When I first noticed I was down for this topic: Is Jesus the only way? I thought goodo! A nice simple one. Because the answer is simple: Yes!

*"Jesus answered, 'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me'"* ([John 14:6](http://ebible.com/query?utf=8%E2%9C%93&query=John%2014%3A6&translation=ESV&redirect_iframe=http://www.AllAboutGOD.com/bible.htm)).

*"For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—His eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse"* ([Romans 1:20](http://ebible.com/query?utf=8%E2%9C%93&query=Romans%201%3A20&translation=ESV&redirect_iframe=http://www.AllAboutGOD.com/bible.htm)).

Alright done, let’s finish up.

But, in reality that is not enough of an answer. Those of us who are parents know first-hand, the joy and the pain of the dreaded ‘why?’ or ‘how about’ questions we hear from our kids. Sometimes that ‘why’ or ‘how about’ question is changed slightly and expressed in a different manner. We ask our kids to do something and my son will just somehow manage not to do it, and we confront him about it and we hear… ‘I thought’, then proceed to give his often insane reason why he thought it was best not to do something we told him to do.

You see a simple answer is often not enough for our kids. We wish it was. Oh how we wish it was enough! The number of times I have said to my kids in sheer frustration… ‘because I said so’

The same is true of us today. God gives us a simple truthful answer which is clear, concise and immediately we think ‘but why’, sometimes that answer might be expressed in a that old question or challenge, ‘what about those who in some deep dark jungle and have never heard about God? Do they go to hell, even if they are good people?’

I wonder does God throw up his hands in frustration and simple says ‘because that is how it is, now just do what I asked you to do’.

You see we are just like our kids, the difference between us and our kids us that we have heard enough from our peers ‘because I said so’, that we may learnt enough not to question out loud, but we still do not believe, we sure have learnt to not openly challenge their authority’. You know as a parent, sometimes I might be happy with that as the status quo. But I suspect God in terms to relationship to us wants more than that.

You know the interesting thing about this question; “But, what about those who live in deep Africa or Tibet or somewhere else, and have never heard of God? Do they go to hell, even if they are good people?” Is that I hear it often from people who has not yet become a Christian yet. No that isn’t completely fair. Perhaps it has more to do with a person asking that question when they hear that God wants them to trust him with their life. So, whether you are a Christian or not yet. We want to argue the point because we don’t to want hand over the reins of our life yet. We don’t want to give into the demands that truth implies on our behalf.

We try and argue the point with God, the person who is best to control my life is me. But once again the answer from God is very simple and concise.

*“As it is written: ‘There is no one righteous, not even one’”*([Romans 3:10](http://ebible.com/query?utf=8%E2%9C%93&query=Romans%203%3A10&translation=ESV&redirect_iframe=http://www.AllAboutGOD.com/bible.htm)).

If we are feeling rather brave that day we might say but God judges the heart, he tugs on the heart. Surely he would know the heart of people. Logically from there the argument is well God can judge the heart of a person on how they would respond if they had the chance. You know the argument, if a person dies and has not heard the gospel, then God will judge according to their heart or that he would know how they would respond if they heard the gospel.

There might be a case for that argument, there might be an element of truth in that. After all he is all knowing.… to be honest I’m not sure. But for us, this argument doesn’t hold any value to us. Because we have heard… haven’t we. It is irevelant to us. We can’t use that argument as a excuse not to do what he wants…. And what he wants is that you would find him. That you would answer him when he knocks on your door, when he tells you something Rev 3:20

*Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me.*

In my mind the question to ‘is Jesus the only way’ contains something like a secret message. At the heart of it is this. God wants you to come close to him. Simple! But somehow and in some way we have put up the shield and hidden the message amongst all sorts of what may seem logical arguments. The answer feels like it has been buried or put under a veil to hide the shocking truth or the blinding light which exposes the equally shocking darkness in our life.

I really need to explain this a bit better!

