

The Pastor's Corner Vol. 20

August, 2010

Is Jesus the Only Way to God?



.... I felt I had to write and urge you to contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to the saints. Jude 1:3 NIV

Is Jesus the Only Way to God?

John 14:6 (NIV) *"Jesus answered, 'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.'"*

John 1:1 (NIV) *"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."*

Acts 4:12 (NIV) *"Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved."*

1 Timothy 2:5 (NIV) *"For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus,"*

In Isaiah chapter 43 verse 10, the Sovereign God declares these words: *" 'You are my witnesses,' declares the Lord, 'and my servant whom I have chosen, so that you may know and believe me and understand that I am he. Before me no god was formed, nor will there be one after me.'"* (NIV)

For every true Bible believing Christian, the words of the Sovereign God as recorded in Isaiah 43:10 are true and of huge significance to their Christian faith. Simply put, the God of the Bible leaves no room for the host of other "gods" mentioned outside of scripture to be considered the true and living God. It is because of the words of the God of the Bible that the true Bible believing Christian cannot in anyway embrace, accept or acknowledge the so-called "god" of any religion in the world. I've often said that Christianity and other religions are like oil and water, they can never mix.

For the "so-called Christian" or the person(s) that is a Christian in "word only" that has never been taught nor have they understood what the Church teaches, the teaching/belief expressed here is the most bigoted and/or intolerant thing they've ever heard. Some even say that Bible believing Christians that espouse this teaching/belief are "narrow minded", "arrogant" and "snobbish". However, the idea that there is one true God, that being the God of the Bible, and all the others false, is exactly what the Christian Church has always believed and taught since its inception, make no mistake!!

Sadly, for most, the Bible based Christian message has been so diluted in the name of "tolerance" that 90% of the people I come in contact with that say they are Christians either have no idea what Christians believe or they have embraced the "political correctness" of our day called "tolerance". Whichever the case, the Church has its work cut out in this area and needs to teach its members. Those outside the walls of the Christian Church, and some from within that have embraced the "politically correct"

view called "tolerance" instead of Bible based historic Christianity, have said things like:

- Christianity is the obstacle to harmonizing the world's religions; after all they all lead to the same God.
- People must be weaned from divisive doctrine that only their religion is true. All religions are true, it's a matter which one you choose.
- Everyone's religion leads to the same God, even if their god is not the God of the Bible.

However, despite the feelings and opinions of others, the true Bible believing Christian is most often asked the critical question, "Is Jesus really the only way to God?" The answer to this question, based on biblical teaching, is perhaps the most critical question any Christian will ever be asked to answer. This is indeed the million dollar question. For the Christian and non-Christian reading this, I humbly submit the following for consideration:

1. Based on Isaiah 43:10, we have established the biblical teaching that there is **one God, besides him there are no others**. This means that according to the Bible, all other "gods" are false and the God of the Bible is the only true and living God. As "narrow minded", "arrogant", "snobbish" and "intolerant" as this sounds, this is what the Bible teaches and therefore what true Bible believing Christians believe.
2. The God of the Bible says he is the creator of all things. Isaiah 44:24 (NIV) says, "...*I am the Lord, who has made all things, who alone stretched out the heavens, who spread out the earth by myself,*" The God of the Bible here leaves no room for any other "god", he makes it crystal clear that he created everything by himself and is therefore the only true and living God.
3. Jesus throughout his earthly ministry refers to the God of the Bible as "Father" (Luke 23:34, John 5:17-18, John 6:44 and John 10:30). In John 14:6, Jesus himself makes a bold, hardcore statement that completely eradicates the idea of other religions leading to God (The Father). Jesus said, "*I am the way and the truth and the life no one comes to the Father except through me.*" So for the "so-called" or in "word only" Christian that has embraced the idea that the Christians who refuse to tolerate or endorse other religions are "narrow minded", "arrogant", "snobbish" and "intolerant", they need to realize that it was Jesus himself that denounced other religions by his statement.
4. The New Testament writers have penned the same teaching. 1 Timothy 2:5 (NIV) says, "*For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus,*" A mediator is one that stands in the gap between two opposing parties; in this case the parties are God and man. In essence, Paul is saying the same thing Jesus said by calling him a mediator, the "**one**" mediator.

5. Jesus claimed to be God John 10:30-33 (NIV) says, “³⁰ *I and the Father are one.*” ³¹ *Again the Jews picked up stones to stone him,* ³² *but Jesus said to them, ‘I have shown you many great miracles from the Father. For which of these do you stone me?’* ³³ *‘We are not stoning you for any of these,’ replied the Jews, ‘but for blasphemy, because you, a mere man, claim to be God.’”* Many try to play games in translating the passages that clearly establish the fact that Jesus is God. However, it’s impossible to refute what the Jews understood. In addition, all of the New Testament writers confirm Jesus’ claim to be God (See John 1:1, Colossians 2:9, Titus 2:13, John 20:28, Hebrews 1:1-9, Philippians 2:6-8, etc.). As God the Son, whatever Jesus says is final and true. (The Christian Church has always taught that God exists in three separate, distinct persons - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.)

