

Matt. 7:13-14

- 13 Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide *is* the gate, and broad *is* the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat:
- 14 Because strait *is* the gate, and narrow *is* the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.

***Does The Bible Teach
That There Are Many
Roads That Lead To
Heaven?***

Matt. 7:13-14

The View Many Take...

- “I am absolutely against any religion that say that one faith is superior to another. I don’t see how that is anything different than spiritual racism. It’s a way of saying that we are closer to God than you, and that’s what leads to hatred.” – Rabbi Shmuley Boteach

CHURCH & STATE MAGAZINE

Atheist Gives Invocation In Alabama City – A Wiccan May Be Next

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An atheist recently offered a secular invocation before the Huntsville, Ala., city council, making him the first to deliver a non-theistic message prior to a council meeting. In September, North Alabama Free Thought Association member Kelly McCauley made remarks that emphasized secular themes...

- **Wiccan priest opens Huntsville City Council meeting with prayer for 'a spirit of peace and comity'**

- Updated November 7, 2014 at 6:35 AM; Posted November 6, 2014 at 7:20 PM
- **By [Steve Doyle](mailto:sdoyle@al.com) sdoyle@al.com**
- [HUNTSVILLE, Alabama](#) - Huntsville isn't backing down from a promise to make City Council invocations a better reflection of the area's growing religious diversity.
- Moments after City Council President Mark Russell gaveled Thursday night's meeting to order, Blake Kirk, a Wiccan priest, stepped to the microphone to deliver the opening prayer. Read the full text of his invocation below.
- Kirk was originally invited to give the invocation at a City Council meeting in late June. But when his name and affiliation - ***priest of the Oak, Ash and Thorn tradition of Wicca***

Many Americans Say Other Faiths Can Lead to Eternal Life

- A majority of all American “Christians” (52%) think that at least some non-Christian faiths can lead to eternal life. Indeed, among Christians who believe many religions can lead to eternal life, 80% name at least one non-Christian faith that can do so. These are among the key findings of a national survey conducted by the ***Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life*** from July 31-Aug. 10, 2008, among 2,905 adults.
- The survey is designed as a follow-up to the Pew Forum’s U.S. Religious Landscape Survey, conducted in 2007, which reported that most Americans who claim a religious affiliation take a non-exclusivist view of salvation, with seven-in-ten saying that many religions can lead to eternal life...

Lesson

- Look at the popular/common idea that it does not matter what road (faith, religion) that one travels to get to heaven.
- Is that what the Bible really teaches?
- What are the consequences/implications of that belief?
- How to respond...

Why Is Such A Belief So Popular?

- **Religious pluralism** → the idea of different religions thriving alongside one another in a single society, with each being tolerant of the other since all are equally valid



Why Is This Belief So Popular?

- ***Ecumenism*** → “a movement that promotes worldwide unity among all religions through greater cooperation.” For example, a “Christian” priest may invite a Muslim imam to speak in his pulpit, or a church may get together with a Hindu temple to hold a joint prayer service. No line of doctrinal demarcation.
- ***Evangelicalism*** → Would draw some “core” lines of doctrinal demarcation, but would say that many doctrines are of little consequence.
- ***Expressive individualism*** → I will be true to who I am, live my life as I choose; and pursue the path that seems right to me. The highest good is my individual freedom and expression.

Why Is This Belief So Popular?

- Because of the numbers. “All these people can’t be wrong.” (Noah, Caleb and Joshua, Ex. 23:2)
- All these good, decent, honest folks surely won’t be condemned to hell. (Acts 10:1-2,22; 11:14; Rom. 3:23)
- It is easier to compromise than to confront error. (I Pet. 3:15; II Tim. 2:24-26)
- “The thing that really matters is sincerity.” (Acts 23:1; Rom. 10:1-2)

Why Is This Belief So Popular?

- Many think that all religious beliefs are about the same.
 - Buddhism → No belief in a personal God.
 - Islam → Religion of coercion; does not believe that Jesus is the Son of God.
 - Catholicism → Believes that the Pope is the head of the church; Mary is a mediator, etc.
 - New Age Movements → No absolute truths.
 - Mormonism → God was once a man as you are...
 - Jehovah's Witnesses → Jesus is not God.
 - Denominational world → Baptism not essential for salvation...



THEY CAN'T ALL BE TRUE—JOHN 14:6

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What Does The Bible Teach?

- Jn. 14:6 → Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.
- Jn. 8:24 → I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am *he*, ye shall die in your sins.
- Jn. 8:31-32 → 31 Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, *then* are ye my disciples indeed; 32 And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

What Does The Bible Teach?

- 10 Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, *even* by him doth this man stand here before you whole.
- 11 This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner.
- 12 Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved. (Acts 4:10-12)

What Does The Bible Teach?

- Rom. 1:16-17 → For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. 17 For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.

What Does The Bible Teach?

- Rom. 10:13-17 → 13 For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.
- 14 How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?
- 15 And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!
- 16 But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report?
- 17 So then faith *cometh* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Consequences Of The Teaching

- Denies the word of God, and would make all of its teaching suspect. (II Tim. 3:16-17; Jn. 17:17)
- Would deny the exclusivity of the way of Christ, and make its followers fools. (Acts 14:8-19; 17:1-9; etc.)
- Makes the death of Jesus unnecessary, if all roads lead to heaven. (Rom. 3:21-26)

The Necessity of the Death of Jesus...

- 21 But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets;
- 22 Even the righteousness of God *which is* by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference:
- 23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;
- 24 Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:
- 25 Whom God hath set forth *to be* a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;
- 26 To declare, *I say*, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.

How To Respond...

- Two questions to ask...
 - If all roads lead to heaven, the why didn't Jesus tell us that? (Matt. 7:13-14, 21; 15:14)
 - How do you know that that is true? Where did you get that information? (I Pet. 4:11; Jn. 12:48)