

TODAY'S LESSON

“THE PATH TO SALVATION”

(John 14:1-6)

By Karl VanDevender



*Sunday evening lesson live stream
4:00 PM ^{CDT} July 19, 2026*



"The Path to Salvation"

Initial outline by Mark Copeland,

www.executableoutlines.com

Modifications and Presentation by Karl VanDevender

June 2008, Pew Research Center Survey

People who said,
“Many religions can lead to eternal life”:

- Hindus - 89%
- Buddhists - 86%
- Mainline churches - 83%
- Jewish - 82%
- Catholic - 79%
- Orthodox - 72%
- Evangelical churches - 57%
- Muslim - 56%
- Mormon - 39%
- Jehovah's Witnesses - 18%

September 2021, Pew Research Center Survey

People who said,

“People who don’t believe in God can go to heaven”:

- All U.S. adults -39%
- Christian -45%
- Protestant -34%
- Evangelical -21%
- Mainline -56%
- Catholic -68%
- Unaffiliated -27%
- Atheist -2%
- Agnostic -21%
- Nothing in particular -35%

These Responses Are Striking

- A large percentage don't believe salvation requires a belief in God
- Among Catholics and mainline Protestants, this view is overwhelming
- Even a significant portion of "evangelicals" agree

Implications

- Most people believe there are many paths to salvation
- This raises the question:

What Does The Bible Reveal
About Salvation?

Salvation According To Jesus

Mat 7:13-14

"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. (14) Because narrow *is* the gate and difficult *is* the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.

- He said the way to life is difficult and narrow, and few find it - **Mat 7:13-14**

Salvation According To Jesus

Joh 8:24

Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for if you do not believe that I am *He*, you will die in your sins."

- He said the way to life is difficult and narrow, and few find it - **Mat 7:13-14**
- He taught that unless we believe in Him, we will die in our sins - **Joh 8:24**

Salvation According To Jesus

Joh 14:6

Jesus said to him,
"I am the way, the
truth, and the life.
No one comes to
the Father except
through Me.

- He said the way to life is difficult and narrow, and few find it - **Mat 7:13-14**
- He taught that unless we believe in Him, we will die in our sins - **Joh 8:24**
- He claimed to be the only way to the Father – **Joh 14:6**

Salvation According to His Apostles

Act 4:12

Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

- Peter said salvation is found only in Jesus' name - **Act 4:12**

Salvation According to His Apostles

1Jn 2:23

Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father either; he who acknowledges the Son has the Father also.

- Peter said salvation is found only in Jesus' name - **Act 4:12**
- John said whoever denies the Son does not have the Father - **1Joh 2:23**

Salvation According to His Apostles

2Th 1:7-8 and to give you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, (8) in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

- Peter said salvation is found only in Jesus' name - **Act 4:12**
- John said whoever denies the Son does not have the Father - **1Joh 2:23**
- Paul said those who do not obey the gospel of Jesus Christ will experience vengeance when Jesus comes again – **2Th 1:7-8**

Summarizing

- There is only one path to salvation
- Jesus and His apostles were clear: salvation comes through Jesus Christ.
- If these points are not true, the belief in many paths has serious implications

If There Are Many Paths to Salvation Consider

- Jesus lied when He said no one comes to the Father except through Him - **Joh 14:6**
- His apostles lied when they taught that salvation comes only through Jesus - **Act 4:12**

If There Are Many Paths to Salvation Consider (cont.)

- Jesus' suffering and death on the cross were unnecessary
- Why die for our sins if other paths to salvation exist?
- Why suffer such an excruciating death if it was not necessary?

If There Are Many Paths to Salvation Consider (cont.)

- The apostles' suffering and deaths were unnecessary
- Why did apostles like Paul endure such hardships? - cf. 2Co 11:23-29
- Why did the apostles endure martyrdom if it was not necessary?
- Why not simply live as fishermen, tentmakers, and the like?

If There Are Many Paths to Salvation Consider (Cont.)

- Every day Christians suffered as Christ's disciples

Joh 15:20 Remember the word that I said to you, 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they kept My word, they will keep yours also.

Rom 8:17 and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.

Pulling It Together

- If we profess to be Christians,
 - We must believe there is only one path to salvation: through Jesus.
- With that conviction established,
 - We can now review the Gospel plan of salvation.

The Bible's Path to Salvation

Rom 10:17 So
then faith comes by
hearing, and
hearing by the word
of God.

- We Must Hear the Good News
- Faith comes by hearing the Word of God - **Rom 10:17**

The Bible's Path to Salvation

Act 10:42-43 And He commanded us to preach to the people, and to testify that it is He who was ordained by God to be Judge of the living and the dead. (43) To Him all the prophets witness that, through His name, whoever believes in Him will receive remission of sins."

