

Stand to Reason Perspectives Series

JESUS

THE ONLY WAY



100 VERSES

Gregory Koukl

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The purpose of this booklet is to help you sharpen
your skill and deepen your virtue and spiritual vitality
as a representative of Jesus Christ.

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Jesus The Only Way is one booklet in the Stand to Reason Perspectives series, a collection of booklets dealing with ethics, values and religion, designed to inform, challenge and persuade.

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INTRODUCTION

THE BIBLE AND RELIGIOUS PLURALISM

Both the New Age and the ecumenical movement have been steadily chipping away at the orthodox Christian teaching that Jesus is the only source of salvation and also, since Pentecost, the only object of salvation. Jesus is the only source of salvation because there is no forgiveness possible unless Jesus died on the cross as payment. Jesus is the only object of salvation because we must believe on Him and none other for this forgiveness to be ours.

This list of verses serves to document that the orthodox position is biblical. It's not an attempt to argue the validity of the doctrine; the reasonableness of what Jesus Himself called "the narrow way" is another topic and I address it elsewhere. My goal here is simply to demonstrate that Jesus and the Apostles were not religious pluralists.

I understand that this position raises other serious theological questions that deserve response. However, as with all true revelation our first question must be, "What does the text teach?" After that we can struggle with the ramifications of what it says. Quotes come from the Gospels, Peter, John, and Paul showing that all the New Testament writers consistently taught against any form of religious pluralism.

There are nine different lines of reasoning the biblical authors use to argue for the necessity of Jesus. Some of the arguments are explicit, some are implicit. Note that the verses do not simply teach that the blood of Jesus is

the necessary source for forgiveness in God's redemptive plan. They also restrict the means of salvation to faith in Jesus. These texts know nothing of a "sincere" rejection of Jesus that does not lead to condemnation.

This is a critical point. Out of tenderness and compassion many want to withhold judgment on those clearly rejecting the claims of Scripture regarding salvation. "Nobody knows the inner heart of man, nor the reasons for their unbelief," they warn. But God certainly knows their hearts, and what follows is what He's told us in light of that knowledge.

Frankly, it's somewhat of a mystery to me how religious pluralism can flourish among professing Christians who claim the Bible is an authority on spiritual things. From the very beginning God has been narrow in His demands.

Adam and Eve's violation of God's sole command in the garden brought swift justice. The serpent's suggestion of an alternate route to wisdom, knowledge and fulfillment brought destruction, not the promised salvation.

God's very first commandment to His fledgling people condemned all other "roads to Rome." In Exodus 20:2-5 He said, "I am the Lord your God...You shall have no other gods before Me...You shall not worship them or serve them; for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God."

God showed His utter contempt for other religions by pummeling Egypt with plagues, each one directed at a different Egyptian deity (Exodus 12:12b "...and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments — I am the Lord."). The capstone plague resulted in the death of every first-born whose doorway was without a blood covering according to God's very specific and narrow conditions.



While the Jews wandered in the desert (Numbers 21:9) there was only one antidote to the poison of the serpents God had unleashed in judgment upon them. Only those who gazed upon a bronze snake lifted up on a pole were spared. Jesus Himself cites this event as a type of His crucifixion, which alone brings eternal life (John 3:14-15).

In the book of Acts we learn that “Christian” was not the first name given to the followers of Jesus. Instead, they had a name that embodied the heart of their message about the Savior. They were simply called “The Way” — not “a way” or “one of the ways” or “their way,” but The Way (Acts 9:2; 19:9, 23).

There is a prevailing theme here, captured with crystal clarity in Jesus’ words: “Enter by the narrow gate; for the gate is wide, and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and many are those who enter by it. For the gate is small, and the way is narrow that leads to life, and few are those who find it” (Matthew 7:13-14).

Critics will often try to brush this view off with the canard, “That’s just your interpretation.” But the requirement of specific trust in Jesus cannot be dismissed so easily. It’s possible to be mistaken given a handful of verses, but when a hundred passages argue the same point from a variety of different angles it cannot be mistaken, only ignored.

