

Who Will Be In Heaven?

by Douglas Hoff

Most people are religious to a certain degree. However, not all people profess to be Christians. Some follow other well known world religions like Judaism, Buddhism or Hinduism. In this county there are those who find personal meaning in astrology, crystals or witchcraft. Many who reject traditional and non-traditional religions are still religious. Evolutionists may be surprised to learn their belief has been declared a religion by the Supreme Court. It's not too hard to understand why. Though it is false, evolution deals with the origin of life. It is false because it is based on the notion that life can arise from inanimate matter. There is absolutely no evidence to support such an idea.

Though the various religions have differing beliefs about many things, most hold out hope for life after death (with evolution being a notable exception). Man seeks for meaning and purpose in this life. Most religions offer this. Man also wants to know what will happen after death. While certain groups believe in reincarnation or annihilation most teach the soul lives on eternally. Of course, even on this point there are some differences. Some think the body will live forever in a physical form while most hold to the idea that the next life will consist of an immaterial and spiritual body.

With all these differences, can they all be right? Clearly, the answer is no unless one accepts that truth is not consistent. Perhaps the most important question is what happens to an individual after death? Most religions adhere to some concept of heaven. However, with only a few exceptions (like Universalism), most religions teach this place or state is reserved only for the faithful. Have you ever considered why this belief is so prevalent? Could it be that throughout the ages many have concluded the Bible is right after all?

It is beyond the scope of this article to prove the Bible is the inspired and inerrant word of God. However, previous articles have given evidence of this fact. The Bible is truly the basis for all that mankind can ever know about the purpose of this life, how to live acceptably in the sight of the Creator and how heaven will be the eternal abode for those who faithfully follow its doctrines.

The Son of God taught that few will actually be admitted into heaven when this life is done. On one occasion Jesus was asked, "LORD, ARE THERE FEW THAT BE SAVED? AND HE SAID UNTO THEM, STRIVE TO ENTER IN AT THE STRAIT GATE: FOR MANY, I SAY UNTO YOU, WILL SEEK TO ENTER IN, AND SHALL NOT BE ABLE" (**Luke 13:23-24**; cf. **Matthew 7:14**). Why will they not be admitted into heaven? Christ answered "NOT EVERY ONE THAT SAITH UNTO ME, LORD, LORD, SHALL ENTER INTO THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN; BUT HE THAT DOETH THE WILL OF MY FATHER WHICH IS IN HEAVEN (**Matthew 7:21**). This message also applies to those who appear religious. The Lord continued by saying, "MANY WILL SAY TO ME IN THAT DAY, LORD, LORD, HAVE WE NOT PROPHESED IN THY NAME? AND IN THY NAME HAVE CAST OUT DEVILS? AND IN THY NAME DONE MANY WONDERFUL WORKS? AND THEN WILL I PROFESS UNTO THEM, I NEVER KNEW YOU: DEPART FROM ME, YE THAT WORK INIQUITY" (**Matthew 7:22-23**).

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Entry into heaven requires more than being religious. To access everlasting life one must do the will of God. Followers of false religions will be denied a heavenly home. Unfortunately, eternal punishment awaits the vast majority of mankind (**II Thessalonians 1:7-9**). Jesus said only a few would be saved. Are you among that number? Have you obeyed the gospel?

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