

There Are Many Paths To God – the Urban Legends Series

Intro:

- (on cell phone) “Just a minute. You say I need to take two of these pills every day or I’ll die. Uh huh. But I don’t like these pills. They’re yellow. I want blue pills. Blue are SO much better for my psyche. Yellow pills don’t match my furniture. Plus, these are oblong and I got to tell you, they really mess up the feng shui thing I have going in my medicine drawer. (continue until – what do you mean it is this or nothing? How narrow minded can you be???)
- Hello, triple A? I have to get to Knoxville, TN this weekend. Uh huh. Yes, I know about Interstate 75. That’s what you sent me. I’ve got the Trip-Tik right there in my briefcase. See, here’s the problem. I want to go via Thunder Bay. Yea, the one in Ontario. Impossible? Can’t be. How about flying? I can fly? Great! I want to take British Airways from Lake Orion to Knoxville. Okay, from Detroit to Knoxville. (continue with Aer Lingus, Amtrak, Aeroflot.... If it has to be Northwest, then I want to leave on Saturday at 2PM. You have one at 1:25? That’s too early. It has to be 2...)
- Hello, Chase Bank? Yea, thanks for getting back to me. I’m well aware I haven’t paid anything on my mortgage for the last two months but that’s only if you are talking about money. I’ve been praying for you and that has to be worth something. You don’t understand – praying takes time and effort and I’ve driven down there four times, walked around the building, raised my hands, and prayed. Plus, I did an interpretive dance in your parking lot extolling all your virtues and how pretty your tellers are via abstract jazzercise movements. What? You want money? How narrow minded can you be?

I. Wagon Wheel or Narrow Road?

- A.** You get the point. I can well remember the day my teacher drew a wagon wheel on the chalkboard. “There are many pathways to God.”
- B.** Let me go on the record here: I wish that were true. Problem is, I run into the same problem here that I just

ran into with the doctor, Triple A, and Chase Bank – the facts don't seem to match up with my preferences.

1. John 14:1-4. Jesus risks offending all people everywhere with this statement. He probably knew that, don't you think? (the OSU story)
 2. Jesus just doesn't leave this alone. In his first sermon, he drew a serious and deep line in the sand. (Matt.7:13,14) He used a word that meant it was a difficult, twisting path to Him.
 3. As he ended his earthly ministry, he claimed all authority and power. All means all. And that is offensive to the wagon wheel crowd.
- C. We follow Jesus' apostles and find that they didn't lighten up a bit on this point. Acts 4:12.
- D. Paul says that it is at the name of Jesus that every knee shall bow. (Romans 14:11 and then Phil. 2:9-11)
- E. Can we then take Jesus, and love Jesus, and declare our faith in Jesus and leave it at that? No. Jesus won't let us. (John 14:15; 15:10) He requires not just believe and confession of his name, but that whole "bend the knee" thing!

II. Gateway

- A. Let's come to terms with this: Jesus IS the way, truth and the life. He wasn't lying about that. There is no other savior, no other name and no one comes to the Father without coming to Jesus and bowing before him.
- B. So...when and how do we do that?
- C. Acts 2:37,38. This matches what Jesus told his apostles to do in Matthew 28:18-20.
- D. As we go through Acts we see examples, one after another, of people who, once they realized they were lost, were baptized the same hour of the night. There was no hesitation.
- E. Paul – back when he was still called Saul of Tarsus – saw Jesus, called him Lord, fasted and prayed for three days – and yet was told he had to be baptized to wash away his sins. Acts 22:16.
- F. There are only two instances in Scripture where we are told how to get "into Christ." Romans 6:3 and Gal. 3:27.

Shall we review? There is only one way to God and that is through Jesus Christ. No exceptions are mentioned or hinted at in Scripture. You might want there to be exceptions, but in every other aspect of life (medicine, travel, law, money) we understand that some things are very, very exclusive. Can't we understand that about salvation, too?

Since there is only one way, truth, and life, we must listen to him about how to bow our knee to him. He tells us that it begins with baptism. Who are we to say otherwise?