I have been on a spiritual quest for many years now. Some people think a spiritual quest is massive waste of time. For them, the only things that are real are things that can be proven and measured. Personally, I think spiritual quests which lead a person to God can be shown to be real and can be proven and can be measured. In fact that is a foundation for my quest in evangelism in the atheist communities. God’s footprint can be seen, can be evidence, through the lives of His people. Nevertheless, some think life boils down to earning and buying and selling… eating and drinking and having fun. The question comes from these people and maybe even from us at times ‘Why search for something that we can’t prove?’ or even ‘why continue doing something which doesn’t seem to be achieve anything?’ Why waste energy in a spiritual quest?

Others think my search and maybe your search is a waste of time for a different reason. They think they’ve got Jesus and his message figured out, reduced to their own kind of mathematics. It’s these three concepts or those four steps or this simple little five part formula – no more sophisticated than a basic equation. It’s 3+4 equals 7. Why doesn’t Dean just come back to the flock and repeat those equations and get with the program?

I first became aware of this years ago while at KawanLife one day when preaching. A small percentage of the people there seemed to share my hunch. That there was neither a formulaic religious approach nor a materialistic secular approach that nails the answer down. It was almost like a secret club inside the club. One which whispered, hey I know the answer is supposed to be here somewhere but where. It is as though the children had began to rebel and break out and where beginning to question the status quo.

The unsatisfied people who I was one – have this unshakable intuition that both Jesus and His message are better than anything they’ve heard or understood or been able too figure out so far. They say or rather I should say we feel there is a missing piece to the puzzle that without which the big picture won’t snap into place.

It is kind of like a movie which has this mystery running all of the way through it, and finally at the end the mystery is revealed. You may have suspected it, but you aren’t quite sure how it all fit together.

I believe I could tell the world right now the answer to the question is Jesus the only way. But most wouldn’t believe me. But truthfully, until the end I am not sure how it all fit together. How does Jesus be the only way to God the Father affect us everyday?

You and me, my friends and family are on journey, a spiritual quest. Every day we fit together another piece in the puzzle. One day the puzzle will be complete. But some days we may be working on the blue sky pieces in the puzzle and think… this is stupid and we want to give up.

The secret, the mystery is how does Jesus ‘one way’ change my life, how does it ultimately change the lives of others around us. We want to know the why? We want to argue with our father and say, ‘I thought’.

Romans 1:16

**16**For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile.

*"Jesus answered, 'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me'"* ([John 14:6](http://ebible.com/query?utf=8%E2%9C%93&query=John%2014%3A6&translation=ESV&redirect_iframe=http://www.AllAboutGOD.com/bible.htm)).

The only way to God the father is through Jesus. The gospel, Jesus came to this earth, Jesus died, Jesus rose, Jesus saves. That is the power. That is the mystery. That is how we are saved. But it is so much more than that.

Tim Keller expressed it like this

The gospel is radically different from religion. Religion operates on the principle: “I obey, therefore I am accepted”. The gospel operates on the principle: “I am accepted through Christ; therefore, I obey.” So, the gospel differs from both religion and irreligion. Not only can you seek to be your own ‘lord and savior’ by breaking the law of God (i.e., through irreligion), you can also do so by keeping the law in order to earn your salvation (i.e., through religion). A lack of deep belief in the gospel is the main cause of spiritual deadness, fear, and pride in Christians, because our hearts continue to act on the basis “I obey, therefore, I am accepted.” If we fail to forgive others–that is not simply a lack of obedience, but a failure to believe we are saved by grace, too. If we lie in order to cover up a mistake–that is not simply a lack of obedience, but a failure to find our acceptance in God rather than in human approval. So we do not ‘get saved’ by believing the gospel and then ‘grow’ by trying hard to live according to Biblical principles. Believing the gospel is not only the way to meet God, but also the way to grow into him.

– Tim Keller

That is the puzzle that is what we try to fit together every day. The gospel turns everything on it’s head.

This week I came across an article on Reddit which came from the journal American Mineralogist

It reads like this:

It is a mystery that continues to baffle modern engineers. Why do 2,000-year-old Roman piers survive to this day, yet modern concrete seawalls embedded with steel crumble within decades?