- We Must Hear the Good News
- Faith comes by hearing the Word of God - **Rom 10:17**
- That is why Jesus sent apostles and preachers – **Act 10:42-43**

The Bible's Path to Salvation (Cont.)

Joh 3:16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

- We Must Believe in Jesus
- He is the Son of God, sent by the Father because He loved us –
Joh 3:16

The Bible's Path to Salvation (Cont.)

1Jn 4:9-10 In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. (10) In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

- We Must Believe in Jesus
 - He is the Son of God, sent by the Father because He loved us –
Joh 3:16
 - He is the propitiation, the atoning sacrifice God offered for our sins -
1Joh 4:9-10

The Bible's Path to Salvation (Cont.)

Eph 1:7 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace

- We Must Believe in Jesus
- He is the Son of God, sent by the Father because He loved us – **Joh 3:16**
- He is the propitiation, the atoning sacrifice God offered for our sins - **1Joh 4:9-10**
- His blood provides redemption and forgiveness of sins - **Eph 1:7**

The Bible's Path to Salvation (Cont.)

Act 17:30-31 Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, (31) because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead."

- We Must Repent of Our Sins
- Jesus is coming to judge the world - **Act 17:30-31**

The Bible's Path to Salvation (Cont.)

Act 26:18 to open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me.'

- We Must Repent of Our Sins
- Jesus is coming to judge the world - **Act 17:30-31**
- We must turn from darkness to light, and from Satan's power to God - **Act 26:18**

The Bible's Path to Salvation (Cont.)

Luk 13:3 I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish.

- We Must Repent of Our Sins
- Jesus is coming to judge the world - **Act 17:30-31**
- We must turn from darkness to light, and from Satan's power to God - **Act 26:18**
- Otherwise, we will perish – **Luk 13:3**

The Bible's Path to Salvation (Cont.)

Mat 10:32-33 "Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. (33) But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven.

- We Must Confess Jesus as Our Lord
- If we want Jesus to confess us before His Father in heaven -
Mat 10:32-33

The Bible's Path to Salvation (Cont.)

Rom 10:9-10 that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. (10) For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

- We Must Confess Jesus as Our Lord
- If we want Jesus to confess us before His Father in heaven -
Mat 10:32-33
- If we want to receive the salvation He offers –
Rom 10:9-10

The Bible's Path to Salvation (Cont.)

Mar 16:15-16 And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. (16) He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.

- We Must Be Baptized into Christ
- To be saved - Mar 16:15-16

The Bible's Path to Salvation (Cont.)

Act 2:38 Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

- We Must Be Baptized into Christ
- To be saved - **Mar 16:15-16**
- To receive remission of sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit - **Act 2:38**

The Bible's Path to Salvation (Cont.)

Rom 6:3-4 Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? (4) Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

- We Must Be Baptized into Christ
- To be saved - **Mar 16:15-16**
- To receive remission of sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit - **Act 2:38**
- To be raised with Christ from death to newness of life – **Rom 6:3-4**

The Bible's Path to Salvation (Cont.)

Mat 28:19-20 **Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, (20) teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."** Amen.

- We Must Remain Faithful to Jesus
- To learn from Him as His disciples - **Mat 28:19-20**

The Bible's Path to Salvation (Cont.)

Luk 6:40 A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone who is perfectly trained will be like his teacher.

- We Must Remain Faithful to Jesus
- To learn from Him as His disciples - Mat 28:19-20
- To imitate Him as our Teacher - Luk 6:40

The Bible's Path to Salvation (Cont.)

Rev 2:10 Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer.

Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.

- We Must Remain Faithful to Jesus
- To learn from Him as His disciples - **Mat 28:19-20**
- To imitate Him as our Teacher - **Luk 6:40**
- To remain faithful to Him, even to death - **Rev 2:10**

Conclusion

Joh 8:31-32 Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed.

(32) And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

- Believing there are many paths to salvation may seem... *Comforting, Tolerant, Loving*
- But those who truly believe in Jesus must abide in His teaching - **Joh 8:31-32**
- That few will be saved
- That Jesus is the only way to the Father
- That we must obey His Gospel plan of salvation
- That we must follow Him as our Teacher for the rest of our lives

The Path To Salvation Is Clear

- Hear the good news,
- Believe in Jesus,
- Repent of your sin,
- Confess Jesus as Lord,
- Be baptized into Christ, and
- Remain faithful to Him.

Introspective Questions

- Have you heard the gospel of Jesus Christ?

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- Do you believe in Jesus and His sacrificial death?

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- Have you decided to turn from your sins?
- Have you confessed Jesus as Christ, and Son of God?

