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NOT ALL ROADS LEAD TO HEAVEN DEVOTIONAL

100 Daily Readings about Our Only Hope for Eternal Life

Dr. Robert Jeffress



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To the faithful supporters of *Pathway to Victory*, who help us illuminate the only Way to heaven.

DAY 1

Christianity's Most Offensive Belief

The gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are few who find it.

-Matthew 7:14

Right now, conservative Christians are waffling and wavering on the foundational belief of Christianity: that salvation is available only through Jesus Christ. A recent Pew survey revealed that 44 percent of American Christians—including almost a fourth of evangelical Christians—say that other religions can lead to eternal life in heaven.¹

You may say, "As long as I believe in Jesus, what difference does it make if there are other ways to heaven?" The difference it makes is this: what you believe about the exclusivity of Christ for salvation determines whether you spend eternity in heaven or in hell.

If you think that's an exaggeration, consider this illustration. Suppose you want to travel to Houston from Dallas. But instead of driving south to Houston, you mistakenly go north to Oklahoma. No matter how sincere you are, if you keep traveling north, you will never get to Houston.

You are going the wrong way.

The way to heaven is narrow, and it is only through Jesus Christ.

Jesus said if you want to go to heaven, there's only one way to get there: "Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it. For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life,

and there are few who find it" (Matt. 7:13–14). The way to heaven is narrow, and it is only through Jesus Christ.

Do you believe that Jesus Christ is the only way to heaven?

Why do you think the exclusivity of Christ for salvation matters?

Lord, thank You for providing a way for me to have eternal life in heaven with You. Help me to stand strong in the belief that salvation comes only through Your Son.

DAY 2

Finding the Right Way to Heaven

How can a man be in the right before God?

—Job 9:2

In Matthew 7:13–14, Jesus said the way to heaven is narrow, and few people find it. He also slammed the door on any possibility of another route to heaven. In John 14:6, He said, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me."

Let's say you have decided that Jesus is the only way to heaven, and you're trusting in Him, but then you find out Jesus was wrong about that. You discover that in fact there are many roads to heaven. If Jesus is wrong, then He can't be the Son of God, because God knows everything. If Jesus isn't the Son of God, then when He died on the cross, He died for His own sins, not for our sins, and Christianity is

false. If Christianity isn't true, then that still doesn't help you determine which road to get on to go to heaven, because there are thousands of religions you can choose from. So if Jesus is wrong, how do you find the right way to heaven?

It's crucial to understand the doctrine of the exclusivity of Christ. This issue of the exclusivity of Christ is the essence of Job 9:2: "How can a man be in the right before God?" How you answer that question affects not only your eternal destiny but the destiny of your family, your friends, and the entire world. That's why it's crucial to understand the doctrine of the exclu-

sivity of Christ: so that you can stand firm in your beliefs and point the people around you to the only way to heaven.

How does the belief that Jesus is the only way to heaven affect your faith?

How would your faith be different if there were actually many ways to heaven?

Lord, I'm trusting in You for my salvation. Give me opportunities to show other people the only way they, too, can "be in the right" before You.

DAY 3

Christians Are Being Outfought

The LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife, and clothed them.

-Genesis 3:21

Why are Christians in America losing the battle for the exclusivity of Jesus Christ for salvation? First of all, we're being outfought on the issue of exclusivity. This issue is ground zero for the larger battle between the kingdom of God and the kingdom of Satan. It's the heart of everything God is trying to do and everything Satan is trying to do. The eternal issue for humanity is this: Will you accept God's way of forgiveness through Christ, or will you try to manufacture your own way to God?

Ever since Adam and Eve fell into sin in the garden of Eden, humans have attempted to cover their sin. When This issue is **GROUND ZERO** FOR THE LARGER BATTLE BETWEEN THE KINGDOM OF GOD AND THE KINGDOM OF SATAN.

Adam and Eve sinned, they tried to manufacture their own covering of fig leaves to cover their guilt. That didn't work. God came to them; He killed an animal, took the skin of that animal, and offered it as a covering for Adam and Eve. They had a choice: they could keep their own self-manufactured covering, or they could accept God's covering. That's what the word *atonement* means. It means "covering."

Adam and Eve accepted God's covering for their sin. Later, they had a son named Cain. Cain tried to approach God on his own terms, and God rejected Cain's approach. Every false religion is an adaption of the way of Cain—trying to approach God on your own terms.

The largest issue we face in life is this: Will we follow God's way of salvation, or will we follow our own way?

How have you tried to manufacture your own "covering" for your sin? What was the result?

How does our choice of covering reflect the battle between God and Satan?

God, I'm grateful for the covering You have provided for my sin. Help me to understand the importance of choosing to accept Your way of forgiveness.



Why Satan Loves Religion

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

—John 10:10

Because we were created as spiritual beings, we all have a desire to be reconciled to God, and Satan knows that. That's why Satan doesn't hate religion; he loves religion because it appeals to our desire to be reconciled to God. Satan uses religion to deceive people away from the true way of knowing God.

For example, let's say you are lost in a mountain range at night. But there is a single star illuminating the only way to safety. That's a no-brainer—you follow the light. But suppose instead of one light there are a thousand lights that each illuminate a different path, and 999 of those paths will lead you over a cliff. Suddenly it's much more confusing, isn't it?

