of faith. And that is Jesus Christ. Many have sought the way to God and the route to heaven since the beginning of time. When the time was right, God placed Himself in human form upon His creation of the Earth. Jesus made one statement that is different from any other religious belief in the world. This one statement sets Christianity apart as radically different and therefore hard to accept as the truth. It is this statement that did as much as anything to get Jesus crucified. John 14: “I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” Other religions and their leaders say, “follow me this way and do the things that I am telling you to do and you will have life.” Jesus makes no such statement. He says that he is the way. It is through him that people can find eternal life. There are no hoops to jump through or things to do. It is simply a matter of having faith in Jesus as the Way and wanting a relationship with him.
Ephesians 2: 8  For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—9 not by works, so that no one can boast.

You can’t work your way into heaven. You can’t do a bunch of great things to get there. You can’t make your own way into heaven because Jesus is the way. You may want to believe in some other things that aren’t founded on truths but are grown out of mystical tales that cannot be proven any more than the Wizard of Oz. Jesus says he is the truth.

While many may tell you of all the things you must do to inherit eternal life or else you just won’t make it, those are untruths. Because Jesus says that he is the life. If we can prove that the Bible is historically true, scientifically true, and prophetically true, than we have to believe that the man that the whole book points to, gives multiple accounts of, and tells future prophecy of has to be telling the truth.

There is no way to the Father except through Jesus Christ.

You cannot have eternal life except through the acceptance of Jesus Christ the savior.

For the past month, I have been answering your hard questions. Now I ask you a hard question and would hope that you would honestly answer it: have you trusted Jesus as the one true way to Heaven? If not, have you honestly read the story of his life so that you can make your own opinion as to whether you believe that He is the way?

Many people have believed that Jesus is the way. In fact, in the account of the Acts of the Apostles, they were beginning to be known by the name The Way.

And the Way is capitalized for a reason. Because there is no other way to heaven except through Jesus Christ.
I had a couple of good friends in high school that went to this one boy’s church. His dad was the preacher and they hosted Christian rock concerts and had a thriving youth group.

I couldn’t stand them. I hated when they would talk about their church. Why? Because they would try and shove it down my throat. They would tell me that I HAD to come to their church and no other church would do.

I told them I ain’t going to your church or any other if that’s the way you all are! And I didn’t.

There wasn’t anybody that was going to tell me what to do or where to go and especially that I had to come to their church.

The point in sharing this story is that if you really haven’t chosen Christ as the Way, no one here can make you make that choice. It has to happen on its own.

My question to you today is: why wait to find out?

Don’t put off finding out for yourself if Jesus really is the Way?

Look at the evidence. Search your heart. Listen to others testimony.

Answer this hard question: what way will you follow on earth and after you die?

Let me remind you that there are other ways but only one Way.

Jesus himself says in Matthew 7: 13  “Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it.

14 But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.”

The small gate and the narrow road are right in front of you. Choose the Way. Choose Jesus Christ.

If you are not convinced, look at the evidence yourself. If you are feeling like you want to believe, then allow yourself to have faith and give up that bit of doubt that is holding you back.

Today’s question is probable the most important one of them all.
When life is over and we pass from the temporal to the eternal, we will all stand before the God who can answer all of our questions with the ease of an Einstein answering an elementary student’s science question. But then we won’t be asking Him a question; He will be asking us.

He will ask only one question. He won’t care about anything we fretted and sweated over during our short stay on this planet. He won’t ask about our finances, fame, or fortune. He won’t inquire about our portfolios, positions, or possessions. His question will be extremely short and to the point, but it will be the most important question we will ever answer:

“What did you do with My Son Jesus?”