



Do All Roads Lead To Heaven?

DISCOVERING GOD'S WORD BIBLE STUDY SERIES

Q&A NUMBER: 77

www.GodSaidSo.com/QA77

Do all roads lead to Heaven? It is common to hear folks claim that we can all believe different things and live in different ways because “all roads lead to Heaven.” However, the Bible definitively disproves this common notion. Although we could consider many passages, we only need to look at Jesus’ words in the popular “Sermon on the Mount” in Matthew 7:13-27. Let’s consider how this passage disproves the idea that all roads lead to Heaven.

Few Will Be Saved

First, In Matthew 7:13-14, Jesus said, “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. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.”

Jesus teaches plainly that in the overall scope of those who will be saved and those who will be lost, there will be far more who will *not* go to Heaven than those who will. Jesus says that most people will live to please themselves and seek their own fleshly desires rather than live to please God. He says that the way that leads to eternal destruction is “broad” and the gate is “wide.” It does not require great self-control and discipline while people live on this earth. However, the way that leads to eternal life in Heaven is “difficult” and the gate is narrow. Choosing to live in this way requires self-discipline throughout one’s life. Rather than just living to please self, this way requires that the will of God be put first in your earthly life.

Certainly, you can clearly see that (since only a few will be saved and many will be lost) that there are many different paths that do not lead to Heaven. Jesus has already identified two different paths that people can take in their lives in this passage. One path has many people who are walking on it and one has few. One leads to destruction through a broad gate. One leads to life through a narrow gate.

There are some passages that clearly teach us that there are some things which will keep people from entering the kingdom of God and being saved eternally. For instance, 1 Corinthians

6:9-10 says, “Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God.” Other lists can be found in passages like Romans 1:18-32, Galatians 5:19-21, and Revelation 21:8. Clearly, God has warned us that there are many paths that people walk on during their earthly lives that will not lead them to Heaven. In fact, any path that involves sin (violation of God’s law) results in spiritual death rather than eternal life (see Romans 6:23 and James 1:14-15).

Instead of walking on the many paths of sin, you must follow Jesus, the Way. Jesus is the Way that is narrow and leads to eternal life in Heaven. In John 14:6, Jesus said, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.” So, in order to go to Heaven, you absolutely *must* follow Jesus Christ. This involves hearing His saving message (Romans 10:17), believing in Him (John 8:24), repenting of your sins and determining to follow Him (Luke 13:3), confessing Him (Romans 10:9-10), and putting Him on in baptism (Mark 16:16; Romans 6:3-4). After doing this, you are forgiven of your sins by His precious blood and you must live your life faithfully obeying Him (Revelation 2:10), denying yourself, taking up your cross daily and bearing the burdens involved in living for Him, and following after Him even to the point of dying for Him (Luke 9:23-26). This is the path that leads to eternal life in Heaven!

Beware Of False Prophets

Second, in Matthew 7:15-20, Jesus said, “Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thornbushes or figs from thistles? Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Therefore by their fruits you will know them.”

Consider two areas in this passage in response to the question, “Do all roads lead to Heaven?” First, recognize what Jesus is teaching about the false prophets themselves. He says that they are people who need to be avoided rather than followed. He says that they are like wolves in sheep’s clothing who would be harmful to those who desire to be saved. By their very nature, they are liars because although they claim to teach the words that come from God, they are actually changing the truth into something else. And, Jesus indicates that they are like trees that produce bad fruit instead of good fruit.

Certainly, Jesus is showing us that false prophets are not on the road that leads to Heaven. For, God has said that all liars will have their part in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death (Revelation 21:8). Furthermore, the Scriptures are clear in teaching that those who are false prophets and false teachers “bring on themselves swift destruction” (2 Peter 2:1). Clearly, the path the false prophet and false teacher (who teaches things that are contrary to the truth that God has revealed) does *not* lead to Heaven!