The nine lines of argument the Scriptures offer on this issue are as follows. Jesus is the Savior, the source of salvation for the world. The Father Himself chose Jesus for this purpose. That’s why rejection of Jesus is actually a rejection of the Father Himself. Such a rejection is met with God’s wrath, while belief in Jesus rescues from wrath. Rescue is possible because Jesus is the one who provides forgiveness from sin. Many impostors will claim to

provide an alternate form of salvation, but there are no other alternatives. That's why the church's solemn commission is to make sure that all nations are given this Gospel. On the last day Jesus will be man's final judge.

This is the biblical view. If you're a Christian committed to the authority of the Bible, then this is the view you must hold.

THE CLEAREST STATEMENTS

John 14:6 – Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through me.”

Acts 4:11-12 – “He is the stone which was rejected by you, the builders, but which became the very cornerstone. And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men, by which we must be saved.”

Acts 16:30-31 – And after he brought them out he said, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” And they said, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you shall be saved.”

1 Timothy 2:5 – For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Jesus the Messiah.

1 John 2:23 – Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father; the one who confesses the Son has the Father also.

1 John 5:11-12 – And the witness is this, that God has given us eternal life and this life is in his Son. He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life.

Luke 10:16 – “The one who listens to you listens to me and the one who rejects you rejects me, and he who rejects me rejects the one who sent me.”

Luke 12:8-9 – “And I say to you, everyone who confesses me before men, the Son of Man shall confess him also before the angels of God; but he who denies me before men shall be denied before the angels of God.”

John 3:18 – “He who believes in him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.”

John 3:36 – “He who believes has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.”

John 8:24 – “I said therefore to you, that you shall die in your sins; for unless you believe that I am He, you shall die in your sins.”

John 10:7-8b – Jesus therefore said to them again, “Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and robbers.”

REASON #1

JESUS IS THE ONLY SOURCE OF SALVATION FOR THE WORLD

Since that fateful day in the Garden, we have been in desperate straits. Man, guilty of rebellion, wanders as an outcast, but God does not abandon him. He would send a champion, a righteous redeemer, a savior. This Messiah would be the true door, the bread of life, the way to the Father, bringing eternal life to those who trust in Him.

Mark 14:61-62 – “Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?” And Jesus said, “I am; and you shall see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of power, and coming with the clouds of heaven.”

John 3:14-16 – “And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up; that whoever believes may in him have eternal life. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish, but have eternal life.”

John 6:51 – “I am the living bread that came down out of heaven; if anyone eats of this bread, he shall live forever; and the bread also which I shall give for the life of the world is my flesh.”

John 6:53-54 – Jesus therefore said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of man and drink His blood, you have no life in yourselves. He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.”

John 6:68-69 – Simon Peter answered Him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have words of eternal life. And we have believed and have come to know that you are the Holy One of God.”

John 10:9a – “I am the door; if anyone enters through me, he shall be saved.”

John 14:6 – Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through me.”

John 15:1a – “I am the true vine.”

John 16:8-9 – “And when [the Holy Spirit] comes, [He] will convict the world concerning sin, and righteousness, and judgment; concerning sin, because they did not believe in me.”



John 17:3 – “And this is eternal life, that they may know you the only true God and Jesus the Messiah whom you have sent.”

Acts 4:11-12 – “He is the stone which was rejected by you, the builders, but which became the very cornerstone. And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men, by which we must be saved.”

Acts 16:30-31 – And after he brought them out he said, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” And they said, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you shall be saved.”

Romans 10:9 – If you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved.

1 Timothy 2:5 – For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Jesus the Messiah.

Titus 1:4 – Grace and peace from God the Father and Jesus the Messiah, our Savior.

Titus 2:13 – Looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus the Messiah.

Titus 3:6 – ...Whom he poured out upon us richly through Jesus the Messiah, our Savior...

Hebrews 12:2 – Fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of the faith.

