

church occasionally and "do the best they can."

The other religion is the religion of God and the Bible. God's Word, the Bible, states that we are all sinners and that nothing we can do will pay for our sins. Good and religious deeds can never pay for sins. The only payment for sins acceptable to God is the death of His Son, Jesus Christ, who shed His blood and died on the cross to pay the debt of our sins. Then He rose from the dead to show that He is the possessor of life and will give eternal life to everyone who will put their faith entirely in Him.

In other words, you get to heaven by believing and not by doing!

This world really only has two religions. There is the religion invented by man that says you can gain eternal bliss by **something that you do (salvation by works.)** The other religion, offered us in the Bible, says that you gain eternal life by **something that you believe (salvation by faith.)**

Since God is the One who is in charge of time and eternity, everyone should listen to what He says instead of trusting in what some religious person has said.

God says that eternal life is a gift that He will **give you**, but not something you can earn by your good and religious deeds. We cannot gain heaven by our good works. We can only gain eternal life with God by **believing in what God says:** that your eternal life has already been



paid for by the death of God's Son Jesus Christ and can be yours if you will accept it as a gift from God. In other words, eternal life is gained, **not by what you do, but by what you believe.** As long as a person is depending on something that he has done to get him to heaven, he is not really believing that the death and resurrection of God's Son will provide it for him freely.

Friend, you have only two options. ONE: You can choose one of the religions in this world and try to do the things it tells you to do, hoping that you picked right and can do enough good things to get you into heaven, **OR:** you can get on your knees and admit to God that you are a sinner who can't save yourself, but you are trusting in Christ for the gift of salvation and forgiveness of sins.

If you sincerely do this, God will do a work in your heart, you will at that moment, be born again into God's family and be guaranteed a sure place in heaven. If you continue depending on the good and religious things that you do, you will be lost forever in the place God calls Hell.

*For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever **believeth in him** should not perish, but have everlasting life. John 3:16*

*For the wages of sin is death; **but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.** Romans 6:23*

*For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: **it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.** Ephesians 2:8*



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Sunday

Sunday School 9:30 A.M.
Morning Service 11:00 A.M.
Sunday Evening 6:00 P.M.

Wednesday

Evening Prayer Service 7:30 P.M.

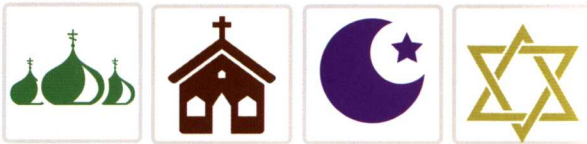
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WHAT ABOUT ALL THOSE RELIGIONS?



Are All Religions OK?



There are multitudes of religious groups in this world: Jews, Mormons, Protestants, Catholics, Muslims, Episcopalians, Baptists, Lutherans, Jehovah's Witnesses, Hindus, Buddhists, Animists, Christian Scientists, Confucianists, and hundreds more. Can anyone know for sure which religion to follow or are they all OK? Who can tell? Most people assume that they are following the right one. To study up on all of them would take more than a lifetime.

Many of these religions are very large, like the Roman Catholics, with millions of adherents and thousands of churches in every corner of the globe. Some have great and beautiful structures. Who would not be awed by the marvelous scenes in the Sistine Chapel in Rome, by the intricate decorations and inscriptions adorning elaborate mosques, or by the golden pagodas and polished images of the Buddhists? Some produce wonderful things, like the beautiful music of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir, or the fabulous care provided for needy children at the Shriners' hospitals. People conclude that if a religion is big, or beautiful or doing good things, it must be alright. They would go on to say, "all religions have the same goals and teach basically the same things. They all believe in the same god, but just call Him by different names. So you

just pick out the one that suits you, sincerely believe and follow it, and you will be fine."

My friend, you are an intelligent and reasonable person. Would you be willing to take a minute and honestly examine these assumptions?

First, is a religion good just because it is big and many people believe in it? A few centuries ago most people thought that the world was flat and if you sailed too far, you would fall off the edge. They could not accept the idea that the world was round, because if it were round, all of the people would fall off of the bottom side. A majority of people used to think that the sun went around the world, which, of course, was also wrong. Many times down through history, the majority has been wrong. It ought to be obvious then, that a religion would not necessarily be right just because a lot of people believed in it.

Second, should one assume that a religion is right just because its buildings and decorations are beautiful? Is being beautiful the same as being right? The Bible tells us that Satan was the most beautiful of all of God's creatures, but he was wrong and not right. Beauty does not guarantee truthfulness.

Thirdly, should a person be convinced that a religion is good and believable just because it's followers are nice and sometimes do good things? The old Chicago gangster, Al Capone, was not a religious leader, but he often did good things to help out neighbors who were

in need. Some contemporary terrorist groups claim that they are doing good things by massacring people who they class as "infidels". Obviously we cannot conclude that people or religions are good, just because they do, or claim to do, some good things.

Most people assume that the many different religions are just many different roads that all ultimately lead to God? Therefore it doesn't really make any difference which road you may be on since most people will end up in the same place anyway. Is this a logical assumption? Is it that way with any of the roads that you are familiar with? Can one get on any road and assume that it will eventually get you to New York? If you get on a road headed to Pittsburgh will it take you to LA just because you think that it will? Such thinking would be foolish. Jesus said that we should get on the narrow road that leads to eternal life, because most people are on the broad road that leads to eternal destruction. (Matthew 7:13-14) Certainly, then, it is wrong to assume that all religious roads lead to God.

So what is a person to do? How can anyone know what to believe? None of us are willing, or able, to sort through all of the world's religions in order to find out which one is best. Most people avoid this problem by just refusing to think about it. "I will just follow my own

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notions and assume the best will happen somehow." **But what if your notions are wrong? Then where will you spend eternity?**

My friend, you do not have to read a thousand books and spend years studying various religions. It is much simpler than this.

The real truth is, there are only two religions in the whole world! One religion says that you will get to heaven (or Nirvana, or the Happy Hunting Grounds, or Nigban, or Happy Never Never Land, or wherever) by **something that you do**.



All of the world's religions tell you that you will gain eternal happiness by **doing something**. Various religions suggest you do various things, (make a pilgrimage to Mecca, participate in the Sacraments, be nice to people, keep the 10 commandments, do the best you can, say many prayers, wash in the waters of the Ganges or engage in some other religious deed). They are all saying that you can **gain heaven by something that you do**. In other words, all of the world's religions have the same basic premise: You can get to heaven **by doing** certain good things. Heaven can be **gained by our good works**. This is the religious view of most people in the world. Even many people who call themselves Christian fall into this category and think that they will probably get to heaven because they have been baptized, go to