[Pliny the Elder](http://www.telegraph.co.uk/foodanddrink/foodanddrinkadvice/10533729/Theres-no-cure-for-a-hangover.-Just-ask-Pliny-the-Elder.html), writing in 79AD, noted that [concrete structures](http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/europe/italy/8779281/Largest-ever-Roman-shipyard-found-in-Mediterranean.html) in ancient harbours, ‘become a single stone mass, impregnable to the waves, and every day stronger,’ despite being constantly battered by seawater.

Now scientists in the US think they have found the answer, and it could finally lead to modern sea defences which withstand time and tide.

They discovered that when saltwater mixes with the volcanic ash and lime used by [Roman builders](http://www.telegraph.co.uk/culture/art/4140732/Palladio-the-father-of-Renaissance-architecture.html), it leads to the growth of interlocking minerals, which make concrete virtually impenetrable.

"We're looking at a system that's contrary to everything one would want in cement-based concrete," said Prof Marie Jackson, a geology and geophysics research professor at the University of Utah who led the study.

"We're looking at a system that thrives in open chemical exchange with seawater."

Roman engineers made concrete by mixing volcanic ash with lime and seawater to make a mortar, and then added chunks of volcanic rock.  The combination produces what is called a pozzolanic reaction, named after the city of Pozzuoli in the Bay of Naples, triggering the formation of crystals in the gaps of the mixture as it sets.

The same reaction happens in nature, and clumps of natural cement called ‘tuffs’ can be found scattered around volcanic areas, which is probably what gave the Romans the idea.

Structures such as the [Pantheon](http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/europe/italy/8673508/Romes-Pantheon-may-have-been-built-as-a-massive-sundial-researchers-reveal.html) are testament to the strength that the mineralisation brings to the concrete, but it was a mystery how structures in the sea survive the constant onslaught of waves.

For the new study researchers studied cores of concrete from the ancient Roman pier, Portus Cosanus in Orbetello, Italy using high-powered light beam x-rays discovered the minerals had grown into the cracks caused by tidal erosion, proving that the saltwater reaction continues even after the concrete has set.

You see where I am going with this. The gospel takes the very things which pulls you apart, which would want to grind you down, which would want to erode you away and somehow turns all the destructing components in your life and makes something which will leave a last legacy. Something for which will stand testimony for all to see. The testimony that the only way to live is by being with God through Jesus, that he is the only answer to life’s forces. That he can be seen, can be proven, that he can be taken for real because of the testimony people just like you and me leave behind. Just like the cracks caused by tidal erosion in those early day Roman concrete, how the saltwater reaction continued to after the concrete had set and forming an immensely strong mineralization. So the gospel can be applied to our lives.

The gospel provides the strength you need every single day, every single struggle you face, it has the power to turn that bad thing into a good thing. How that happens is a long and painful process but it can happen. Truthfully, I am little reluctant to say how for fear of somehow down playing the painful experiences we all go through. For example, looking into the barrel of a shotgun which is aimed at you, or your first family prayer being ‘Lord please just let him top himself’. All of these bad experiences I have been able to see them used in bringing someone else to know the peace of God.

I never want to say to someone who is going through pain and grief ‘this is just an experience in which can be used by God later on’. Because, that’s not the right. We are to grieve with those who grieve and rejoice with those who rejoice. But you can when you are through to the other side of the pain give testimony to others that God’s peace and love now fills the void that experience left me.

Truthfully people, one of the things I am most excited about here at Live, is seeing how this gospel thing works out in your life. Just how the gospel changes your life. For far too long I have been hesitative with this. Because I feared what more it may cost you. Handing your life to God, certainly has a cost. But I believe the authority I have been given is this. To tell you that no matter what the cost. It is simply worth it!

It is our responsibility to help each work out the gospel in our life. To share with one another how that power for salvation that power to know God to join with him is also the power to change your life day by day.