

Enter the Path of Life

What is the end of your path?

"There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death" (Proverbs 16:25).

"All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way" (Isaiah 53:6).

God's way leads to eternal life.

"Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore" (Psalm 16:11).

"Enter ye in at the strait gate. . . because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it" (Matthew 7:13, 14).

Turn from the wrong way.

"As I live, saith the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die?" (Ezekiel 33:11).

"Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord" (Acts 3:19).

Trust Jesus as the only Way.

"If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be" (John 12:26).

"And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also. I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me" (John 14:3, 6).

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"No one comes to the Father but by me." –Jesus

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JUST FOR YOU



So Many Religions!

It certainly can get confusing. Why are there so many religions? Why couldn't God have allowed only one? How do I know which one is right?

People everywhere are seeking a higher being. If this were not so, there would not be so many religions.

People want to know the truth but are limited in their knowledge. In their disagreement, different religions arise.

There are other reasons too. The Bible tells us that Satan, the evil one, works to deceive people through false teachings (1 Timothy 4:1).

Some religions are started by people who use religion to gain power and money (1 Timothy 6:3-5).

I have heard people say, "All religions lead to God, so it really doesn't make a difference which religion you choose as long as you are sincere."

Religions contradict each other; they can't all be right.

The problem with this idea is that religions contradict each other on crucial issues, so they cannot all be right. For example, one religion instructs people to kill their enemies. Another instructs people to love and forgive their enemies. It certainly makes a difference which religion is right, especially if you are the enemy!

So, which religion is right?

In all religions but one, man seeks God.

Every religion but one says man's basic problems are weakness, ignorance, bad actions, bad ancestors, or bad environments.

Every religion but one teaches people to be good so that God will receive them when they die.

Every religion but one has a dead founder. Moses, Mohammed, Buddha, Confucius, and Zoroaster are all dead. You can visit the tombs some of these men, but you can't talk to them or ask them questions. Not one of them can guarantee you will go to Heaven when you die.

Every religion but one is alike on

those basic points. But one, the religion of Jesus, is strikingly different from all others.

The Bible does not teach that man seeks God. Rather, that God seeks man. "There is none righteous, no, not one: there is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God" (Romans 3:10, 11). "For the Son of man [Jesus] is come to seek and to save that which was lost" (Luke 19:10).

The Bible tells us our basic problem is sin. "All have sinned, and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). We each have a sinful nature. Our basic need, then, is a new nature. And the Bible says, "If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature" (2 Corinthians 5:17).

No one can be good enough that God will accept him. That's why God takes the initiative and freely offers His grace to us. "By grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works" (Ephesians 2:8, 9).

God gave us the Bible so that we could know the right way and so that we could have eternal life (1 John 5:13).

While every other religion's founder is dead, Jesus is alive. His grave is empty. He alone overcame death for others by rising from the dead Himself. Only He can tell us what is on the other side of death.

Jesus proved that He taught the truth by rising from the dead. He was "declared to be the Son of God. . . by the resurrection of the dead" (Romans 1:4). He taught that He was come to save

people from their sins. He also told His followers He would rise from the dead after three days—and He did! Many people saw Him alive.

Jesus is the only person who can guarantee anyone eternal life. "I am the resurrection and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live" (John 11:25).

Jesus is the only founder of a religion whom you can talk with today, anytime, any place. You certainly don't need to go to His grave; He's not there!

God loves you. He sent Jesus to die for your sin and open the way for you to come to Him. Truly, it's not a matter of searching for God—it's a matter of accepting the invitation of a God who has already been searching for you.

Trying to approach God by any channel other than Jesus leads to a dead end. Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me" (John 14:6). "Him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out" (John 6:37).

The religion of Jesus is strikingly different.

You may think, *I thought Christians had to do good things. Where does that fit in?* No one can earn salvation by doing good things. However, when God saves someone, He remakes him in His own image, and that person does good things out of a new heart—a heart that loves to please God.

God's invitation is open—won't you come?