There are two factors that the Christian Church bases its position on:

1. The Resurrection of Jesus – To this day, nobody has been able to explain the empty tomb. Unlike other religious leaders that died and are still dead, Jesus rose from the dead. Buddha, Muhammad and all founders of world religions have one thing in common, they’re all still dead. It is the resurrection of Jesus that validates all his claims.

The resurrection of Jesus is an irrefutable fact of history. No honest person with an open mind can examine the facts surrounding Jesus’ resurrection without becoming convinced that it did happen.

In fact, the chief priests in Jesus’ day were forced to make up a story to explain the empty tomb. In Matthew 28:13 (NIV) we read, “..... *‘You are to say, ‘His disciples came during the night and stole him away while we were asleep.’*” If there was any proof that Jesus did not rise from the dead, the chief priests would have made that known instead of making up a story. Not only that, the post resurrection appearances of Jesus erase any doubt concerning his resurrection. In 1 Corinthians 15:6 (NIV), Paul says, “*After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep.*” (See also Acts 1:3) After seeing the resurrected Jesus, his followers that could best be described as cowards prior to his resurrection, became loins of the faith by proclaiming the resurrection of Jesus regardless of the consequences, which usually meant death, persecution or imprisonment. While it is true that some will give their life for what they believe, it is highly unlikely that someone would give their life for something they knew to be a lie. The ultimate question to be asked is what did the disciples have to gain by saying Jesus rose from the dead? Answer, nothing but imprisonment, persecution and death!!

2. The Bible – Over and over critics claim the Bible is a book authored by humans, not God. While it is true that humans penned the Bible, it is also true that they wrote what God said to write in their own style and personality. The end result is what we call the inspired Word of God. The Christian rests his/her hat on the following when considering whether or not the Bible is the Word of God:

- a) Manuscript Evidence – The manuscript evidence supporting scripture are far better than those supporting such classical literature as Homer, Plato, Aristotle, Caesar and Tacitus. There are more than 5,000 copies of the New Testament available.
- b) Archeology – Archeology testifies to the reliability of the Bible.
- c) Prophecy – The predictions regarding the birth, life, death, and resurrection of Jesus outnumber all other prophecies. It should be obvious to anyone that Jesus could not have conspired to fulfill all of the incredibly accurate prophecies concerning himself. The accuracy of the prophecies concerning Jesus proves beyond doubt that God is the author of the Bible there is no other explanation. Consider the following:
 - His descent from David (Isaiah 11:1; 2 Samuel 7:12-16 compare with Matthew 1:1)
 - His birth in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2 compare with Matthew 2:1-5)
 - His crucifixion with criminals (Isaiah 53:12 compare with Matthew 27:38)
 - The gambling for his garments (Psalm 22:18 compare with Mark 15:24)
 - The burial of his remains among the rich (Isaiah 53:9 compare with Matthew 27:57-60)

Finally, the Christian teaching is that Jesus is the Lamb of God that came to earth with a purpose, to die for the sins of mankind, thereby placing in right standing with God all who believe in him. John 1:29 (NIV) says, "*The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, 'Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!'*" (See also 1 Corinthians 5:7) Jesus himself said he came to give his life as a ransom for many (Matthew 20:28). (See also 1 Timothy 2:6 and Mark 10:45) The point is this, if other religions lead to God there would be no point in Jesus dying on the cross. Why would Jesus endure pain, suffering and death on the cross if he knew other religions could provide the same access and right standing with God?

With all this said, we, the Bible believing Christian, answer the question, "Is Jesus the only way to God?" by saying YES!!! According to the Bible there is only one way a person can embrace the "politically correct" view called "tolerance", they must ignore and/or consider

worthless the words of Jesus himself and God's Word, the Bible. On this subject there is no middle ground, either you believe Jesus is indeed the only way to God or you don't, that choice is yours!! There is no other way to access the true and living God and receive forgiveness for our sins and be placed in right standing with him other than through Jesus. Acts 4:12 (NIV) says, *"Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved."*

God Bless,

Pastor D. M. Duncan

Note:

This article is the sole property of Pastor D. M. Duncan. The contents of this article may not be altered in any way. However, my name and the church name may be removed for circulation in any church or ministry. This article may be reproduced only in its entirety (with the exception of removing my name and the church name) for circulation as "freeware"; without charge. This article is not to be sold or used as an enhancement for any other product that is sold.