

I realize that it is not popular, nor is it accepted by the vast majority of our world, to say we can know anything for sure. Most like to leave things in the realm of speculation and subjectivism. This philosophy holds to the position that there are no absolutes. Things can never be absolutely right or absolutely wrong. What might be wrong for one person would not be wrong for another, due to one's perception and individual understanding of a given subject. The idea is that if I do not know, I cannot be held accountable. Some say it is arrogant to affirm that we must, or even can, KNOW God's will for us. However, knowledge does not make a person arrogant. Webster's Dictionary defines knowledge as, "A clear and certain perception of that which exists, or of truth and fact; the perception of the connection and agreement, or disagreement and repugnancy of our ideas." Vine's Dictionary says there are eight Greek words for our English word "know" or "knowledge." The two most common are OIDA and GINOSKO. GINOSKO signifies to be taking in knowledge, to come to know, recognize, understand, or to understand completely. OIDA signifies to have seen or perceived; hence, to know, to have knowledge of, whether absolutely, as in Divine knowledge or in the case of human knowledge, to know from human observation. "The difference between these two words is that 'GINOSKO' frequently suggests inception or progress in knowledge while 'OIDA' suggests fullness of knowledge" (W. E. Vine, *An Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words*, page 297-298).

Our study will show the indisputable proof that Jesus is the **one** and **only** way to salvation. We will see that God's word provides evidence of this fact. To show absolute proof of this affirmation, we will observe God's promise, the prophecies concerning Christ and the sacrifice made on our behalf.

### **The Promise**

Why is it necessary to discuss this subject? What would motivate anyone to want to understand just who the Savior might be? The answer to both questions is quickly summed up in Romans 3:23 "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." However, Romans 6:23 reveals the "good news," which is our

hope of salvation through Jesus. This unwavering hope is an assurance which is wrapped up in "the gift of God." This wonderful gift was **PROMISED** at the very first appearance of sin.

After the days of creation, Adam and Eve were given residence in the Garden of Eden. They were to enjoy all the wonderful blessings which God would, provide for them. Not long after entering this beautiful abode, sin entered the world and Adam and Eve (as well as all mankind) would never be the same again. Every facet of their lives was changed because they gave in to temptation. Genesis three records the Lord's commandment, the serpent's temptation and the fall of these two because they disobeyed God. Their disobedience separated them from God and from the blessings associated with Paradise. They were drawn away of their own lust and enticed. James records how sin comes about, "But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death" (James 1:14-15). One of the tragedies of sin is that it always separates man from God (Isaiah 59:1-2; Jeremiah 5:25). Sin is often described as "walking in darkness." When we walk in darkness, our fellowship with God is broken (1 John 1:5-7). When Adam and Eve sinned, God pronounced the consequence of that sin upon them (Genesis 3:14-19). Yet, we see God's great love and compassion for mankind. In verse 15, He makes a promise, a promise that is man's hope, his only hope, for salvation. Not willing to have His creation (mankind) be forever doomed, God set in motion the remedy for man's redemption.

### **The Prophecies**

One of the great beauties of God's word is that we can see every promise unfold before our eyes. The prophets spoke clearly about the coming of the Messiah, who would be the Savior of mankind. We sometimes hear the term, "seeing is believing." I know Jesus is the only way to salvation because I can "see" Him in the pages of inspiration. Several times in Scripture, certain individuals speak of "seeing" Jesus. The woman of Samaria said, "Come, see a man, which told me all

things that ever I did: **is not this the Christ?**" (John 4:29). Phillip told Nathanael, "...we have found him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph" (John 1:45). In this passage, Phillip reminds Nathanael of the writings of Moses, who spoke of the coming Savior. Moses recorded the "salvation" of Israel from the fiery serpent in Numbers 21:1-9. When we compare this "salvation" with that found in John 3:14-17, we will clearly "see" Jesus as being the Savior promised in the long ago.

