

Core Seminars – Christian Living

Missions:

Week 3 – March 2012

IS JESUS THE ONLY WAY TO GOD?

I. The Christian Claim of Exclusivity

John 14:6: “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

II. Christians believe that all men have a grave problem - they are under God’s just judgment of death because of their sin.

People are not punished merely for being mistaken and for failing to recognize Jesus as God’s Son. They are punished for their sinful rebellion against God.

Romans 3:10-20 “There is no one righteous, not even one; there is no one who understands, no one who seeks God. All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one. Their throats are open graves; their tongues practice deceit. The poison of vipers is on their lips. Their mouths are full of cursing and bitterness. Their feet are swift to shed blood; ruin and misery mark their ways, and the way of peace they do not know. There is no fear of God before their eyes.” Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world held accountable to God. Therefore, no one will be declared righteous in his sight by observing the law; rather through the law we become conscious of sin.”

III. So how are people saved?

Acts 4:12 “And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved:

Other religions are inadequate to forgive sin.

Christ alone is uniquely qualified for the forgiveness of sins.

Just as sin and death came into the world through one man, Adam, life comes through one man, Christ. (Romans 5:17; Rev. 5:9-10).

IV. Can people be saved through Christ without realizing it is Christ who saves them?

A. Romans 10

- Belief precondition for faith
- Hearing precondition for believing
- Someone telling them is precondition for hearing (rules out people meeting Christ apart from some messenger).

B. What about Cornelius? - Acts 10 & 11

C. The Unknown God (Acts 17:23, 30)

D. Is there a present-day analog to the faithful in the Old Testament?

V. The Charge of Narrowness

What about the person who has never heard? Scripture says that he will be punished for his sins because he has not trusted in Christ for the forgiveness of sins. Isn't this incredibly narrow and unfair?

VI. The Relationship to Missions

God's glory in showing mercy to sinners remains the goal and the motivation.

Understanding the worth and uniqueness of Christ is a fuel for action.

Next Week? The Role of the Local Church