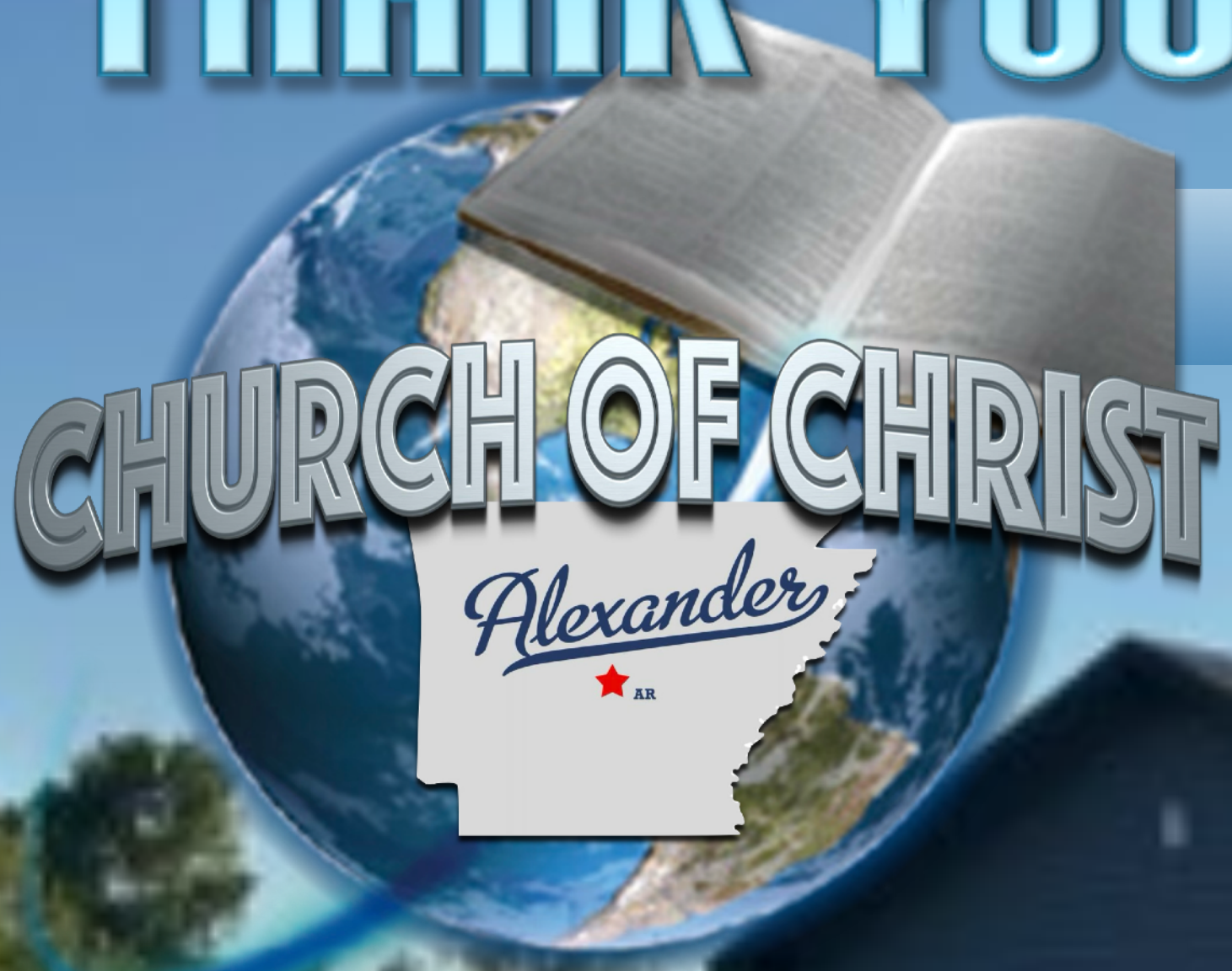
Introspective Questions

- Have you heard the gospel of Jesus Christ?
- Do you believe in Jesus and His sacrificial death?
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- Have you been baptized for the remission of your sins?

Introspective Questions

- Have you heard the gospel of Jesus Christ?
- Do you believe in Jesus and His sacrificial death?
- Have you decided to turn from your sins?
- Have you confessed Jesus as Christ, and Son of God?
- Have you been baptized for the remission of your sins?
- Have you made Jesus your lifelong Teacher and Savior?

THANK YOU FOR BEING WITH US TODAY



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And All of Our Services!

MEETING TIMES:

Sunday A.M. Bible Study: 9:00
Sunday A.M. Assembly: 10:00
Sunday P.M. Assembly: 4:00
Wed. P.M. Bible Study: 7:00

