



FAMILY STUDY

Pilgrim's Progress: Only One Way

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"Pilgrim's Progress: Only One Way"

Only One Way...

In John 14:6, Jesus clearly stated that He was the only path to God. But, in our politically correct society, this idea has been portrayed not only as foreign, but also bigoted and intolerant. Unfortunately, many churches have succumbed to the pressure of society and have moved away from the idea that salvation is found in no one else but Jesus. Many think that if someone is sincere in what they believe, it doesn't matter what they believe; God will still accept them into heaven. However, sincerity has nothing to do with truth. Someone can be sincere in what they believe, but can still be sincerely wrong. For example, many centuries ago, many were convinced and sincerely believed that the earth was flat, but they were sincerely wrong. Scripture teaches that salvation is only through Jesus Christ. While this may not be a popular teaching, the Bible leaves no room for other alternatives. As God's Word clearly shows us, salvation is found in nothing and nobody other than Jesus Christ.

"I am the Way..."

Below are several Scripture passages that show us that Jesus Christ is the only way to salvation. We suggest that you study and think about these passages with your family and consider the importance of sharing the truth about Christ with others.

John 8:24 - Clearly, unless we believe in Jesus, we will die for our sins.

John 14:6 - This verse says that Jesus is THE WAY, not A WAY. More clearly, Jesus says here that NO ONE will come to the Father except through Him.

Acts 4:12 - This passage clearly teaches that nobody except Jesus can save us.

I Corinthians 3:11 - There is no other foundation of faith except Christ.

Philippians 2:9-11 - Whether we choose to believe in Christ or not, everyone will bow before Him and will have to acknowledge Him.

I John 2:22-23 - Those who deny Christ are denying the truth and will not be saved.

Revelation 20:12-15 and Revelation 21:22-27 - Only those whose names are in the Lamb's Book of Life will enter heaven.

The ONLY way or NO Way at All...

Many people and an increasing number of churches have recently urged us to "have an open mind" or to "respect all paths to heaven." The question must be asked, however, whether these sentiments are motivated by pressure to be politically correct, or by the Truth of God's Word. Can Jesus be simply one of many paths to heaven? The Bible does not indicate that this is possible, and even a quick exercise in simple logic shows this concept to be faulty. Let's examine the issue. Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." (John 14:6)

John 14:6 Raises Only Four Possibilities:

1. Jesus exaggerated or lied?

If this is so, then the credibility of Jesus would have to be questioned concerning ALL of His teachings and statements. If this were a lie or an exaggeration, then He is not trustworthy, and He was a sinner. If He was a sinner, He could not save us. In other words, if Jesus lied or exaggerated in John 14:6, He cannot save anyone.

2. Jesus was mistaken?

If this is true—if Jesus simply misunderstood or miscommunicated the point made in John 14:6, then He made a mistake. Since God does not make mistakes, then Jesus could not have been God. Therefore, Jesus cannot offer us salvation, because He is not capable of winning salvation for us.

3. The Scriptures or their translations are flawed on this point?

Could the writer of the book of John have made a mistake? Or, perhaps something about John 14:6 was translated incorrectly. Is this possible? Remember, all Scripture was written under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, who is perfect and who cannot lie. Furthermore, the Bible passages referred to earlier in this study are all consistent in teaching that Jesus is the only path to God. Could they all be wrong? This is highly unlikely even to those who doubt the truth of God's Word, and completely impossible to those who DO trust in God's Word.

4. Jesus was right. NO ONE comes to the Father except through Him.

The remaining possibility is that Jesus was quite correct when He said that NO ONE comes to the Father except through Him. If Jesus' statement in John 14:6 is, indeed, correct, then it is IMPOSSIBLE to consider that any other faiths, religions, "gods" or cults can lead to heaven. It is not a closed-minded or bigoted belief, but a simply logical one.

A Pointless Death?

If Christ is not the only way and all roads lead to heaven, then why would God have sacrificed His only Son in the most horrific possible way? If being good enough could save us, why did Jesus die? If Allah is the same as God, then why did God send His Son to die for us? If Buddha is right, then Christ's death is meaningless. If God accepts all ways, or even many ways, then why did Jesus have to die?

John 3:16 2 Corinthians 5:21 Hebrews 9:22 1 Peter 2:24

What About the Uninformed?

Many have often wondered about those deep in the heart of the jungle who have never heard about Jesus. Is it fair of God to expect them to believe in what they don't know? Surely the ignorant will be spared, one might think. Scripture is very clear on this as well.

Romans 1:20-25 tells us that all men are without excuse because God made it plain to them through His creation. Romans 3:10-18 says that all of us have walked away from God, including the savage in the jungle. In other words, God gives EVERYONE the basic information they need in order to understand that there is a God whom they are accountable to. So, even the ignorant are not completely ignorant and are still held accountable for their sin. It is also important to remember that God foreknew who would choose to come to Him and who would not. God, in His justice and mercy, gives everyone an understanding of who He is, and gives opportunities for people to come to Christ according to His will.

Remember, it is not society who sets the standard of truth, it is God. And even if we are pressured to believe that all faiths are valid ways to God, remember that Scripture clearly teaches that salvation is found in no one but Christ. Salvation is not found in Buddha, not in Allah, not in Joseph Smith, or the Watchtower, but in Jesus Christ alone. It is by Scripture that we measure truth, not by society. May God bless you and give you the strength to stand up for the truth and to not be swayed by the changing winds of society.