

THE WAY TO HEAVEN

APRIL 10, 2016

ROM. 1:16-17

INTRODUCTION: In Christianity we believe there is only one way to Heaven. But what about those who practice one of the 4,200 religions in the world? Judaism, Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam and New Age are five of the main religions of the world. Are we being narrow-minded by believing there's only one way to God? Christianity is not a religion, it's a relationship. Religion is a set of rules and rituals that claim to get a person in a right relationship with God. Christianity is God getting a man in a right relationship with Himself through the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ. According to our text, this salvation is for both Jews and Gentiles. Aren't the Jews saved because they're God's chosen people?

MATT 16:6 (NLT)

PAUL'S CREDENTIALS – PHIL. 3:5-11

1. Paul was a Jewish, Greek speaking Roman citizen who was converted from Judaism to Christianity when Christ appeared to him on the Damascus road. After his conversion, Jesus taught him the Gospel and sent him to bear His name before the Gentiles, kings and the children of Israel.
 - A. The ideal candidate being equipped with three great cultures.
 - B. Paul knew Judaism wasn't meant to save, but to expose sin, man's inability to save himself, and to point to a Savior who would take away the sin of the world. **ROM. 3:19-20**
 - C. **GAL. 1:11-24** – Jesus taught Paul the gospel.

PAUL'S MOTIVATION – ROM. 10:1-13

1. Paul desired Israel to be saved. The Jews rejected their Messiah even though over 300 prophecies were fulfilled before their very eyes. Because they refused to recognize Him He held them responsible.
 - A. They caused their own blindness. **LUKE 19:41-44**
 - B. The first members of the church were Jews.
 - C. Jewish individuals wrote most of the New Testament.
 - D. Hebrews explains the Old Covenant was set aside for the new, and Jesus is the High Priest of a better covenant.
 - E. Since AD 70 it's been impossible for Jews to keep the Old Covenant because it requires a temple and a blood sacrifice for the covering of sin. **LUKE 24:44-47**

PAUL'S GOSPEL – 1 COR. 15:1-10

1. The Roman Road: The Way to Heaven
 - A. **ROM. 3:23** – Jews and Gentiles all fall short of God's Glory.
 - B. **ROM. 5:12** – Death touches all people groups.
 - C. **ROM. 6:23** – Sin produces death.
 - D. **ROM. 5:8** – Christ died for Jews and Gentiles.
 - E. **ROM. 10:8-13** – Whosoever means Jew or Gentile.

CONCLUSION:

Jews aren't saved because they're God's chosen people. Over the last 2,000 years untold numbers of Jews have confessed Jesus by reading **IS. 52:13 – 53:12**. They are saved by the Blood of the Lamb. God is not done with the nation!

Gentiles aren't saved by Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam, New Age or any of the 4,200 religions of the world. Gentiles are saved by Grace through Faith in Jesus' Blood.

Only Jesus was God in the flesh whose life, death, burial, resurrection, and entrance into the Holy of Holies with His own Blood, is qualified to reconcile God and man. **1 TIM. 2:5**

Paul died a Martyr's death after suffering great opposition and persecutions knowing the Gospel is true.

“Who made My Fathers' Hands” testimony.