



Questions for GOD 

Is Jesus REALLY the **ONLY WAY** ?



# Jesus' Impact on History

Even those who have renounced Christianity and attack it, in their inmost being still follow the Christian ideal, for hitherto neither their subtlety nor the ardour of their hearts has been able to create a higher ideal of man and of virtue than the ideal given by Christ of old. --**Fyodor Dostoyevsky**

Jesus of Nazareth, without money and arms, conquered more millions than Alexander the Great, Caesar, Mohammed, and Napoleon; without science and learning, he shed more light on things human and divine than all philosophers and scholars combined; without the eloquence of school, he spoke such words of life as were never spoken before or since, and produced effects which lie beyond the reach of orator or poet; without writing a single line, he set more pens in motion, and furnished themes for more sermons, orations, discussions, learned volumes, works of art, and songs of praise than the whole army of great men of ancient and modern times. --**Philip Schaff**

As a child I received instruction both in the Bible and in the Talmud. I am a Jew, but I am enthralled by the luminous figure of the Nazarene... No one can read the Gospels without feeling the actual presence of Jesus. His personality pulsates in every word. No myth is filled with such life. --**Albert Einstein**

# Jesus' Impact on History

I am an historian, I am not a believer, but I must confess as a historian that this penniless preacher from Nazareth is irrevocably the very center of history. Jesus Christ is easily the most dominant figure in all history.--**H.G. Wells**

As the centuries pass, the evidence is accumulating that, measured by His effect on history, Jesus is the most influential life ever lived on this planet. -**Historian Kenneth Scott Latourette**

Socrates taught for 40 years, Plato for 50, Aristotle for 40, and Jesus for only 3. Yet the influence of Christ's 3-year ministry infinitely transcends the impact left by the combined 130 years of teaching from these men who were among the greatest philosophers of all antiquity. -**Unknown**

# Jesus' Impact on History

Here is a man who was born in an obscure village, the Child of a peasant woman. He worked in a carpenter shop until He was thirty, and then for three years He was an itinerant preacher. He never wrote a book. He never held an office. He never owned a home. He never had a family. He never went to college. He never put His foot inside a big city. He never traveled two hundred miles from the place where He was born. He never did one of the things that usually accompany greatness. He had no credentials but Himself. He had nothing to do with this world except the naked power of His Divine manhood. While still a young man, the tide of popular opinion turned against Him. He was turned over to His enemies. He went through the mockery of a trial. He was nailed to a Cross between two thieves. His executioners gambled for the only piece of property He had on earth while He was dying—and that was His coat. When He was dead He was taken down and laid in a borrowed grave through the pity of a friend. Such was His human life—He rises from the dead. Nineteen wide centuries have come and gone and today He is the Centerpiece of the human race and the Leader of the column of progress. I am within the mark when I say that all the armies that ever marched, and all the navies that ever were built, and all the parliaments that ever sat, and all the kings that ever reigned, put together, have not affected the life of man upon this earth as powerfully as has that One Solitary Life. **-James C. Hefley**

I know men and I tell you that Jesus Christ is no mere man. Between Him and every other person in the world there is no possible term of comparison. Alexander, Caesar, Charlemagne, and I have founded empires. But on what did we rest the creations of our genius? Upon force. Jesus Christ founded his empire upon love; and at this hour millions of men would die for him.

~Napoleon Bonaparte

Is Jesus REALLY the only way?

**Isn't it arrogant to claim OUR way is THE way? Wouldn't God accept sincere seekers from many paths?**



Jesus cannot be the only  
way to Heaven.

~Oprah Winfrey

After I set out to refute Christianity intellectually and couldn't, I came to the conclusion the Bible was true and Jesus Christ was God's Son.

~Josh McDowell

# The exclusivity of **Christ**



Is This a more important issue than simply “who is right?”



Only way to what?

**Why argue about paths if we aren't even on the same mountain?**



# Different Paths to Mountaintop?

## Christianity (Catholic, Protestant, Orthodox)

One God who is a Trinity of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

Eternal heaven or hell (or temporary purgatory).

# Different Paths to Mountaintop?

## Unitarian Universalism

Members might believe in one God, many gods, or no God.

Salvation is "spiritual health or wholeness."

Members seek "inner and outer peace," insight, health, compassion and strength.

Not specified. Some believe in an afterlife, some do not. Very few believe in hell - "Universalism" indicates the belief that all will be saved.