1 John 5:20 – And we know that the Son of God has come, and has given us understanding, in order that we might know him who is true and we are in him who is true, in his Son Jesus the Messiah. This is the true God and eternal life.

REASON #2

JESUS IS THE FATHER'S CHOICE

The Father's rescue operation was not a frantic attempt to find something that worked. He wasn't playing the odds. He didn't litter the field with salvation options, finding safety in variety and numbers.

Instead, His solution was one He'd carefully planned before the beginning. The Father chose one man, Jesus, the Son of God. We're to listen to Him. The work we are to do is believe in Him and trust in Him. The Father exalts the Son and gives all things into His hand. Jesus is the only choice of the Father.

1 John 3:23a – And this is [God's] commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus the Messiah ...just as he commanded us.

Matthew 17:5 – While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them; and behold a voice out of the cloud, saying, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to Him!"

Mark 9:7 – Then a cloud formed, overshadowing them, and a voice came out of the cloud, "This is my beloved Son, listen to Him!"

Luke 9:35 – And a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is my Son, my chosen one; listen to him!"

John 3:33-34 – "He who has received [Jesus] witness has set his seal to this, that God is true. For he whom God has sent speaks the words of God for he gives the Spirit without measure."

John 6:28-29 – They said therefore to Him, "What shall we do that we may work the works of God?" Jesus answered and said to them, "This is the work of God that you believe in Him whom He has sent."

John 6:40 – “For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in him, may have eternal life; and I myself will raise him up on the last day.”

John 6:45b – “Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father, comes to me.”

John 16:15a – “All things that the Father has are mine.”

Philippians 2:9-11 – Therefore, also God highly exalted him, and bestowed on him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those who are in heaven, and on earth, and under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus the Messiah is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Hebrews 1:1-3 – God, after he spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, in these last days has spoken to us in his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also made the world. And he is the radiance of his glory and the exact representation of his nature, and upholds all things by the word of his power. When he had made purification of sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high.

1 John 4:14 – And we have beheld and bear witness that the Father has sent the Son to be the Savior of the world.

Luke 10:22 – “All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows who the Son is except the Father, and who the Father is except the Son, and anyone to whom the Son wills to reveal to Him.”

John 3:35 – “The Father loves the Son, and has given all things into his hand.”

REASON #3

REJECTION OF JESUS IS REJECTION OF THE FATHER

It's not unusual to hear someone say, "I love God; I'm just not interested in Jesus." But the Bible has not left that option open to us. Our response to Jesus is the acid test of our true interest in the Father.

He who loves the Father honors the One the Father sends. A rejection of the Father's choice is a direct rejection of the Father's will. He who believes is born of God and abides in Him. He who does not believe does not have the Father, but instead has the spirit of anti-christ.

John 5:23b – "He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him."

John 5:37-38 – "And the Father who sent me, he has born witness of me. You have neither heard his voice at any time, nor seen his form. And you do not have his word abiding in you, for you do not believe him who he sent."

John 8:19 – "You know neither me, nor my Father; if you knew me you would know my Father also."

John 8:42a – Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love me."

John 12:48-50 – "He who rejects me, and does not receive my sayings, has one who judges him; the word I spoke will judge him at the last day. For I did not speak on my own initiative, but the Father himself who sent me has given me commandment, what to say, and what to speak. And I know that His commandment is eternal life; therefore, the things I speak, I speak just as the Father has told me."

John 14:7 – “If you had known me you would have known my Father also.”

John 15:20b-21 – “If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they kept my word, they will keep yours also. But all these things they will do to you for my name’s sake, because they do not know the one who sent me.”

John 15:23 – “He who hates me hates my Father also.”

John 16:2-3 – “They will make you outcasts from the synagogue, but an hour is coming for everyone who kills you to think that he is offering service to God. And these things they will do, because they have not known the Father or me.”

1 John 2:22 – Who is the liar but the one who denies that Jesus is the Messiah? This is the anti-Christ, the one who denies the Father and the Son.

1 John 2:23 – Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father; the one who confesses the Son has the Father also.

1 John 4:2-3 – By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus the Messiah has come in the flesh is from God; and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God; and this is the spirit of the anti-Christ.

1 John 4:15 – Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.

1 John 5:1 – Whoever believes that Jesus is the Messiah is born of God.

1 John 5:9-12 – If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater; for the witness of God is this, that he has born witness concerning his Son. The one who believes in the Son of God has the witness in him-

self; the one who does not believe God has made him a liar, because he has not believed in the witness that God has borne concerning his Son. And the witness is this, that God has given us eternal life and this life is in his Son. He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life.

2 John 1:7-9a – For many deceivers have gone out into the world, those who do not acknowledge Jesus the Messiah as coming in the flesh. This is the deceiver and the anti-Christ...Anyone who goes too far and does not abide in the teaching of the Messiah, does not have God; the one who abides in the teaching, he has both the Father and the Son.

Luke 10:16 – “The one who listens to you listens to me and the one who rejects you rejects me, and he who rejects me rejects the one who sent me.”

REASON #4

REJECTION OF JESUS BRINGS JUDGMENT AND WRATH; BELIEF IN JESUS RESCUES FROM WRATH

Jesus is the chief cornerstone, the very foundation of all forgiveness. God’s pardon comes only through Him. He alone delivers from the wrath to come. If we believe in Jesus we will be safe, protected from the punishment we deserve. If we reject Him we stand naked before the mighty anger of God’s justice, paying the penalty of eternal destruction.

Luke 12:8-9 – “And I say to you, everyone who confesses me before men, the Son of Man shall confess him also before the angels of God; but he who denies me before men shall be denied before the angels of God.”

John 5:24 – “Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears my word, and believes Him who sent me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life.”

Luke 11:23 – “He who is not with me is against me; and he who does not gather with me, scatters.”

Luke 20:17-18 – But he looked at them and said, “What then is this that is written, ‘The stone which the builders rejected, this became the chief cornerstone’? Everyone who falls on that stone will be broken to pieces; but on whomever it falls, it will scatter him like dust.”

John 3:18 – “He who believes in him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.”

John 3:36 – “He who believes has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.”

John 15:5b-6 – “Apart from me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away as a branch, and dries up; and they gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.”

Acts 3:22-23 – “Moses said, ‘The Lord God shall raise up for you a prophet like me from your brethren; to Him you shall give heed in everything he says to you. And it shall be that every soul that does not heed that prophet shall be utterly destroyed from among the people.’”

1 Thessalonians 1:9-10 – For they themselves report about us what kind of reception we had with you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, that is Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.

Hebrews 2:2-4 – For if the word spoken through angels proved unalterable, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompense, how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation? After it was at the first spoken through the Lord, it was confirmed to us by those who heard, God also bearing witness with them, both by signs and wonders and by various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit according to his own will.

1 Peter 2:4-8 – And coming to him as to a living stone, rejected by men, but choice and precious in the sight of God, you also, as living stones are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus the Messiah. For this is contained in Scripture: “Behold I lay in Zion a choice, stone a precious cornerstone, and he who believes in him shall not be disappointed.” This precious value, then, is for you who believe. But for those who disbelieve, “The stone which the builders rejected” this became the very cornerstone”, “a stone of stumbling and a rock of offense”; for they stumble because they are disobedient to the Word and to this doom they were also appointed.

Revelation 17:14 – These will wage war against the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them because he is Lord of Lords and King of Kings, and those who are with him are the called and chosen and faithful.

Revelation 19:13-16 – And he is clothed with a robe dipped in blood; and his name is called the Word of God. And the armies which are in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, were following him on white horses. And from his mouth comes a sharp sword, so that with it he might smite the nations; and he will rule them with a rod of iron; and he treads the wine presses of the fierce

wrath of God the Almighty. And on his robe and on his thigh he has a name written, “King of Kings, and Lord of Lords.”

2 Thessalonians 1:7-9 – The Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels in flaming fire, dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus the Messiah. And these will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power.

REASON #5

JESUS IS THE ONE WHO PROVIDES FORGIVENESS FROM SIN

The prophet Isaiah made it clear that our goodness weighs very light in the balance when compared to our sin. Like a pile of leaves in a maelstrom, our meager righteousness vanishes in the great wind of our iniquity (Isaiah 64:6). We desperately need forgiveness.

Only Jesus has authority to forgive sins. As the Lamb of God He paid for sin with His own life. Apart from Him we die in our sins; but in Him we are rescued from condemnation.

Luke 7:48 – And he said to her, “Your sins have been forgiven.”

Mark 2:10-12 – “But in order that you may know that the Son of man has authority on earth to forgive sins” — he said to the paralytic — “I say to you, rise, take up your pallet and go home.” And he arose and immediately took up the pallet and went out in the sight of all.

Luke 5:24-25 – “But in order that you may know

that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins,” — he said to the paralytic — “I say to you, rise, and take up your stretcher and go home.” And at once he rose up before them, and took up what he had been lying on and went home, glorifying God.

John 1:29 – The next day he saw Jesus coming to him, and said, “Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!”

John 8:24 – “I said therefore to you, that you shall die in your sins; for unless you believe that I am He, you shall die in your sins.”

Acts 3:38, 40 – And Peter said to them, “Repent, and let each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus the Messiah for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit...and with many other words he solemnly testified and kept on exhorting them, saying, “Be saved from this perverse generation!”

1 John 2:2 – And he himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world.

Romans 8:1 – There is, therefore, now no condemnation for those who are in Jesus the Messiah.

REASON #6

MANY IMPOSTORS WILL CLAIM TO PROVIDE OTHER WAYS OF SALVATION

One of the most powerful arguments against pluralism is that Jesus Himself warned us of its dangers in advance. It’s a ruse, a deception of false christs and prophets — spiritual thieves and robbers — who will mislead many by offering the broad way that leads to destruction.

Galatians 1:8-9 – But even though we, or an angel

from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to that which we have preached to you, let him be accursed. As we have said before, so I say again now, if any man is preaching to you a gospel contrary to that which you've received, let him be accursed.

Matthew 7:13-14 – “Enter by the narrow gate; for the gate is wide, and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and many are those who enter by it. For the gate is small, and the way is narrow that leads to life, and few are those who find it.”

John 10:7-8, 10 – Jesus therefore said to them again, “Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. “All who came before Me are thieves and robbers...The thief comes only to steal, and kill, and destroy...”

Matthew 7:15 – “Beware of the false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves.”

Matthew 24:4-5 – “See to it that no one misleads you. For many will come in my name, saying, ‘I am the Messiah,’ and will mislead many.”

Matthew 24:23-25 – “Then if anyone says to you, ‘Behold, here is the Messiah,’ or ‘there he is,’ do not believe him. For false Messiahs and false prophets will arise and will show great signs and wonders, so as to mislead, if possible, even the elect. Behold, I have told you in advance.”

Mark 13:5-6 – Then Jesus began to say to them, “See to it that no one misleads you. Many will come in my name, saying, ‘I am he!’ and will mislead many.”

Mark 13:22-23 – “For false messiahs and false prophets will arise, and will show signs and wonders, in order, if possible, to lead the elect astray. But take heed; behold, I have told you everything in advance.”

Luke 13:24 – And he said to them, “Strive to enter by the narrow door; for many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able.”

John 10:7-8b – Jesus therefore said to them again, “Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and robbers.”

Jude 1:4 – For certain persons have crept in unnoticed, those who were long beforehand marked out for this condemnation, ungodly persons who...deny our only master and Lord, Jesus the Messiah.

REASON #7

THERE ARE NO OTHER ALTERNATIVES FOR SALVATION

Picture Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane, sweating blood in anguish over the ordeal He's about to face. He pleads with the Father, asking for reprieve, begging for any other way of salvation so He can be spared the cross.

But there are no alternatives, no stand-in messiahs waiting in the wings, no alternate systems of ceremony or righteous works. The Messiah had to die, writing with His blood in the Lamb's Book of Life the names of those He's rescued.

John 18:37b – Jesus answered, “You say correctly that I am a king. For this I have been born, and for this I have come into the world, to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears my voice.”

Romans 8:8-9 – Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if

anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him.

Matthew 26:39 – “My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not as I will, but as you will.”

Mark 14:36 – And he was saying, “Abba! Father! All things are possible for you; remove this cup from me; yet not what I will, but what you will.”

Luke 22:41-42 – And He knelt down and began to pray, saying, “Father if you are willing, remove this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done.”

Galatians 2:21 – I do not nullify the grace of God; for if righteousness comes through the law, then the Messiah died needlessly.

Revelation 21:27 – And nothing unclean and no one who practices abomination and lying, shall ever come into [the new Jerusalem], but only those whose names are written in the Lamb’s Book of Life.

REASON #8

ALL NATIONS ARE TO BE GIVEN THIS GOSPEL

Jesus gave one last command before He ascended into Heaven. It’s called the Great Commission, the Master’s marching orders for the church for two millennia.

It’s an odd command, though, if Jesus is a pluralist. Why cover the globe with a message no one needs if each person’s native religion already serves him well? The command to go to all nations makes sense only if all are lost without Jesus.

Matthew 28:18-19 – “All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations.”

Luke 24:47 – “Repentance for forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.”

REASON #9

JESUS WILL BE MAN’S JUDGE ON THE FINAL DAY

God has appointed a day of judgment when all of the accounts will finally be settled. On that day, one man will hold the gavel. It won’t be Buddha, Mohammed, Krishna, or any other religious leader. They will all be in the dock with the rest of us. All men will be judged by the only perfect man, Jesus.

Mark 8:38 – “For whoever is ashamed of me and my word in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will also be ashamed of him when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

Luke 9:26 – “For whoever is ashamed of me and my words, of him will the Son of Man be ashamed when he comes in his glory, and the glory of the Father and of the holy angels.”

1 Peter 3:21b-22 – Jesus the Messiah...is at the right hand of God, having gone into heaven, after angels and authorities and powers had been subjected to Him.

John 5:22-23a – “For not even the Father judges anyone, but He has given all judgment to the Son, in order that all may honor the Son, even as they honor the Father.”

John 5:26-27 – “For just as the Father has life in himself, even so he gave to the Son also to have life in himself; and he gave him authority to execute judgment, because he is the Son of Man.”

John 17:2 – “Even as you gave him [Jesus] authority over all mankind, that to all to whom you have given him he may give eternal life.”

Acts 17:30-31 – “Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all everywhere should repent, because he has fixed a day in which he will judge the world in righteousness through a man whom he has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising him from the dead.”

Romans 2:16 – On the day when, according to my Gospel, God will judge the secrets of men through Jesus the Messiah.

2 Timothy 4:1 – Jesus the Messiah...is to judge the living and the dead.

FOR FURTHER STUDY:

IS ONE WAY THE ONLY WAY?

What is the most offensive element of the Gospel and the most common objection to Christianity? The idea that Jesus is the only way. Paul called it the “stumbling block of the cross.” In this age of religious pluralism it’s the first claim jettisoned when Christian groups get the itch to become more “tolerant.”

There are really four different questions here. First, does the Bible teach Jesus is the only way? Second, why is Jesus the only way? Third, what about other religions? Fourth, won’t good, moral, sincere people go to heaven?

Greg explains why Jesus made this exclusive claim for Himself, why it’s impossible for all religions to be right, and why “good” people need Jesus, too. Includes notes.

THE HEATHEN AND THE UNKNOWN GOD

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Gregory Koukl is a radio talk show host, an award-winning writer, and founder and president of Stand to Reason. A central theme of his speaking and writing is that Christianity can compete in the marketplace of ideas when it's properly understood and properly articulated, offering a sound, coherent world view and compelling answers to our deepest questions.

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