

"Don't All Roads Lead to Heaven?"



Scouting Report

Unfortunately, many people have opinions about what happens after we die that are not based on evidence or facts. However, in the end it doesn't matter what you believe, it only matters what is true.

Three quick points in rebuttal to the 'all roads lead to heaven' assertion:

1. Not only all religions NOT lead to heaven, many religions don't claim to. As we'll see, Nirvana doesn't sound anything like heaven. If anyone tells you that all religions are the same, that should be a clear indication to you that they clearly have never studied the world religions.
2. Truth by definition, is exclusive not inclusive. It is intellectually dishonest to think that two divergent paths could end at the same place. It would be like heading west on the PA turnpike through Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and expecting to arrive at Virginia Beach.
3. In the end, someone is going to be right, and someone is going to be wrong. Admittedly, ALL religions could be wrong but it is *impossible that they can all be right!* The problem is that, by the time we figure out which side we're on, it's too late.

Pascal's Wager

		BELIEFS	
		God Exists	Doesn't Exist
THE TRUTH	God Exists	<i>Heaven</i>	HELL
	Doesn't Exist	No harm/ No foul	No harm/ No foul

Establishing Ground Rules



Four needs that all belief systems seek to satisfy:

Religions exist because we were born with a desire for knowledge that God placed in all of mankind. God created us with a burning desire to know Him.

1. The desire for **knowledge**
 - Where did I come from?
 - Do I have a purpose on earth?
 - Is there a higher power?
 - What happens when we die?
2. The desire for **community**
3. The desire for **freedom from guilt**
4. The desire for **eternal life**

Dr. Ergun Caner was the first ever *former* Muslim to head the theology department at Christian university. He and his brother Emir converted to Christianity in their late teen years and he went on to earn several degrees including a Masters of Divinity from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary and a Doctorate of Theology from the University of South Africa. His book [When Worldviews Collide](#) offers tremendous insight into the world religions.

The word 'former' was accidentally omitted when recording the video when referring to Dr. Caner's religious affiliation. He renounced Islam and has written several books exposing the truth about the religion.

What Separates Christianity from Religion?

1. **Jesus is the only One who provided for your salvation and acceptance into His kingdom.**

All world religions require you to work for your salvation. In fact, many religions have no set formula, or no line drawn for how good is good enough.

Isaiah 44:14-20

Acts 19:23-30



2. Compassion is unique to Christianity and is explicitly connected to the person of Jesus.

An example of this is the Buddhist practice of reincarnation. It's seems innocent enough, but it's not. India is a nation of millions of people, many of them go without food and basic necessities and their religion prevents them from killing and eating animals because they could be their relatives.

It is important to note however, that reincarnation was not an original tenant of Buddhism but was added by the government (since it was the state religion) as a means of controlling the population.

Jesus understood that religion not only failed to help their followers, but actually exploited them. The Creator of the Universe would never treat His people with such contempt.

Contrast the other systems with God's desire for us to trust Him to cast our cares on Him.

Matthew 11:28-30

Psalm 34:18-20

Joshua 1:9

Psalm 27:1

3. The Creator of the universe desires a personal relationship with us and extends the invitation to all.

The world religions create an us vs. them mentality. In Islam infidels must convert to Islam or be killed. The cults only offer paradise to their members who follow their rules.

Only Jesus offers something to his followers. He offers forgiveness, grace, and reconciliation when we mess up. Religion, on the other hand, is all about keeping score and paybacks. God, is so patient with us that He is delaying his judgment so as many as possible can be saved (see 2 Peter 3:9).



4. Jesus is the only (sane) person who ever claimed to be God.

There is more secular evidence to validate that Jesus was real and walked on the earth than there is to prove Napoleon's existence. Allah was not a real person and Siddhartha Gautama (later known as Buddha) never claimed to be anything but a human being.

Many religions and cults mention Jesus Christ but say He was a good man but not God, but no other religious system recognizes both his humanity and divinity because *if they believed that He truly was God, they would have to accept the fact that Jesus paid the price for our sin and that we can't work for acceptance. By stripping Him of His deity, these systems find a way around Jesus' redemptive work and enslave their followers by making them work for their salvation.*

5. The Bible is the only sacred book that was divinely written and preserved.

Bible was written over a period of 3,000 years by 40 different authors from three different continents and using three different languages. It is the only book of its kind that has no known discrepancies with history, archeology, astronomy or any other area of science. There is more written, secular (non-Bible) evidence to prove Jesus Christ was a real person and walked the earth than there is to prove that Napoleon existed.

Contrast this with the Qur'an which was written by one man in one language over a period of less than 5 years. The Qur'an is only meant to be understood in Arabic, even though 80% of the Muslim population doesn't know Arabic. Furthermore, the prophet Muhammad was the only person to whom Allah ever appeared... the only one.

6. Regardless of popular opinion, the concept of Heaven as recorded in scripture is unique to Christianity

Read Revelation 21

Post-Game Analysis



1. **The problem in our culture is that a small amount of information makes people dangerous.** It's my observation that most people I know feel that they deserve to go to heaven and invent their own theology that will land them there without observing guidelines of any religion. They find it offensive that according to the Bible, not everyone will enter heaven.

Applying this in my own life...

What views do I hold about heaven and the afterlife that are not explicitly stated in the Bible?

2. **Many of us use religion as a crutch. Even church attendance and involvement in religious activities can keep us from the finding the truth.** Paul statement very clearly in 2 Timothy 3:1-5 that we need to stay away from those who act religious but reject the power that could make them godly.

Applying this in my own life...

Am I seeking Jesus as the Way to Truth and Life or am I just participating in social activities?

3. **Many worldviews create an 'us versus them' mentality.** Jesus's offer of salvation by grace through faith is available to all who would believe in him. Now more than ever we find a world devoid of hope and masses of people who are attempting to fill the void with something or someone that has nothing to offer them.

Applying this in my own life...

Do I actively offer the hope of Jesus to those in need of it, or do I isolate myself and avoid those who do not think or act like me?