

Why Jesus is the Only Way

Part 1

Introduction

Perhaps you've heard people, even Christians, say, "There is no one way to God. It doesn't matter whether you believe in Jesus, Buddha, Mohammed, or someone else—they can all lead you to God and life after death." Perhaps you believe that yourself. While this idea sounds very enlightened, there's a big problem with it. It's dead wrong!

Of all the religions and beliefs in the world, only one leads to God and eternal life—acceptance of Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior. Well, Jesus was a good man, a great teacher, but so were some of those other leaders, you may be thinking. Saying Jesus is the only way is so narrow, so intolerant.

Perhaps it sounds that way. But would you call a road map that gives the only accurate instructions to a given destination narrow-minded? It's only narrow in the sense of being exact. All the other maps in the world will do us no good if they don't get us to our desired destination.

Well, why is Jesus so special that He can claim He is the only way that leads to God? There are many reasons Jesus is so "special." Perhaps the most important one is that He deals with the consequences of sin.

Maybe you think the idea of sin is outmoded. Perhaps you don't think of yourself as a sinner. But God does. Let's look at what the Bible has to say on this subject.

Our Study

The Scripture: Romans 3:23

"All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."

1. Who has sinned? _____

All is a very inclusive word. All includes you and me and everyone who has ever lived. We all sin, not just once or twice but over and over again. Our sins create a huge gulf between God and us and they come with a very high price tag.

The Scripture: Romans 6:23

"The wages of sin is death."

2. What are the wages (the consequences) of sin? _____

Yes, death. Eternal death! There is no way in ourselves that we can bridge the gulf that separates us from God. What can we do then? Only Jesus Christ has a solution to that problem. He is the solution.

At a certain time in history, 2000 years ago, God sent Jesus to earth to pay that debt. Here, Jesus lived a sinless life and taught people how to live God's way. For this He was crucified. But His death had a purpose. What was that purpose?

The Scripture: Romans 5:6, 8

"At just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ (Jesus) died for the ungodly... God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

3. What did Christ do for us? _____

In dying for us, Jesus took all our sins upon Himself to the cross. He paid the debt we owed God for those sins, thus obtaining our forgiveness.

The Bible reminds us that it would be extremely rare for anyone to die for even a godly person, but Jesus died for us while we were still sinners.

The Scripture: 1 John 2:2

"He [Jesus] is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world."

4. What does this verse call Jesus? _____

5. What is He the atoning sacrifice for? _____

Perhaps you're wondering why there had to be a sacrifice, why someone had to die. Why couldn't God just forgive us and let it go at that? We find the answer to that question in the book of Hebrews.

The Scripture: Hebrews 9:22

"The law requires that nearly everything be cleansed with blood and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness."

6. What is required for forgiveness? _____

In other words, a death. You see, since Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden of Eden, God and His arch-enemy Satan have waged war for people's souls. When Adam sinned, it was as though he passed on a defective gene to all of mankind. Man was forever tainted with sin. Even if we never personally sinned, our nature would still be sinful. But Scripture has wonderful news for us.

What Jesus' Death Accomplished

The Scripture: 1 John 1:7

"The blood of Jesus, His (God's) Son purifies us from all sin."

7. What does Jesus' blood do for us? _____

When we accept Jesus, not only are we freed from our personal sins, but we are freed from our sinful nature as well. I love the way the Bible describes this process in the book of Colossians.

The Scripture: Colossians 1: 13-14

"He has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son He loves, in Whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins."

8. What has God rescued us from? _____

9. Where has He brought us? _____

10. What do we receive from Jesus? _____

The Scripture: 1 Corinthians 15: 3, 4

"For what I (Paul) received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that He was buried, that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures."

11. How does Paul summarize Jesus' life? _____

Without proof, everything Jesus claimed could be just a wonderful story, but God proved that what Jesus claimed was true by raising Him up to life again after His death.

Jesus' death and resurrection not only granted us forgiveness, they also gave us eternal life.

Eternal Life

The Scripture: John 17:3

"Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent."

12. What is the essence of eternal life? _____

The Bible has much to say about eternal life. Let's look at some of the scriptures.

The Scripture: John 10:27-30

"My sheep listen to My voice; I know them, and they follow Me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of My Father's hand. I and the Father are one."

13. What does Jesus give His sheep (His followers)? _____

The Scripture: John 14:3, 4

"In My Father's house are many rooms;...I am going there to prepare a place for you...I will come back and take you to be with Me that you also may be where I am."

Jesus made these statements shortly before His death.

14. What was His promise? _____

The Scripture: John 8:51

"I tell you the truth, if anyone keeps My word, he will never see death."

15. What was His promise in this verse? _____

The Scripture: 1 John 5:12

"He who has the Son (Jesus) has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life."

16. What do those who follow Jesus have? _____

But these are not the only benefits we receive through Jesus' death.

In Part 2 we will look at more benefits and what Jesus is accomplishing for us today.

The Answers

1. All
2. Death
3. He died for us.
4. The atoning sacrifice
5. The sins of the whole world
6. The shedding of blood
7. It purifies us from all sin.
8. The dominion of darkness
9. Into the kingdom of the Son He loves
10. Redemption, the forgiveness of sins
11. Christ died for our sins, was buried, then raised on the third day.
12. To know God and Jesus Christ, who was sent by God
13. Eternal life
14. Although He would leave for awhile, He would come back for them.
15. That His followers would never see death
16. Life

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