

Do All Roads Lead To Heaven?

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DO ALL ROADS LEAD TO HEAVEN?
By Jimmie C. Smith

Unequivocally, No! All roads do not to heaven." World Book Dictionary- defines "Road": (1) a highway between places; (2) a way or course." The Bible plainly teaches there is only One Way (Jno. 14:6). Christianity is often defined or described in the Bible as "The Way" (singular in every instance). If all roads lead to heaven there would be Universal Salvation and the Bible would be a lie because Jesus stated in Matt. 7:13-14 "Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it."

Neither do all "Religious Roads" lead to heaven, or so-called "Christian" as used by the denominational and sectarian world. Many religious people are not going to heaven. Matt. 7:21-23 "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity." "Iniquity" means "lawlessness, or 'not according to law*"". The apostle Paul said a man is not crowned unless he strive "lawfully", or according to the law of "the Way". Jesus said, "...I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."

The prophet Jeremiah said, "O Lord, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps." (Jer. 10:23). If all roads lead to heaven the direction a man takes would be immaterial. The Wise Man said in Prov. 14:12 that some roads lead to death! "There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death." He further said in Prov.12:15 "The way of a fool is right in his own eyes: but he that hearkeneth unto counsel is wise." Surely no one would argue that the way of a fool is as good as the course taken by a wise man with God's Word as his guide.

The Road of Unbelief will not lead to Heaven. The writer of Hebrews said (Heb.11:6) "But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." And Jesus said, (Mk. 16:16 b). "...He that believeth not shall be damned." And (Jno. 8:24) "I said therefore unto you, that he shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins."

When we say that "many religious people aren't going to heaven" we mean just that. Some aren't even trying. The Church of God of the Abrahamic Faith teaches that there is no heaven for men-that all they can hope for is a righteous reign here on the earth forever. Thus it is a farce to argue that all religious roads lead to heaven.

This earth and the works that are herein shall be burned up-not renovated (2 Peter 3:10-11). The Jehovah's Witnesses make no claim that their road leads to heaven, because they believe heaven is already filled to capacity with the 144,000! Judaism does not lead to heaven, because they reject Christ (Jno. 14:6; 8:24; Mk. 16:16). A man may be traveling a religious road prescribed by his relatives, and he may be honest, conscientious, zealous and devout as was Saul of Tarsus (Gal. 1:14), and yet be as sinful as Saul who said he was "chief of sinners" because he persecuted and wasted the Church of God. You may not consider yourself to have ever persecuted or wasted the Church of our Lord, but Jesus said "He that is not with me is against me, he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad." (Matt. 12:30). Isaiah described the road to Heaven in foretelling the Gospel Way in Isa. 35:8 when he said, "And a highway shall be there, and a way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it;" Prov. 7:27 says the lewd woman's "house is the way to hell." If all roads lead to heaven, there would be no merit to the admonition to work out your own salvation with fear and trembling" or to Peter's admonition to the Jews on Pentecost "...save yourselves from this untoward generation". The Divine Record says (Acts 2:41,47) "Then they that gladly received His Word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls"."Praising God, and having favour with all the people, and the Lord added to the church daily such as were being saved."

But: Which Road Does Lead To Heaven?

Acts 24:14 Paul said, "But this I confess unto thee, that after the way which they call heresy, so worship I the God of my fathers believing all things which are written in the law and in the prophets". Peter said in 2 Pet. 2:1-2,13-15,21 "But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of." "And shall receive the reward of unrighteousness, as they that count it pleasure to riot in the day time. Spots they are and blemishes, sporting themselves with their own deceivings while they feast with you; having eyes full of adultery, and that cannot cease from sin; beguiling unstable souls: a heart they have exercised with covetous practices; cursed children: Which have forsaken the right way, and are gone astray, following the way of Balaam the son of Bosor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness;" "For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them."

John 8:31-32 "Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

Rev. 22:14 "Blessed are they that do his commandments that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city." The only people who have a right to "enter in" and a right to the "tree of life" are those who "do his commandments".

Jno. 10:1 "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber."
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