

The Anchor Q&A

Why is there only one way?

Introduction – The Lord doesn't want us to be mindless zombies

The best way for me to introduce this lesson is to start from the Christian perspective. The questions we are considering are good and it is proper for us to consider them. Contrary to popular belief, God doesn't want us to be mindless zombies. He wants us to have a loving and obedient heart towards Him built upon a sound knowledge of Him and His ways. Faith is necessary to please God, but it begins with knowledge (Romans 10:17). Most of the time (if not all the time), the Lord gets to our heart through our head.

1 Thessalonians 5:19-22 – Don't despise those who say they are speaking from God. Listen and check out whether what they are saying is true or not.

Acts 17:10-11 – Those people from Berea were more noble than the people from Thessalonica because they searched the scriptures to see if what they were being told was true.

1 Peter 3:15 – A Christian should be able to give a solid defense for the reason they have trusted in Jesus.

The Bible predicted that many would come in and corrupt the truths within Christianity, resulting in the forming of different denominations. The Bible also speaks clearly about the formation of other religions that have no tie to Christianity.

1 Timothy 1:3-7 – People are going to come and preach variations on the truth.

Romans 1:16-25 – Man desired to turn away from God, so God allowed it to happen

Before we begin, let me emphasize one last thing. You can learn everything there is to know about God, but that doesn't replace the need for faith. Faith is believing in something even though you can't see it. Until we leave this flesh, we will not see God. Yet, He has given us plenty of evidence that He exists and that He has revealed Himself through the Bible. Nothing takes away the need to believe.

What is Truth?

John 18:37-38 – "Pilate therefore said unto him, Art thou a king then? Jesus answered, Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice. ³⁸ Pilate saith unto him, What is truth? ..."

The incident recorded above occurred around 30 AD. The question we are considering is not new by any means. Even 2,000 years ago, there were so many different opinions on religion and morality that an individual could feel pretty overwhelmed and begin to question if truth even exists.

Webster's 1828 Dictionary defines truth as, "conformity to fact or reality; exact accordance with that which is, or has been, or shall be." – Truth reflects reality!

Truth is not determined; it is discovered. It is independent of our opinions and actions. It is unchangeable. Consider for example the old belief that the sun revolved around the world. In the 1500's most everyone believed that the earth was the center of the universe. The Catholic Church even declared that belief in the sun being the center of the solar system was heresy. Yet, it didn't change reality. The truth was, is, and will remain the same – the earth revolves around the sun. We can learn from this is that our personal opinion isn't always accurate, not even if everyone agrees with us.

Think of some other examples that illustrate this point. Write down the ones that are meaningful to you.

- A jury convicts an individual accused of a crime, but DNA evidence later shows that they didn't do it.
- Take someone's purse or wallet and act like you aren't going to give it back. Is that wrong? Only if there is a definite moral truth! Where does this end? Anarchy!

Can all religious beliefs be right at the same time?

Before we answer this question, let's look at some prominent religions and learn more about their beliefs.

Islam

God: One God - Allah

Source of truth: Koran

Savior: None – Muhammed was the great prophet

Salvation: By works

After-life: Heaven

Buddhism

God: There may be one, but it isn't worth figuring out

Source of truth: Writings of Buddha and other leaders

Savior: None

Salvation: Simplicity and meditation – going into nothingness

After-life: Nirvana

Hinduism

God: Many gods

Source of truth:

Savior: None

Salvation: Works

After-life: Reincarnation based on deeds in this life

Judaism

God: One God – The Lord

Source of truth: Afterlife

Savior: Waiting for one

Salvation: By works

After-life: Heaven & Hell

Humanism

God: None

Source of truth: Man

Savior: Doesn't need one

Salvation: Saved from what?

After-life: None

Christianity

God: One God in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

Source of truth: Bible

Savior: Jesus Christ

Salvation: By grace through faith

After-life: Heaven or Hell

To believe that all of these different religions are true, you must change the definition of truth or come up with another source of truth. No honest interpretation of Islam, Christianity, Judaism, Buddhism, or Hinduism allows these religions to exist side by side because they make statements that directly contradict on another.

How can I find the truth?

We've found that man alone is not a good source of truth because he is often wrong. We must find a source beyond man if we will find truth. May I suggest you consider the Bible? Look at the next lesson regarding the accuracy of the Bible for an explanation of the origin of Scripture, proofs of its Divine authorship and its reliability as a source of truth.