

THE WAY TO HEAVEN – 2
APRIL 17, 2016

JOHN 14:6, 1 TIM. 2:5

INTRODUCTION: We are living in the land of the dying, and when we die, we go to the land of the living. Where we spend our eternal living is determined here in the land of the dying. What's the determining factor? Are Christians narrow-minded for believing Jesus is the only way to Heaven? What about the good people who practice other religions, won't they make Heaven?

OTHER RELIGIONS

1. Buddhism: The goal is Nirvana, not Heaven. A state of existence that defies definition because it goes beyond space and time. Being freed from the cycle of birth, death and rebirth.
2. Confucianism: The goal is to promote good behavior and peace. There is no god and it doesn't look to a Heaven or Nirvana.
3. Hinduism: The goal is to become one with the universe, and be free from the cycle of rebirth.
4. New Age: The goal is to become god and create your own reality.
5. Pantheism: The end is being reabsorbed into the nature of which they were, are and always will be a part.
6. Islam: The goal is to enter paradise by believing in Allah and performing the required duties of religious service. Allah made man from a clot of blood. There is no savior.
 - A. If good works and moral character were the only requirement to enter Heaven, many of these would enter Heaven.
 - B. Our teaching is not about being people of good moral character and conduct. It's about entering Heaven according to God's plan of redemption.

JUDAISM AND CHRISTIANITY

GAL. 3:7-12

1. Jews being saved by keeping the law was a common mis-conception about the Old Testament way of salvation.
 - A. Abraham was saved by faith. **GAL. 3:6**
 - B. Children of Abraham are people of faith. **GAL 3:7**
 - C. All nations are saved by faith. **GAL. 3:8**
 - D. People of faith are blessed with Abraham. **GAL. 3:9**
 - E. The law justifies no man, faith does. **GAL. 3:11**
 - F. The law is not of faith. **Gal. 3:12-14**
2. The law was added to expose sin and point to Christ.

GAL. 3:16-19

- A. Abraham's seed, not seeds, meaning Christ.
 - B. The law couldn't give life. **GAL. 3:21**
 - C. The law was a tutor. **GAL. 3:24**
 - D. The law's purpose was fulfilled. **GAL. 3:25**
 - E. Everyone in Christ is Abraham's seed. **GAL. 3:26-29**
3. The coming of age. **GAL. 4:1-7**
 - A. A biological son was considered a servant until his Bar Mitzvah. He then is adopted into manhood and son-ship with all of its privileges and responsibilities.
 - B. The law produced servants, faith produces sons.
 - C. Judaism was to give place to Christianity. **GAL. 4:21-31**
 - D. Christ is God's way to Heaven for both Jews and Gentiles. **GAL. 5:1-6**

CONCLUSION:

There is only one way to Heaven. The gospel is not an exclusively New Testament message. From **GEN. 3:15** and throughout the Old Testament God promised a Messiah who would "save His people from their sins." **ACTS 4:11-12** – There is no other way to Heaven.