The prophets, by inspiration, gave distinct and absolute "road signs" showing the coming of the promised Savior. These prophecies, as they were fulfilled, give strong evidence that Jesus is the Son of God and the answer to the promise made in Genesis 3:15. Jesus said, "Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which **testify of me**" (John 5:39). In John 5:46, He further stated, "For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me: for he wrote of me." There are many prophecies that foretell of Jesus' coming into the world, His life, His work and His death, burial and resurrection. Isaiah said that He would be born of a virgin (Isaiah 7:14 cf. Matthew 1:18-23). Micah foretold of His being born in the city of Bethlehem (Micah 5:2 cf. John 7:39-42). Zechariah prophesied that He would be sold by a companion for thirty pieces of silver (Zechariah 11:12-13 cf. Matthew 26:14-17). The Psalmist stated that His bones would not be broken (Psalm 34:20; 22:17 cf. John 19:36). Other prophecies declared that He would be raised from the grave (Psalm 16:8-11 cf. Acts 2:25-28). Many more prophecies concerning Christ could be cited. However, these few will suffice to show the truthfulness and accuracy of God's word. I know Jesus is the only way to salvation because God promised to send the Savior, and the prophets point to Him as the only possible answer to man's dilemma. Man can never save himself; therefore, God sent His "only begotten Son" to be the sacrifice for our sins.

### **He Was the Only Acceptable Sacrifice**

We have already seen that God's grace and mercy was revealed in His promise to provide a Savior for all men. Under the Old Testament system, God required that

animal sacrifices be made to satisfy the atonement for sin, “And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission” (Hebrews 9:22). Yet, those animal sacrifices could not take away man’s sins (Hebrews 10:4). Thus, Jesus bore the agony of the cross to save us from eternal condemnation. He gave His life’s blood for our redemption, “In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace” (Ephesians 1:7; Romans 3:23-25). His blood and **ONLY** His blood can reconcile sinful men to the Father (Romans 5:10; Colossians 1:20-22; Ephesians 2:16).

Jesus gave His life as a ransom for all men, but not all will be saved (Matthew 7:13-14; 21-27). This fact is also proof that Jesus is the only way to salvation. Man can travel many roads, but there is only one that will lead us to eternal life. Many will profess they “know” Him and are doing wonderful things in His name. However, His way is the only accepted way. He is the Savior of all, but not all will be saved. Why? Hebrews 5:9 answers that question, “And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him.” Notice: Not all will obey HIM. They will follow the imaginations of their own minds or follow the doctrines of men. Not one of those ways will suffice.

### **Christ’s Way Requires Obedience To The Gospel**

When Jesus said, “I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me” (John 14:6). He declared that no other way would do! The Lord’s way requires obedience to the gospel (Romans 1:16-17). Inspiration tells us there is **only one gospel** (Galatians 1:6-9). Christ died for everyone (John 3:16; Romans 5:8-10). However, not everyone will be saved (Matthew 7:13-14). The saving blood of Jesus was given for all, but some will reject this soul-saving sacrifice. When one is willing to turn from sins and be washed in His blood, he is made free from the bondage of sin (Romans 6:1-13). Please note: “For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord” (Romans 6:23).

The doctrines of men can never provide salvation. To

follow these teachings is to turn from God and the truth found in His word, “Not giving heed to Jewish fables, and commandments of men, that turn from the truth” (Titus 1:14).

### **Conclusion**

**I know Jesus is the only way to salvation** – BECAUSE God would not leave mankind without hope. When man sinned, He set in motion the plan which would reconcile us to Himself. He made a PROMISE and set in motion the story of redemption. He gave inspiration to the prophets, who spoke of the one who was promised in Genesis 3:15. This song of redemption unfolds before our very eyes as we see those prophecies fulfilled. They all focus upon Jesus as He comes into this world and brings the light of salvation (John 1:1-14).

**I know Jesus is the only way to salvation** – BECAUSE the Bible tells me so! God the Father declared, “While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him” (Matthew 17:5).

The next time you sing, “There are many paths through this world of sin. But there’s only one I will travel in. ’Tis the old cross road, on the way called straight. There’s just one way to the pearly gate. There’s just one way to the pearly gate. To the crown of life and the friends who wait. It’s the old cross road or the way called straight. There’s just one way to the pearly gate.” Sing it with confidence and assurance. ***Because... Jesus is the only way!***

This tract is condensed from a lesson presented at the  
30th Annual Mid-West Lectures,  
“*I Know*”

To hear or view the complete lesson go to  
[www.39thStreetChurchOfChrist.org](http://www.39thStreetChurchOfChrist.org)  
or contact the

39th Street Church of Christ  
15331 East 39th Street  
Independence, MO 64055-4240 USA

# I Know...

## Jesus Is The Only Way To Salvation

by  
Toney L. Smith

© 2012



International Bible Studies  
Tract Series