# Different Paths to Mountaintop?

## Wicca

Polytheism, centered on the Goddess and God, each in various forms; also a belief in a Supreme Being over all

"If it harms none, do what you will."

Reincarnation until reach the Summerland

# Different Paths to Mountaintop?

## Buddhism

Varies: Theravada atheistic; Mahayana more polytheistic. Buddha taught nothing is permanent.

Purpose is to avoid suffering and gain enlightenment and release from cycle of rebirth, or at least attain a better rebirth by gaining merit.

Reincarnation until gain enlightenment

# Different Paths to Mountaintop?

## Islam

One God (Allah in Arabic)

Humans must submit (*islam*) to the will of God to gain Paradise after death.

Paradise or Hell.

# Different Paths to Mountaintop?

## Jehovah's Witnesses

One God, Jehovah. No Trinity - Christ is the first creation of God; the Holy Spirit is a force.

Heaven for 144,000 chosen Witnesses, eternity on new earth for other Witnesses. All others annihilated. No hell.

## Different Paths to Mountaintop?

### Mormonism (Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints)

God the Father, the Son Jesus Christ, and the Holy Ghost are three separate individual beings

All return to spirit world for period of instruction before resurrection. Mormons to heaven with God and families; others rewarded but not with God; hell for those who reject God after death.

## Different Paths to Mountaintop?

Are we even climbing the  
same mountain?

Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.



# Jesus' Claims

What did Jesus SAY? 

## John 14:6

I am the way, the truth, and the life:  
no man comes to the Father, but by  
me

John 10:9

I am the door: by me if any man enter in,  
he shall be saved, and shall go in and out,  
and find pasture,

13 " Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it.

14 "Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.

## John 3:36

He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.

Buddha never claimed to be God. Moses never claimed to be Jehovah. Mohammed never claimed to be Allah. Yet Jesus Christ claimed to be the true and living God. Buddha simply said, "I am a teacher in search of the truth." Jesus said, "I am the Truth." Confucius said, "I never claimed to be holy." Jesus said, "Who convicts me of sin?" Mohammed said, "Unless God throws his cloak of mercy over me, I have no hope." Jesus said, "Unless you believe in me, you will die in your sins."

~unknown

Fundamentally, our Lord's message was Himself. He did not come merely to preach a Gospel; He himself is that Gospel. He did not come merely to give bread; He said, "I am the bread." He did not come merely to shed light; He said, "I am the light." He did not come merely to show the door; He said, "I am the door." He did not come merely to name a shepherd; He said, "I am the shepherd." He did not come merely to point the way; He said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life."

~J. Sidlow Baxter



# Biblical Claims

What does the rest of the Bible say about Jesus?



## Acts 16:30, 31

And he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" So they said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household."

## 1 Corinthians 3:11

For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.

And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.



# Why **Jesus**?

WHY is Jesus the only way? 

**He is the propitiation** for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

For our sake he made him to be sin  
**who knew no sin**, so that in him  
we might become the  
righteousness of God.

Against You, You only, have I  
sinned, And done this evil in Your  
sight -- That You may be found just  
when You speak, And blameless  
when You judge.

To them belong the patriarchs, and from their race, according to the flesh, is the **Christ, who is God over all**, blessed forever. Amen.

**But about the Son he says,**  
**“Your throne, O God, will last for**  
**ever and ever;**  
**a scepter of justice will be the**  
**scepter of your kingdom.**

## Romans 5:17

For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through **the one man, Jesus Christ!**

**18** Consequently, just as one trespass resulted in condemnation for all people, so also **one righteous act resulted in justification and life for all people.****19** For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, **so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous.**



Now **What?**

If Jesus is the way how do we travel the way? 



Jesus Christ is to me the outstanding personality of all time, all history, both as Son of God and as Son of Man. Everything he ever said or did has value for us today and that is something you can say of no other man, dead or alive. There is no easy middle ground to stroll upon. You either accept Jesus or reject him.

~Sholem Asch

## Romans 10:9-13

9 that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

10 For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

11 For the Scripture says, "Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame."

12 For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him.

13 For "whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved."

Christianity is not a doctrine, not truth as truth, but the knowledge of a Person; it is knowing the Lord Jesus. You cannot be educated into being a Christian.

~T. Austin-Sparks

Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.

The message of Christ is not Christianity.  
The message of Christ is Christ.

~Gary Amirault

# How about you?

What is God saying to YOU this morning?

Pray your response to God.

What does he want you to do in response?

