

## **Core Seminars – Christian Living**

### **Missions:**

*Week 6 – July 13, 2003*

### **IS JESUS THE ONLY WAY TO GOD?**

#### **I. The Christian Claim of Exclusivity**

John 14:6: “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

#### **II. The Secular Person’s Objections**

On what grounds do Christians base their claim that those in possession of the winning ticket will be rewarded with everlasting life, while those not clever enough to calculate the final outcome will be sentenced to an everlasting torment?

#### **III. Christians believe that all men have a grave problem in that they are under God’s just judgment of death because of their sin.**

People are not punished merely for being mistaken and for failing to recognize Jesus as God’s Son. They are punished for their sinful ways and their rebellion against God.

Romans 3:10-20 “There is no one righteous, not even one; there is no one who understands, no one who seeks God. All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one. Their throats are open graves; their tongues practice deceit. The poison of vipers is on their lips. Their mouths are full of cursing and bitterness. Their feet are swift to shed blood; ruin and misery mark their ways, and the way of peace they do not know. There is no fear of God before their eyes.” Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world held accountable to God. **Therefore, no one will be declared righteous in his sight by observing the law; rather through the law we become conscious of sin.**”

#### **IV. So how are people saved?**

Acts 4:12 “And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved:

**Other religions are inadequate to forgive sin**

**Christ alone is sufficient for the forgiveness of sins**

#### **V. Can people be saved through Christ without realizing it is Christ who saves them?**

##### **A. The Unknown God (Acts 17:23, 30)**

##### **B. Is there a present-day analog to those who had faith in the Old Testament? (John 8, Acts 17, Romans 16, Eph. 3)**

### **What about Cornelius? - Acts 10 & 11 and Inclusivist error.**

#### **C. Romans 10**

Belief precondition for faith

Hearing precondition for believing

Someone telling them is precondition for hearing (rules out people meeting Christ apart from messenger).

#### **I. The Charge of Narrowness**

What about the person who has never heard? Scripture demonstrates that he will be punished for his sins because he has not trusted in Christ for the forgiveness of sins. Is this incredibly narrow and unfair?

### **The Gospel: What God has done or what he MIGHT have done? (Romans 8 and 9)**

#### **II. The Relationship to Missions**

Sovereignty and Urgency in tension

**God’s glory in showing mercy to sinners remains the goal and the motivation.**

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Next Week? **Taking the Gospel to All Nations.**