

Why Not Different Roads to Heaven?

Introduction

1. A widely held view among religious people is that there are different roads which lead to heaven and that it really does not matter which one you choose to take.
2. Adherents to this idea express the feeling that no one religious system or group has a monopoly on truth.
 - They say that since God is reached through any number of varied religions that it really does not matter to which particular religion or church you belong.
3. This attitude is not a new one by any means but, rather, indications of it have been evident through the ages.
 - In 383 A.D., at a time after the Roman Empire had supposedly embraced "Christianity," emperor Valentinian II issued an order to remove the statue of the goddess "Victory" from the Senate House in Rome.
 - 1) The statue had been placed there by Augustus in 29 B.C.
 - 2) Symmachus argued to leave it in its place by stating: "What does it matter by what road each man seeks truth? By no one road can men come to the understanding of so great a mystery."
4. Though this view is not new, from a Biblical standpoint it is wrong.
5. This lesson will look to the reasons the Bible gives for this concept being wrong.

I. It Ignores and Denies the Claim of Jesus in John 14:6

- A. There is no way to heaven except through Jesus Christ. (John 8:24; 8:31-32; 6:66-69; Acts 4:12)
- B. To have Jesus as Savior, we must honor Him by following what He has said in His word. (John 14:15; 15:14)
- C. To have the salvation Jesus provides, one must be a part of the one church He built. (Matthew 16:18)
 1. His church is also referred to as His body. (Ephesians 1:22-23)
 2. To be in Christ, where salvation is, one must be in His body. (Galatians 3:26-27; 1 Corinthians 12:13)
 3. There is but one body thus one true church of which one must be a part. (Ephesians 4:4-6)
- D. One must also be obedient to the one faith. (Ephesians 4:4-6; Jude 3)
 1. That "one faith" is the gospel which the apostles preached. (Galatians 1:22-23; 1:11)
 2. There are not many "faiths" as the "many-roads-to-heaven" concept requires but only one true "faith," the gospel of Christ

- E. The fact that Jesus is the only way to the Father eliminates any religion whose teachings, practices and worship is not centered on Jesus.

II. It Makes Truth Relative Instead of Absolute

- A. If the view that “different roads to heaven” were true, it would demand truth to be determined subjectively by man himself and not objectively by divine revelation of God’s word.
- B. In Scripture, the word of God is presented as the standard by which doctrine is to be measured. (Acts 17:10-11; 1 Peter 4:11; 2 John 9).
- C. One who teaches or practices anything other than the revealed word of God is accursed. (Galatians 1:6-9)
- D. God’s word, as found in the Bible, is truth. (John 17:17)
 - 1. The same truth was spoken in every church. (1 Corinthians 4:17; 14:37)
 - 2. All were to speak the same thing and have the same mind, the mind of Christ. (1 Corinthians 1:10; Philippians 2:5)
 - 3. Truth did not vary from place to place or person to person but formed the very basis on which unity of faith and practice was attainable.
- E. Holding to Scriptural truth eliminates any church which does not recognize the word of God as its only standard.

III. It Makes Every Man His Own God (or Authority) Robbing Christ of His Right to All Authority (Matthew 28:18)

- A. The way of man is not in himself. (Jeremiah 10:23; Proverbs 14:12)
- B. Teaching the doctrines of men nullifies one’s relationship with God. (Matt. 15:7-9)
- C. Man has not been given the authority to devise his own ways. (Romans 10:1-3)
- D. Accepting the authority of Jesus expressed in Scripture eliminates any church which has added any creed, doctrine or tenet not found in the Bible.

Conclusion

- 1. The one road to truth, salvation and heaven is the gospel of Christ.
- 2. The “broad-minded” “do-your-own-thing” type of religions may appeal to the multitudes who do not want to bow in submission to an authority greater than them-selves but it has no appeal to the humble, truth-loving soul who earnestly seeks to find out exactly what the will of God is.
- 3. Do not be deluded by the false view that “all roads lead to heaven.”
 - Study your Bible and see the difference between God’s way and man’s ways.
- 4. Remember, God’s road leads to life while the ways that seem right to men lead to death.