

Is Jesus Christ the only way to Heaven?



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Answer: Some people think that hell is only for “really bad” people. Obviously, most people don’t see themselves as “really bad,” and therefore, believe that since they are “good” that they will be allowed into God’s heaven. They think that because they don’t commit horrible crimes that they “deserve” to go to heaven.

However, most people have such ideas because they use wrong criteria by which to judge themselves. Usually, people think they are “good” because they compare themselves to someone else (“he’s really bad”) or some arbitrary standard (“I don’t do this, this, and this, therefore I am good”). The problem with that kind of judgment is that it is biased – who would not judge themselves worthy of heaven? Even a terrorist thinks he is doing good and will be rewarded for his atrocities. Whenever we compare ourselves with someone else or to some self-constructed standard, we will see ourselves as positively angelic!

Seeing Yourself for Who You Really Are.

God, however, gives us a higher standard by which to judge ourselves and He says that all people are the same: **“there is no difference; for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God...”** (Romans 3:22-23). We may try to compare ourselves with someone else, or according to some arbitrary standard, which we have developed, however, God judges us according to His perfect holiness – His **glory**, and all people have **“come short of the glory of God.”**

The reason why we have fallen short of God’s holy expectations for us is because **“all have sinned.”** In fact, the Bible says, **“There is none righteous, no, not one...”** (Romans 3:13). The Bible makes it clear that all people are sinners – even the most devout and religious person you can think of is a sinner (even the Pope, and even Mary!). Since we are all sinners, it doesn’t matter if we are better than someone else, or if we are trying hard to be good, the Bible says that **“by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight”** (Romans 3:20). Doing good things does not make us right (justified) with God.

What You Deserve Because of Who You Really Are.

Because all are sinners, none of us deserve to go to heaven, but all deserve to go to hell. The Bible says, the **“wages of sin is death”** (Romans 6:23). What all men deserve because of their sin is eternal separation (“death”) from God. In the end, all sinners will be cast into the Lake of Fire:

[11] Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. From his presence earth and sky fled away, and no place was found for them. [12] And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done. [13] And the sea gave up the dead who were in it, Death and Hades gave up the dead who were in them, and they were judged, each one of them, according to what they had done. 14] Then Death and Hades were thrown into the

lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. [15] And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire. (Revelation 20:11-15)

Getting into heaven is not based on whether our good deeds outweigh our bad; we will all lose out if that is the case. Titus 3:5 says that it is not by our ***“works of righteousness which we have done...”*** We cannot do anything to earn our way to heaven, because doing good things does not erase the sin nature, which we all possess. Doing good things merely makes a person a “good” sinner!

All deserve eternal death because of their sin. That means that no one is good enough and no one can be good enough to get to heaven.

Someone Has to Die Because of Who You Really Are.

Since the ***“wages of sin is death,”*** God has said that we must die and be eternally separated from Him, because of our sin.

However, God made a way that we could be united with Him in heaven. The Bible says that ***“God so loved the world that He gave His only...Son [Jesus Christ], that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life”*** (John 3:16).

Why was the sending of Jesus Christ a demonstration of God’s love for the world? The Bible says that God demonstrated His ***“love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us”*** (Romans 5:8). Since the ***“wages of sin is death,”*** we must die for our sins, however, Jesus Christ came to die in our place, so that we would not have to suffer in Hell. The Bible says that Jesus Christ ***“also suffered once for sins, the just [Christ] for the unjust [us], that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit”*** (1 Peter 3:18). Although we deserve eternal separation from God because of our sin, God in His love for us, allowed Jesus Christ to die in our place. Jesus Christ rose from the dead three days later (***“was made alive by the Spirit;”*** Rom 4:25); He is alive, and has returned to God the Father (Acts 1:9).

Jesus Christ was the only One uniquely qualified to take our place in judgment. Because He was a man, He could identify with us and represent us in death (Hebrews 4:15), and because He is God, He is sinless and therefore, the only one who did not have the penalty of death upon him. Only the eternal God could pay for the eternal penalty of man’s sin. That is why the Bible says that there is only ***“one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus”*** (1 Timothy 2:5).

The Choice is Yours.

Therefore, it comes down to a choice that each person must make. One can choose to suffer for his own sins, but this would involve eternal death, from which there is no escape. Or, one could believe that Christ has suffered and died in his place, and in faith receive Christ as his Saviour and Lord.

Believing that Christ has died in your place, and receiving Him as your Saviour is the only way in which you can have eternal life with God. Jesus said ***“I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me”*** (John 14:6). That is why the Bible says ***“Nor***

is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved” (Acts 4:12).