

Shalom Series
The Way
09/04/21
Newport News

Opening/Introduction

- Matthew 16:24-28
- Pray
- (brief comments about the new series...tonight's title)
- **(do contest for best caption of Trent Dilfer pic)**

The Way

- remember The Story? **(show slide)**
- If Scripture is The Story then Jesus is The Way!**
- Christians
 - 3 uses in the NT
 - Acts 11:26/Acts 26:28/1 Peter 4:16
 - “Christ” is not Jesus’ last name!
 - Christ means “anointed” (Greek, Gentile word for Messiah)
 - Meaning = like The Anointed or followers of The Anointed

-The Way

- John 14:6
- Acts 9:1-2

-Relevant Magazine 2002 (respectfully disagree...IS a path too, to Heaven)

“Being a follower of the way is not a path to travel, but rather a pattern to follow, an example, if you will. In order to follow the way we have to be like the way, imitate the way. We need to pay careful attention to the life of the way and let people see that in us. The early Christians were not called Christians because they were pious people who lived morally superior lives with a condescending attitude toward their

fellow man. They were called Christians (Christ-like ones) because they imitated their leader, Christ. They lived lives of compassion, love, humility, patience and virtue.”

-First century people who professed faith in Jesus as the Messiah were identified by names that placed a greater emphasis on becoming like Jesus and not just believing in Jesus.

-Matthew 16:24-28

- **The Way of Jesus demands change. (vs. 24)**
- **The Way of Jesus promises life. (vs. 25)**
- **The Way of Jesus stands alone. (vs. 26) (The vs. a)**
- **The Way of Jesus expects results. (vs. 27)**
- **The Way of Jesus transforms. (vs. 28)**

-Matthew 17 is the mount of transfiguration...The Way transforms us!!!!

-(tell Connie story of being lost on 295)

-Too many Christians are lost in life frustrated because no one is giving them direction and community!

-(show 4 quadrant slide: Praxis, Doxa, Shema, and Shalom)

Praxis - The Way of Jesus' Character

-If I accept the One, then I must obey the Six. And to obey the Six, I must walk in the Twelve. And when I walk in the Twelve, I become the Twenty-four.

-1 Corinthians 11:1

-Commands

- **Follow Jesus (John 1:43)**
- **Love God (Matthew 22:37)**
- **Love People (John 13:34)**
- **Be Perfect (Matthew 5:48)**
- **Go Everywhere (Matthew 28:19)**
- **Receive Power (Acts 1:8)**

-Pathways: Scripture, Worship, Prayer, Fasting, Reaching, Gathering, Accountability, Relationship, Service, Rest, Generosity, and Stewardship.

-Virtues (read from Praxis booklet)

-(talk about displacement and the idea of creating an “environment” in your life for virtues to grow and flourish)

Doxa – The Way of Jesus’ Belief

-We want our beliefs to be life changing AND Gospel proclaiming!

-doxa: *glory, splendor, grandeur, power, kingdom, praise, honor... revealed presence of God, God himself...*

-root of doxa: *to think, suppose, believe, consider, imagine...*

-7 Core Doctrines

- **God is one**
- **The Bible is true**
- **Eternity is real**
- **Mankind is helpless**
- **The Cross is enough**
- **Jesus is life**
- **The Church is central**

-(Talk about God is one instructing my approach to life and ministry: teams, permission giving relationship, collaboration, husbands and wives ministering together)

Shema – The Way of Jesus’ Obedience

-In Hebrew, there is no separate word for obey. Listening and doing are two sides to the same coin.

-Matthew 7:24-29

-(knee reflex test – have little hammer) the patellar reflex test...

-I want the reflex of my heart to be one of obedience to God!

-Jeremiah 17:5-10

-Don Gelpi was a Jesuit Priest who lived from 1934-2011, one of the great theological minds our day.

“And in the late 1960’s, early in his career, Gelpi became involved with what became known as the Catholic Charismatic Renewal Movement. Through his involvement, Gelpi encountered an emotional and spiritual transformation characterized by a profound form of prayer and in intensely deep relationship with God. He later described this as a personal Pentecost.”

-Five Conversions (barriers to obedience)

- 1. Religious Conversion**
- 2. Moral Conversion**
- 3. Intellectual Conversion**
- 4. Affective Conversion**
- 5. Socio-Political Conversion**

-Church family, Pastor/Therapist, and Diverse Christian Friendships are vital if we are going to do the heavy lifting of these conversions and not just surface...

Band

-Shalom...let’s watch this by the Bible Project...

-The Way of Jesus’ Peace

-Are you at peace with God, yourself, others, and creation?

-That’s where we are headed together in this series.

-We are people of The Way because we believe in The Story. Christianity for us must never devolve into religious intellectualism. We endeavor to become like Jesus. And I believe that Praxis, Doxa, Shema, and Shalom together give us a working plan to pursue this sacred work.

Close

-2 Corinthians 5:10

-know The Story, live The Way