Second, recognize what Jesus is teaching about those who follow the false prophets (or false teachers). He warns people to beware of them. Once again, they are compared to being ravenous wolves who come among a flock of sheep disguised as one of the sheep. You can just imagine what the end result will be! In the same way, Jesus warns against following those who do not teach the word of God accurately. Only, in this case, the destruction will be much worse than the physical harm a ravenous wolf can bring on a sheep. This destruction will be spiritual in nature. This is the reason why Jesus warns people to carefully evaluate those who are claiming to teach the word of God. They must each be carefully evaluated so as to know that the truth is actually being taught.

Other passages of Scripture are clear in teaching that there are people who are actively changing the gospel of Jesus Christ (i.e. Galatians 1:6-9 and 2 Peter 3:15-16). Then, please notice that the Scriptures plainly teach that those who follow false teaching will be just as lost as the false teacher – even if they still believe and follow *some* of what God’s word says. 2 Peter 2:1-3 demonstrates this to be so. “But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction. And many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed. By covetousness they will exploit you with deceptive words; for a long time their judgment has not been idle, and their destruction does not slumber.”

Depart

Third, in Matthew 7:21-23, Jesus said, “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’ And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’”

After warning the people about the reality of false religious teachers, Jesus identifies that there will be many religious people who will be lost. Certainly, there are many people today who believe that all those who profess to believe in Jesus Christ will be saved. However, Jesus said something very different in this passage.

Jesus warns that there will be many people who will profess to believe in Him, calling Him “Lord,” but they will not be saved. Jesus says that these people who profess Him as Lord will even have been involved in many good works in the name of Jesus Christ. Yet, Jesus says that these people will still be told to depart from Him on the Day of Judgment.

The reason why they will be told to depart from Jesus Christ on the Day of Judgment is because they did not do the will of the Father in Heaven. Although they did some of God’s will, they violated His will in other areas. Jesus says that they practiced lawlessness (sin). So, although they believed God and were involved in some good things that would please God, they were either

leaving some things undone that God wanted them to do, or they were doing some things that God did not want them to do.

Now, as you think about the question, “Do all roads lead to Heaven?,” you should recognize that Jesus says not even all roads that involve belief in Him and good works lead to Heaven. Instead, Jesus requires obedience to the will of the Father in Heaven (as He has revealed His law to mankind). Therefore, not even all people today who have believed in Jesus Christ, profess to be “Christians,” go to church, and do some good things in His name will be saved. Instead, only those who believe and obey God will be saved.

The Wise And Foolish Builders

Fourth, in Matthew 7:24-27, Jesus said, “Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall.”

As Jesus concludes His “Sermon on the Mount,” He wants people to recognize that it is not enough just to hear the words He taught. And, it is not enough just to believe that what He says is true. Stopping at this point is like building on sand. It’s simply not going to last! However, if you really want to be saved, Jesus says that you must hear and obey His commands. This person is like building a house on the rock. This will endure the tests of life.

Once again, this passage shows that not all roads lead to Heaven. Certainly, Jesus has just demonstrated that those who walk on a path of only believing in Him or listening to what He has to say will not be saved. Instead, it is only those who are walking on the path of hearing, faith, and obedience who will please God and find eternal life in Heaven!

Conclusion

All roads do not lead to Heaven. There are many points you can consider from the Bible’s teachings to see this same point. However, in one short section from one of the most popular passages in all of the New Testament, Jesus has demonstrated this truth for us four different times! Therefore, you must listen to Jesus’ warnings and determine to believe and obey Him so as to walk on the one path that leads to everlasting life in Heaven!

Discovering God’s Word Bible Study Series

Study Number: QA77

Written by Eric Krieg

Copyright: Copyright © 2018 GodSaidSo Press. Please use this material to God’s glory and honor. Feel free to copy and distribute this material in any way that will bring God glory and help souls to be saved. However, you may not take any of the material out of context or change the material in any way. Please provide the author with the proper credit for the material.

Scripture quotations: Unless otherwise indicated, all scripture quotations are taken from the New King James Version. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Used by permission. All rights reserved.