

## **Do All Roads Lead to Heaven?**

The God Questions – Part 3

John 14:6; Acts 4:12; 1 Timothy 2:5-6

Common responses to the claim that Jesus is the only way to heaven:

- All religions are equally right.
- All religions only see part of the whole.
- Keep your religion to yourself.

### **Atheism/Agnosticism**

- There is no God or no way of knowing if there is a God.
- There is no life after death. The only purposes of life might be to be a “good” person and help mankind continue to evolve.

### **Hinduism**

- There are three main gods: Brahma, Vishnu, and Shiva. However, there might be millions of other gods.
- The Vedas are a collection of instructions on how to live and worship the gods.
- The goal is to live a good life and receive good karma. This will allow one to progress forward through reincarnation and achieve Moksha, in which one becomes purely spirit.

### **Buddhism**

- God is an impersonal force and is beyond description.
- Central teachings are the Four Noble Truths and the Eightfold Path:
  - Suffering is universal; craving is the root cause of suffering; the cure for suffering is to eliminate craving; craving is eliminated by following the Eightfold Path
  - Right views, thought, speech, behavior, occupation, effort, contemplation, and meditation
- The goal is to achieve Nirvana, which means the removal of desires and suffering.

### **Islam**

- Allah is a jealous God who demands total devotion from his people.
- The Quran is a recording of the recitations of Muhammad, which he received in a revelation from Gabriel. Much of the Bible was given by Allah, but has been corrupted.

- Muslims must faithfully practice the Five Pillars of Islam:
  - Recite the shahada, pray five times a day facing Mecca, give alms to the poor, fast during the month of Ramadan, perform at least one pilgrimage to Mecca
- If one's good deeds outweigh his/her bad deeds, and if Allah gives grace, that person will be allowed into paradise.

### **Judaism**

- YHWH is the one true God.
- The Hebrew Bible is made up of the Law, the Prophets, and the Writings.
- Trust in YHWH, follow his commands, and await the Messiah, who will bring the final redemption of the LORD's people.

### **Jehovah's Witness**

- Jehovah is the one true God. The Holy Spirit is only his power or active force and Jesus is his only direct creation.
- The New World Translation is the only accurate translation of the Bible.
- Salvation is obtained by a combination of faith, good works, and obedience.

### **The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints**

- The Father, Son, and Holy Ghost are three separate gods. God the Father was once a man before reaching deified status and is the literal father of all spirit-children.
- Four texts of Scripture: The Book of Mormon, Doctrine and Covenants, The Pearl of Great Price, and the King James Version of the Bible.
- Once the body is reunited with the spirit, humans will go to different places: Celestial Glory, Terrestrial Glory, Telestial Glory, and Hell.

### **Christianity**

- There is one God who exists eternally as three Persons, with each Person being fully God.
- The Holy Bible was written by men who were inspired by God. It is without error and will always be the sole authority for the Christian.
- Salvation is received by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone.