Jesus, the Only Way to God (John 6:66-69)

**Introduction:** Jesus’ first disciples made an audacious statement which generates controversy still today.

***Acts 4:12*** – No other name than Jesus is capable of saving.

***John 8:24*** - Unless you believe that I am He, you will die in your sins.

***John 10:9*** – I am the door.

***Matt. 28:18*** – Jesus has all authority.

***Rev. 1:17-18*** – Jesus had the keys of death and of Hades.

***John 3:18*** – He who does not believe has been judged already.

***1 Cor. 8:6*** – There is one Lord, Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we exist through Him.

***1 Tim. 2:5*** – There is one God, and one Mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.

***1 John 2:23*** - Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father.

***2 John 1:9*** – Anyone who does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God.

***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.’

1. Jesus alone is God. *“all the fullness to dwell in Him”* (Col. 1:19; 2:9)

Here are the Bible’s statements about Jesus’ divinity:

***John 1:1*** *– the Word was God.*

***Col. 1:15, 19*** *- He [Jesus] is the image of the invisible God…*

***Col. 2:9*** *– in Him [Jesus] all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form…*

***Tit. 2:13*** *– …our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus…*

***Heb. 1:8*** *– …of the Son He [the Father] says, ‘Your throne, O God, is forever and ever...’*

Jesus’ statements about Himself:

***John 5:17-18, 23*** – The Jews wanted to stone Jesus b/c He made Himself equal with the Father

***John 8:56-58*** – Jesus was older than Abraham.

***John 10:30-33*** *–* The Jews once again planned to stone Jesus b/c He claimed to be God.

***Isaiah 53:2*** – Jesus was unimpressive physically.

***Matt. 4:3*** – Satan questioned Jesus’ identity.

***Matt. 3:17*** – The Father identified Jesus as His Son.

Baha’i –God has manifested Himself in multiple human leaders including Moses, Krishna, Muhammad, and Jesus.

Muslims – Allah is God, but Muhammad was not.

Mormons – Humans can become a god; “As man is, God once was; as God is, man may become.”

Buddhists – No need for God.

Hindus – Millions of gods, but none that can save.

***Matt. 7:28-29; John 7:45-46*** – Jesus’ authoritative teaching was enough to persuade some of His critics He was God.

***Matt. 11:3*** – John the Baptist questioned Jesus’ identity as Messiah.

***Mark 2:4-5*** – Jesus forgave people’s sin.

***Mark 2:7*** – Only God can forgive sin.

***John 10:25, 37-39; 14:11*** – Jesus did miracles to get people to listen to Him.

***Matt. 2:9*** – The star (a miracle) led the magi to Jesus.

1. Jesus alone fulfilled Messianic prophecy. *“out of you shall come forth a ruler”* (Matt. 2:4-6)

***Gen. 3:15 fulfilled in Gal. 4:4*** *–* God gave to Eve the first promise of a Savior.

***Isaiah 29:18; 35:4-6*** – The Bible prophesied that the Messiah would do miracles.

***John 6:15*** – Jesus rejected the role of king for now.

***2 Peter 1:20-21*** – The prophecies weren’t a human idea.

Here is a partial list of the prophecies Jesus fulfilled.

* Micah 5:2-5 🡪 Matt. 2:1-6 Born in Bethlehem
* Isaiah 7:14 🡪 Matt. 1:18-23 Born of a virgin
* Psalm 72:10-11🡪 Matt. 2:1-11 Kings bring gifts
* Jer. 31:15 🡪 Matt. 2:16-18 Massacre of children
* Isaiah 40:3-5 🡪 John 1:23 Messenger prepares way
* Zech. 9:9 🡪 John 12:14-15 Arrival in Jer. on donkey colt
* Psalm 55:12-14 🡪 Matt. 26:23 Betrayed by a friend
* Psalm 27:12 🡪 Matt. 26:60 False witnesses accuse
* Isaiah 53:7 🡪 Matt. 27:12 Jesus quiet before accusers
* Micah 5:1 🡪 Matt. 27:30 Struck on head
* Psalm 22:16 🡪 Matt. 27:35 Killed through crucifixion
* Psalm 22:18 🡪 John 19:23-24 Gambling over clothing
* Zech. 12:10 🡪 John 19:34-37 His body pierced
* Isaiah 53:9 🡪 Matt. 27:57-60 Buried with the rich
* Psalm 16:8-11 🡪 Acts 2:32 Resurrection

1. Jesus alone doesn’t share your weakness. *“yet without sin”* (Heb. 4:15)

***Romans 3:23*** – We are all sinners.

***Romans 6:16*** – Sin is our master.

***Romans 5:12; 6:23*** – The result of sin is death.

***John 14:6*** – Death is the natural result of walking away from life.

***Gal. 4:4*** – God waited to send His Son when the time was right.

***Isaiah 7:14; 9:6*** – Jesus was virgin born and the One who would set things right.

***Heb. 4:15*** – Jesus knew our human weakness but not our carnal sin.

Scientology, Buddhism, Baha’i, Wicca – Sin does not exist and is not the cause of our problems.

