

"... Jesus Christ: The Only Way?"
(John 14:6; Acts 4:12; 1 Timothy 2:5-6...)

I. Introduction:

- A. *The Month of October: Missions Emphasis*
- B. *The Mantra of our Culture: Pluralism and Tolerance*
- C. *The Mark against Christianity: Exclusivity*

II. Exposition: I Have Been Thinking about ... Jesus, the only way?

A. The **options**:

1. Denial of exclusivity: **Not narrow**
 - Journey to same place by various routes
 - Wheel with various spokes but same hub
 - Climb to mountaintop by various paths
2. Affirmation of exclusivity: **Narrow but wrong**
 - Sincere non-Christians in other religions
 - Right for me, not necessarily right for all
 - Exclusivity is intolerant of others
3. Affirmation of exclusivity: **Narrow and right**
 - Who is Jesus?
 - What is truth?
 - What is the gospel?

B. The **observations**:

1. *The Claims of Jesus:*
 - Exclusivity: John 3:16-21; 8:24; 14:6
 - Deity: John 8:58 (Ex. 3:14); 13:13; Matthew 28:18-20
2. *The Claims of the Disciples:*
 - Exclusivity: Acts 4:12; Galatians 1:8-10; 1 Timothy 2:5-6
 - Deity: John 20:28; Colossians 1: 15-19; Titus 2:13; Hebrews 1:1-3

3. *The claims of His enemies:*
 - Matthew 26:63-66; Mark 2:5-7; John 5:18; 8:58-59; 10:27-33
4. *The contrasts in religions:*
 - Who is God? Person and nature
 - Where do we go? Destiny of people
 - How do we get there? Nature of salvation
5. *The choices regarding Jesus:*
 - Liar
 - Lunatic
 - Lord

III. Conclusion:

- The **stumbling block** of the cross (Galatians 5:11)
- The **security** of the believer (1 John 5:11-13)
- The **saving grace** of God (Ephesians 2:8-10)

Questions to reflect on individually and discuss in Small Groups:

1. What stuck out to you from the message? (What's your keeper?)
2. How have you dealt with questions of the exclusivity of Jesus in your own life and in conversations with others?
3. Why does being "narrow-minded" not necessarily mean wrong? How would you now respond to a person who attacks the "narrow-mindedness" of Jesus being the only way?
4. What did you learn from the claims of Jesus, His disciples and His enemies regarding His deity and His claims?
5. Why can we say with assurance that all religions do not lead to the same place? How would you defend that position?
6. Why is Jesus being a prophet or a good moral teacher NOT a viable option for who He was? Explain your answer.
7. What stuck out to you from the conclusion?
8. Finish this sentence with the primary thing that God is leading you to do: "In light of these passages and this discussion, I will ..." (What is your action point?)