

# I AM the WAY (of the CROSS)

Jn 14:6; Is 30:21; Prov 14:12; Mt 7:14; Mt 16:24; Gal 2:20; Ro 8:28

## I. THE WAY (*odos*)

- A. Path, highway, as in “straight and narrow,” following directions (e.g. Bunyan’s *Pilgrim’s Progress*)
- B. Life-style, way of living, as in “way of holiness, righteousness”

## II. THE WAY of the CROSS

- A. Garden of Gethsemane: Surrender to God’s Will
  - 1. C.S. Lewis: “In the end, there are only two kinds of people: those who say to God, ‘Thy Will be done’ and those to whom God says, ‘thy will be done.’”
  - 2. G.A. Studdert-Kennedy: “Thy will be done! / No greater words than these / Can pass through human lips / Than those which rent their way / Through agony and bloody sweat / To save a world from sin.”
- B. Mt. Calvary: Suffering God’s Will—“It is finished.” *A Doctor at Calvary* delineates details

## III. OUR CALLING: CROSS-BEARING

- A. Hopes
  - 1. Vocation
    - a. Peter (the Big Fisherman) gives up successful business to follow Jesus
    - b. David Brainerd story & influence (his *Journal* praised by Jonathan Edwards & John Wesley)
    - c. Albert Schweitzer story & influence—won Nobel Peace Prize, “greatest man of our time” said *Time Magazine*
    - d. Personal perspectives
  - 2. Family
    - a. Marriage—unrequited longings, unrealistic expectations,
    - b. Children
      - 1. Barrenness burden (e.g. Hannah & OT record)
      - 2. Failures in school, business
      - 2. Rebelliousness (e.g. Absolem)
  - 3. Church—innocent (naive?) expectations, disillusionments
    - a. Children’s all-too-often exodus
    - b. Adults’ fully understandable disappointments (e.g. church response to death of spouse, child, friend)
- B. Pains—“slings and arrows of outrageous fortune” (c.f. C.S. Lewis: *The Problem of Pain* and *A Grief Observed*)
  - 1. Physical—injuries, illnesses,
  - 2. Relational—spouses, children, friends, parents
  - 3. Financial—farmers & ranchers today; persons betrayed, frauds perpetrated
- C. Sacrifices voluntarily made
  - 1. Parents with children with “special needs”—my students, Glen & Pam
  - 2. Spouses deal with difficult situations—T.S. Eliot and first wife; noted seminary president; my cousin’s wife; Dawn’s friend Judy
  - 3. Children caring for aging parents
- D. Death—“last enemy”