Islam – Other faiths cause man’s problems.

Humanism – Just believe in yourself.

Hinduism – Man’s problem is faulty thinking about who we are and our insane conviction that we exist.

Atheism – God does not exist and can’t fix our problems.

Deism – Whether or not God exists doesn’t matter. We have to fix our own problems. He doesn’t care.

1. Jesus alone paid the debt you owe. *“canceled out the certificate of debt”* (Col. 2:13-14)

***Mark 2:3-4*** - Four men lowered their friend through a hole in the roof to get him to Jesus.

***Mark 2:5*** – Jesus forgave the man’s sins.

***Mark 2:6-7*** – In claiming to forgive sins, Jesus was claiming divinity.

***John 1:29*** – Jesus paid the price for sin to be taken away.

***Isaiah 53:5, 6*** – To bring us life, Jesus had to place our debt on His shoulders and die to pay it.

***2 Cor. 5:21*** – He substituted His righteousness for our sin.

Buddhist – Pain originates from desire.

Hookers for Jesus, Scientology – Indulge your desires.

Scientology – Your problem is your engrams from your past.

Islam – God’s mercy comes through performing certain actions.

***Eph. 2:8-9; Titus 3:5-6*** – No amount of good works could ever atone for the crime we committed.

1. Jesus alone overcame death. *“Jesus died and rose again”* (1 Thess. 4:14)

***John 3:16; 1 John 4:8*** - As God, death is *not* natural, but love is.

***Heb. 10:10*** – Jesus died “once for all.”

Hinduism, Buddhism, Scientology – Reincarnation followed by eventual annihilation.

Christianity – Resurrection, Jesus’ first and His followers’ later.

Since the resurrection of believers is predicated on Jesus’ resurrection, what evidence is there that it happened to Him?

***Matt. 28:12-13*** – The Pharisees paid the guards to report that Jesus’ disciples had stolen His body

***1 Cor. 15:6*** – Over five hundred people at one time saw the risen Jesus.

***1 Cor. 15:54-57*** – Jesus defeated death not just for Him but for you.

1. Jesus alone wants you as a friend. *“Christ also loved the church”* (Eph. 5:25)

Islam – God’s love is limited to a few.

Christianity – God’s love is bestowed upon all.

Baha’i – God is loving, but He is unknowable and unaccessible.

Deists – God has personality, but does not involve Himself in His creation. He “poses no threat and offers no hope.”

Hindus – Our ultimate goal is to unite with Brahman and lose individuality.

***Exodus 3:13-15*** – To Moses, God revealed His name and His relations.

***John 17:20-21*** – Jesus prayed for our unity with God.

***Gen. 2:24*** – Intimate relationships produce joy but maintain individuality.

Greek and Roman mythology – The gods related to humans like they were pets, playthings, or means for their sexual pleasure.

The adherents of Baha’i are correct. Relating to God without help is impossible.

***Isaiah 55:8-9*** – God is unknowable and inaccessible.

***Isaiah 59:2*** – Our sin separates us from God.

***Romans 8:7*** – Our sin made us His enemies.

***Romans 3:11*** – We weren’t seeking a relationship with God.

***2 Tim. 3:16; Isaiah 55:10-11*** – God uses His Word to bridge the gap between us and Him.

***Heb. 1:1-2; John 1:1-2*** – God spoke loudest and with the most clarity through His Son, the Living Word.

***John 1:14; Phil. 2:5-7*** – Communion with us is so important to Him that He became one of us so that we could understand Him.

***Col. 1:15; John 14:8-9*** – Jesus is God made visible, huggable, and relatable.

***1 Tim. 2:5; Eph. 2:16*** – Jesus became man so that He could bring the Father and us together.

***James 2:23; Ex. 33:11; John 15:15*** – God even calls us His friends.

***John 14:1-3; Acts 1:11*** – Our friendship with God can last forever because He’s coming back to get us.

1. Jesus alone is coming back to earth. *“Christ also, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, shall appear a second time.”* (Heb. 9:28)

**Conclusion:** There’s one final reason to choose Jesus over all these other religions. Jesus alone has what you need.

***Ex. 20:2-3; Matt. 22:37; 1 John 2:15-17*** – Jesus loves you; He requires that you love Him with all that you are.

***2 Cor. 6:2*** – Jesus’ offer is limited by time.

***Phil. 2:9-11*** – All Jesus’ competitors will one day know the truth and bow before Him.