

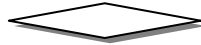
So Close! ...And Yet So Far?



The Teachings Of Jesus In Dialogue With Other Beliefs

Part 11: "If Jesus Is The Only Way...?"

THE APPENDIX



Introduction – The Toughest Question

Romans 9:16-32

What Happens To Those Who Have Never Heard?

THEORY #1 – UNIVERSALISM...

1 Timothy 2:4; 2 Peter 3:9

John 12:32

Romans 11:11-32

Colossians 1:16-20

Romans 5:18-19 & 1 Corinthians 15:22-28

1 John 2:2

THEORY #2 – INCLUSIVISM...

John 1:9

Matthew 16:27; 2 Corinthians 5:10; 1 Peter 1:17

THEORY #3 – EXCLUSIVISM...

Matthew 7:13-14

Acts 4:12

John 3:36

John 14:6

1 John 2:23

1 John 5:11-12

1 Corinthians 10:20-21

THEORY #4 – CASES OF UNEXPECTED GRACE...

Romans 1:20; 2:13-16

Hebrews 11:6

John 9:41

Conclusion – A Difficult Answer

Romans 10:13-14

Matthew 28:18-20

HOME CHURCH QUESTIONS...

1. After reviewing Sunday's message, share one new thought you learned or were again challenged by.
2. At this stage, how would you answer the question "If Jesus is the only way to God, what happens to people who never hear about him?"
3. Read again a passage we've covered before – **Acts 17:16-34**. a) What is your favourite verse? Why? b) What verses suggest that non-Christians need to hear the gospel of Jesus to be saved? c) What verses might suggest that some pagans already have some sort of relationship with the true God? How could this be? Could this relationship "save" them?
4. Read again the Great Commission in **Matthew 28:18-20**. a) What aspects of the evangelization and discipleship process are we directly responsible for? b) What aspects of this process are we not responsible for, but should leave for the Holy Spirit to accomplish? c) How are you currently obeying these verses? d) What is one specific thing you could do this week to better obey these verses?
5. Pray for each other's obedience to this call, and for those who need to hear and respond to the message of Jesus.