It's the same way with the world's religions. Satan uses religion as a false light to lead people away from the true light, Jesus Christ. That's why we cannot underestimate Satan's desire to deceive people away from Jesus Christ. In John 8:44, Jesus said Satan is a liar. In John 10:10, He said Satan "comes only to steal and kill and destroy."

Satan's number one aim is to take as many people to hell as possible, and how is he doing it? By deceiving people into following other religions that turn people away from faith in Jesus Christ alone.

Satan uses religion to deceive people away from the true way of knowing God.

Most people don't understand that we're in a spiritual battle. "Our struggle is not against flesh and blood," Paul said, "but . . . against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places" (Eph. 6:12). We are being outfought on the issue of the exclusivity of Christ.

How does Satan use false religion to deceive people?

What can you do to fight back against this deception and point people to the true Light of the World?

Lord, I know we're in a spiritual battle for the message of the gospel. Help me to recognize Satan's schemes and give me the courage to combat his lies with Your truth.

DAY 5

Christians Are Being Outargued

I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes.

-Romans 1:16

Christians in America are losing the battle about the exclusivity of Christ because, frankly, we are being outargued by the world on this issue.

Sometimes people wonder why I spend time and effort in the secular media. I think about a story I heard from an associate of Jerry Falwell. He said one time he was with Dr. Falwell, who always gave interviews in the secular media, and this interview had been a particularly tough one. After the interview, Dr. Falwell got in the car with this associate, and the associate said, "Dr. Falwell, why do you subject yourself to that? Why do you let people beat up on you in the media like that?"

WE HAVE TO PRESENT GOD'S TRUTH BECAUSE THE CHRISTIAN MESSAGE IS BEING DISTORTED BY THE MEDIA TODAY. Jerry smiled and said, "Just think about it: I got four minutes to share biblical truth with millions of people, and it didn't cost us a cent to do it." It's always wise to take advantage of those opportunities to share God's truth.

We have to present God's truth because the Christian message is being distorted by the media today. For example, the issue of the sanctity of life has been twisted into a war on women's health. The conviction that marriage should be between one man and one woman has been twisted into hatred and bigotry. The good news that Christ has offered forgiveness to everybody who believes in Him has been twisted into a message of intolerance and condemnation of sincere followers of other faiths. Christians are being outargued, so we have to take advantage of opportunities to share the truth of God's Word.

In what ways have you seen the Christian message being distorted?

How do you take advantage of opportunities to share God's truth instead?

God, it can be frustrating to see Your message distorted by the world. May I take advantage of opportunities to share the truth of Your Word, and may the people around me be receptive.



You Are God's Representative

We are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

-2 Corinthians 5:20

In order for Christians not to be outargued on the issue of the exclusivity of Christ for salvation, we have to take advantage of opportunities to share God's truth.

We have to be willing to argue God's point of view in the public square, but we also have to be equipped to do so. Think about the apostle Paul. When he argued for the gospel, he came armed not just with Scripture but also with compelling reasoning and logic and vivid illustrations to undergird those logical points. And I believe we're going YOU ARE THE FINAL LINK IN A LONG CHAIN OF **EVENTS BETWEEN** GOD AND ANOTHER PERSON WHO NEEDS TO HEAR THE GOSPEL MESSAGE.

to have to do the same if we're going to win this argument in the public square.

In 2 Corinthians 5:20, Paul said, "We are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God." God left you and me here for one reason: to be God's mouth-pieces in this world. You are the final link in a long chain of events between God and another person who needs to hear the gospel message. And that's why God has left us here: to be His representatives and share His message that Jesus Christ is the only way to receive the gift of eternal life. But if we're going to be effective in that assignment, we have to know what the message is, and we have to be prepared to share that message in the public square.

Are you sometimes hesitant to share God's truth?

What keeps you from taking advantage of opportunities to argue for the Christian message?

Heavenly Father, I know You have called me to be Your representative. Forgive me for being afraid or ashamed, and give me courage to take Your message to those who need to hear it



Christians Are Being Outmarketed

The god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ.

-2 Corinthians 4:4

Not only are Christians being outfought and outargued but we're also being outmarketed on the issue of the exclusivity of Jesus Christ for salvation. In Ephesians 2:2, when Paul described Satan as "the prince of the power of the air," I wonder if he had in mind what Anne Sweeney, former president of Disney-ABC Television Group, referred to as "the most powerful medium in the world"—television.¹

Television is a very powerful medium. Did you know the average American adult spends three hours a day watching television, and another two and a half hours watching

digital video?² Think of the messages that are being endlessly pumped into people's minds. When it comes to the issue of spirituality, the message coming from television is antagonistic toward the idea that there's only one way to be saved, and that's through faith in Jesus Christ. And not only television but radio, movies, print, the internet—all spewing forth the lie that there are many ways to God other than faith in Christ.

It's true that Christians are trying to utilize the media as well to voice opposition to that message of inclusivism. We're trying to drown it out, but frankly, it's impossible to drown out. The good news is we don't have to. You see, this battle about the ex-

This battle about the exclusivity of Jesus Christ is not an air war; it's a ground war.

clusivity of Jesus Christ is not an air war; it's a ground war. And the foot soldiers are you and me.

In what ways have you seen the world marketing the lie that there are many ways to heaven?

What can you do to combat this marketing?

Lord, when it seems like the gospel message is being drowned out, help me to remember that Your Word stands forever! Give me the strength to continue spreading Your truth.