

Do All Roads Lead To Heaven?

September 29, 2024

Ephesians 2:8-9

Do all roads lead to Paris, France? No!
Do all roads lead to Sydney, Australia?
Do all roads lead to Kenya, Africa? No!
What if I want to drive to Miami. Can I take any road I want?

NO. I have to take Rte. 95 S.

But I don't want to take Rte. 95 S.

I want to take Rte. 6 E.

I say, good luck. Have a nice trip.



This brings us to our message,
"Do All Roads Lead To Heaven?"

Unfortunately, many people, if not most people, believe that all roads lead to heaven.

The problem these people have with Christianity is they believe the Christian way is too narrow. And everyone wants their way to be the right way.

Why wouldn't God let people into heaven who are:

- sincere
- religious
- very nice
- generous

After all, aren't all religions generally the same?

Buddhism – 376 million followers **6%**

Sprung out of Hinduism

- Founder – Gautama (Buddha – The Enlightened One)
- Four truths:
 - Suffering is universal
 - Craving is the root cause of suffering
 - The cure for suffering is to eliminate craving
 - Eliminate craving by following the Enlightened path

Goal of Buddhism – to be free from pain and suffering.



Buddhism teaches:

- love a hundred – have a hundred woes
- love ten – have ten woes
- love one – have one woe
- love none – have no woes

Therefore, detach yourself from life and you will be happy.



Hinduism – 900 million followers 14%

Brahman is the universal spirit everywhere and in everything.

Pantheistic – God is in everything

Their road to heaven is called “Transmigration of Souls.” (Reincarnation)

They believe the level of each person is the result of sins committed in a previous life.

The goal is to live a life achieving enough goodness that one is elevated to the state of god-hood.

Non-religious (secular, agnostic, atheistic) 15%

1.1 billion people

They derived their world view from secular, non-traditional religious systems.

Islam 1.5 billion followers 21%

Founder – Mohammed, born A.D. 570

Believed he had a vision from the angel, Gabriel to turn people from polytheism to monotheism.



Total submission to Allah meant:

1. Recite the shahada (There is no god but Allah, and Mohammed is his prophet)
2. Pray 5 times a day facing Mecca
3. Give alms to the poor
4. Fast during the month of Ramadan. (8/11-9/9)
5. Perform pilgrimage to Mecca at least once.

Muslims believe that faithfully performing the Five Pillars of faith will earn them entrance into Paradise where they will find wine and virgins. They are to fight the enemies of Islam and are forbidden to take a Jew or Christian as a friend.



Christianity 2 billion followers 32%

Founder – Jesus Christ, born 4 B.C.

Began His ministry at 30 years of age.

He healed, taught and performed miracles.

He was crucified, buried and rose from the grave.

He appeared to over 500 people before He ascended into heaven.

THEOLOGY

We believe in Grace.

God demanded payment for sin but He made that payment Himself, through Jesus Christ.

Now,

I Jn 5:13 *These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.*

Entrance into heaven is gained through faith in the Son of God and His work on the cross.

Eph 2:8-9 *For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.*

The other three major religions teach that specific behaviors must be practiced in order to reach their form of heaven.

They all believe their way is the "only" way.

Only Christianity teaches that God loved us so much that He made a way for us to be forgiven and received back to Him.

It is by means of God's grace that we have acceptance with Him.

Christianity is the opposite of religion.

Religion is man reaching up to God.

But, We cannot reach up high enough.

Christianity is God reaching down to man.

So God has reached down to us through His Son, Jesus Christ.

God has done the work.

Question:

Which of these roads makes more sense to you?

Which of these roads provide a Savior?

All people will travel one of these roads, perhaps even thinking they lead to God.

But there is only one road.

Everyone must make the choice.