

# The God Questions: Do All Roads Lead to Heaven?

Wylie United Methodist Church  
Pastor Jeff Hatcher – April 21, 2013

Matt 7:13-23

[Jesus said] 13 "Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. 14 But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it. 15 "Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. 16 By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? 17 Likewise every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. 18 A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. 19 Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. 20 Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them. 21 "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. 22 Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?' 23 Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!'

John 10:9 I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved.

\*\* TOP RELIGIONS OF THE WORLD \*\*

## BUDDHISM (6%):

- Founder - Siddhartha Gautama (563 B.C.)
- At age 40 meditated under fig tree for 40 days
- Became known as "The Buddha" which means "Enlightened One"
- Reality (God) is undefinable (Buddha maintained "noble silence")
- Discovered the Four Noble Truths:
  1. Suffering is Universal
  2. Craving is the Root Cause of Suffering
  3. Cure for Suffering is to Eliminate Craving
  4. Eliminate Craving by following the Eightfold Path:
    - Right Views    - Right Thoughts    - Right Speech
    - Right Behavior    - Right Occupation    - Right Effort
    - Right Contemplation    - Right Meditation
- The ultimate goal is freedom from pain and suffering in this life
- You accomplish that by detaching yourself from it (life that is)

## HINDUISM (14%):

- Began around 3000 B.C.
- Brahman is impersonal, universal force that governs the universe
- Brahman is universal circle of life that ordains everything
- Goal is to live a good life (karma) and move up in next life (reincarnation)
- Ultimate goal is to advance to pure spirit and achieve oneness with Brahman and achieve Nirvana (blown away)

## SECULARISM / NON-RELIGIOUS (15%):

### ISLAM (21%):

- Founded by Mohammed in 610 A.D.
- Had visitation from angel Gabriel
- Revealed that Allah (moon god) was only "true" God
- Five Pillars of Islam:
  - Recite the shahada (There is no god but Allah, and Mohammed is his prophet.)
  - Pray (salat) five times a day facing Mecca
  - Give (zakat) alms to the poor
  - Fast (sawm) during the month of Ramadan
  - Perform a pilgrimage (hajj) to Mecca at least once

### CHRISTIANITY (32%):

- One God (creator of everything)
- God is holy and righteous
- All people are sinners
- The punishment for sin is death
- God is just and demand payment, but God is also merciful
- How can God be merciful while maintaining justice?
  - By demanding payment, and then paying it Himself.
  - That's called grace!

### CONCLUSION:

Jesus said...

- The Wide gate leads to Death and Destruction – many enter it
- The Narrow gate leads to Life – few enter it
- Jesus said... "I AM THE NARROW GATE"!!
- "I LEAD TO ETERNAL LIFE" "OTHER GATES DON'T"