

“Are All ‘Christians’ Going to Heaven?”

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“They profess to know God, but in works they deny Him, being abominable, disobedient, and disqualified for every good work.” (Titus 1:16)

It is no surprise to anyone for me to say that I am not God and will not stand as judge over anyone. However, we do have God’s Word as it relates to whom He is going to allow into Heaven. It is clear from Scripture that not all people will go to heaven (Rev 20:15; Matt 25:41, 46). Jesus taught clearly that only those who have put their personal faith and trust in Him would inherit eternal life and enjoy the coming Kingdom with Him forever (John 14:6). This, inescapably, would eliminate anyone who follows any other faith system such as atheism, Islam, Judaism, Buddhism, Mormonism, Jehovah’s Witnesses, and even some who follow Christianity. This might sound contradictory to include Christianity, but let me explain.

It might be practical to call Christianity a religion with a set of beliefs, but which beliefs? Christianity is not monolithic and there are thousands of “shades” as found in the various denominations. Sure, there are the three main branches of Christianity (Catholic, Protestant, and Orthodox), but even among these, there is a great diversity of “beliefs.”

Here is my main point. Supposedly our country is between 60-70% “Christian.” There are many people who claim to be “Christian” who do not have a personal and dynamic relationship with God through Jesus Christ. They might claim to follow Him, but as Titus 1:16 says above, they deny Him by the way they live their life. I was raised in the Catholic Church and as a teenager would certainly have considered myself a Christian and one who should go to heaven. Yet I was confronted with the truth of Scripture where it taught that those who are practicing fornicators (sex before marriage), adulterers, idolaters, homosexuals, thieves, drunkards, etc. will not go to heaven (1 Cor 6:9-10). I didn’t have a personal relationship with Jesus and certainly wasn’t living a life that honored Him. Growing up, I went to church every week, was an altar boy, and participated in various religious things, but I didn’t know Jesus personally. This has always been the problem with humanity. We think because we have a certain label, whether “Catholic”, “Lutheran”, or “Christian” that we are automatically qualified to enter God’s heaven. John the Baptist confronted the Jewish people, including their religious leaders, reminding them they could not rely simply on their label of being Abraham’s descendants to get into heaven (Matthew 3:7-9).

Are you one that is trusting in what you call yourself or have you repented of your sins and put your personal trust and faith in Jesus Christ Himself? Jesus preached from the beginning that repentance from sins and belief in the gospel was necessary to enter God’s kingdom (Mark 1:15; Matt 4:17).

Unfortunately there are many “Christians” today who are deceived and will not go to heaven. Jesus speaks of them when He says, *“Not everyone who calls out to me, ‘Lord! Lord!’ will enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Only those who actually do the will of my Father in heaven will enter. On judgment day many will say to me, ‘Lord! Lord! We prophesied in your name and cast out demons in your name and performed many miracles in your name.’ But I will reply, ‘I never knew you. Get away from me, you who break God’s laws”* (Matthew 7:21-23). It is my prayer that this would not be you, that you will embrace the love of God through His offer of salvation and that through repentance and belief in the gospel you will be saved. Have a blessed week!

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