

3. Third, *why is Jesus the only way*? If Jesus is truly the only way to God and eternal life, is there a reason? Yes, there is. Read 2 Corinthians 5:21. Man's central, mortal problem is sin (Romans 3:23). Jesus is the *only* one who could and did solve the sin problem by "paying in full" our penalty through His death on the cross and his resurrection. God provides a bridge back to Himself through a relationship with Jesus Christ (Romans 5:10). Nothing else can bridge that gap: not good works, not church attendance, not being a good person, not Buddha, not Muhammad, not any other religious leader.

Have you made a decision for Jesus? If not, do you accept that sin is a problem? Are there other ways to solve this problem?

What's Next?

"What matters most is that you worship God God's way. God's way is the Lord Jesus Christ because He accomplished for you what no one else could: He secured you forgiveness through His pain and suffering." Greg Koukl

What is your reaction to this quote? Do you agree? Discuss your answer.



Q: The God Questions "Do All Roads Lead to Heaven?" Part 4

October 13, 14, 2007
Greg Koukl

Grasp the Issue

The view that all religions are paths to God and salvation is entrenched in our culture today, and those who dare to disagree with this belief are labeled as “intolerant”. The follower of Jesus Christ who takes Him seriously and proclaims that Jesus is the only way to heaven is met with angry attacks on his character for holding such a narrow-minded belief. However, if Jesus meant what He said, then our stance on this issue has eternal consequences.

Where do you stand on this issue of whether Jesus is the only way to eternal life and salvation? Do other religions have an equal hold on truth or is Christianity the only true religion? How did you arrive at your beliefs on this subject?

Jesus’ own words on this subject (John 14:6), “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me,” coupled with Peter’s response to the Lord regarding this vital question (Mark 8:29) give guidance resolving this issue. Also, Peter’s response to the Sanhedrin gives us an example of how to boldly proclaim the truth even when the “crowd” is strongly against us. Please read Acts 4: 1-14. What are some of the crucial issues in finding out if Jesus is truly the only way to heaven?

God’s Truth in Life

1. First, there are many who *don’t take Jesus seriously*. Often followers of other religions and even those claiming to be Christians themselves concede Jesus was a good, moral man or prophet and emphasize his love for mankind.

Should anyone suggest that He is God or the only way to heaven, skeptics argue that such beliefs are intolerant and wrong. There are professing Christians who question the resurrection (read what Paul had to say about this in 1 Corinthians 15:12-22). But the question has to be asked, *what was Jesus’ main mission or concern?* Was it to teach about love? Or was it something more than that? Jesus said (Luke 19:10), “For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost.” Without Christ, we are lost.

How do you respond to those who reject the deity of Jesus and maintain he was just a man? How seriously do you take Jesus?

2. Second, what does the *Bible teach about Jesus*? False perceptions of who Jesus is and why He came about when those beliefs are not grounded in what the Bible actually reveals about Him. At least one hundred verses in the New Testament are examples of where Jesus is said to be the only way to salvation and eternal life and as Matthew 7:13-14 reminds us, it is a narrow gate that many do not find. The *identity of Jesus* is the central issue of Christianity. By carefully studying what the Word teaches about this, we must conclude that either Jesus was wrong and He knew it or He was wrong and He didn’t know it, or that He was right. The latter requires us to decide if we are going to accept Him as the Lord of our heart and lives or not.

How carefully have you examined what Jesus said about Himself? What are ways you could study the Bible to answer the question of who Jesus really is?