

# Is Jesus The Only Way to Heaven?

**I'm curious if...** Jesus is the only way to heaven. Great! This has been put together so you can understand what God thinks about how people go to heaven. You'll also have a chance to dig into the Bible for yourself and find out how to make the most important decision of your life.

## What's With This Question?

This is a question that might not cross a lot of people's minds. But it is an important question. A lot of the time you will hear people say that all roads lead to heaven or all good people go to heaven. But is this the case? Or is there more to it than being a good person or following any spiritual road?

## What Does Jesus Teach?

In the Bible there are four books called Gospels. The Gospels are books about Jesus. They tell us about His life, ministry, death, and resurrection. One time while Jesus was teaching people he said "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me" (John 14:6). Jesus is saying that the only way to heaven is through him. In another passage Jesus talks about himself saying "Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life" (John 3:36). In these passages and others Jesus taught that he was the only way to God.

## Why Should You Believe Jesus?

Jesus often taught that He was the Son of God. If He was the Son of God we should believe what He said. Since He made the claim to be the Son of God He could be one of three things. He could be the Son of God. He could be a liar.

Or He could be a crazy man. A lot of people have believed that he is the Son of God. There are also a lot of reasons to believe that He was telling the truth. In the Gospels one of Jesus' closest followers, Peter, says of Jesus "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God" (Matthew 16:16). Peter spent three years of his life watching Jesus.

He was there when Jesus walked on water, he was there when Jesus healed people and he was there when Jesus predicted his own death. Peter must have had a pretty good idea of who Jesus was.

In another passage, we are told "When the Roman officer who stood facing him saw how he had died, he exclaimed, "This man truly was the Son of God!" (Mark 15:39). The Roman soldier had no reason to make this statement; he had nothing to gain by making it. He was reacting to what he saw when Jesus died. These two men saw Jesus with their own eyes. They agreed with what Jesus said.

## The Resurrection

Another reason to believe Jesus is because he rose from the dead. Mark 16:9 says "After Jesus rose from the dead early on Sunday morning..." After this Jesus was seen by lots of people. These people began to tell everyone about what happened, they told so many people that Christianity spread from the Middle East to Europe, Asia and Africa.

People believed in Jesus so much that they would willingly die before rejecting Him as God. As people died for Jesus the news about Him continued to spread. They must have had a very good reason to die for Him. There was nothing for them to gain if they said He was the Son of God, there was no money or fame involved. Almost all of Jesus' disciples died because they would not change their minds about him.

Would these men have died for a lie? It doesn't seem like they would have. Along with the lives changed during the early church there are also the lives Jesus continues to change today. When someone looks at all the facts it's clear that Jesus was who He said He was.

## What Should You Do?

If you already believe in Jesus you should trust in what you believe. If you don't have a relationship with Jesus you can believe in Him or you can begin to explore what he said further. But don't get stuck exploring forever. Jesus invites you to simply come and follow Him.

## **Going Deeper**

Read and reflect on John 14:5-14 and think about who Jesus he said he was as compared to who you may think he is.

Everyone who believes in Jesus must recognize that we are all born sinners. No one has to teach us to do, think, or act wrong. It's our natural sin nature. To believe on Jesus, we have to turn away from our sins and receive Jesus as our Lord and Savior, putting our faith in Him alone to save us. You can do that any time. He promises to live in you and to transform your life. You can have a whole new life if you surrender to Jesus Christ.

## **HOW**

Start by simply talking to God. Pray a prayer something like this:

“Oh, God, I am a sinner. I'm sorry for my sin. I want to turn from my sin. Please forgive me. I believe Jesus is your Son; I believe He died on the cross for my sin and You raised Him to life. I want to trust Him as my Savior and follow Him as my Lord from this day forward, forevermore. Lord, I put my trust in You and surrender my life to you. Please come into my life and fill me with Your Holy Spirit. In Jesus' Name. Amen.”

If you pray this prayer, Jesus will accept you, no matter what you've done, and you will begin a new life.

Begin to read your Bible and pray every day, about everything. Find a Bible-teaching, Bible-believing church where you can attend and find other believers (Christians) and learn how to grow in your faith.