

**IF Week #4**  
**May 7, 2023**



## **How Can Jesus Be The Only Way To God?**

**John 14:6**

*Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.*

1. Fulfilled Old Testament Prophecies Regarding Jesus

2. A Life Of Working Miracles

3. The Resurrection

1 Corinthians 15:3-8

*<sup>3</sup>For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, <sup>4</sup>that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, <sup>5</sup>and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. <sup>6</sup>Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. <sup>7</sup>Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. <sup>8</sup>Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me.*

*"About this time there lived Jesus, a wise man [if indeed one ought to call him a man.] For he was one who wrought surprising feats and was a teacher of such people as accept the truth gladly. He won over many Jews and many of the Greeks. [He was the Christ.] When Pilate, upon hearing him accused by men of the highest standing amongst us, had condemned him to be crucified, those who had in the first place come to love him did not give up their affection for him. [On the third day he appeared to them restored to life, for the prophets of God had prophesied these and countless other marvelous things about him.] And the tribe of the Christians, so called after him, has still to this day not disappeared." Flavius Josephus*

4. A Legacy Of Changed Lives

*"Through Him movements have been set in motion which have made society for what mankind believes to be its best - the inward transformation in human lives, in political order, in the production and distribution of goods to meet the physical needs of men, in healing physical ills, in the relations between races and between nations, in art, in religion and in the achievements of the human intellect. Gauged by the consequences which have followed, the birth, life and resurrection of Jesus have been most important events in the history of man. Measured by His influence, Jesus is central in the human story."*

Kenneth Scott Latourette

## **What About All The Other Religions?**

### **Options**

- 1) None Are Correct (No way to God)
- 2) All Are Correct (Yet they contradict each other)
- 3) Only One Is Correct

### **Recommendation For Investigation**

- 1) Pick The Religions And Their Leaders Which You Think Have The Most Merit, i.e.:
  - Confucianism (Confucius)
  - Buddhism (Siddhartha Guantama)
  - Islam (Mohammad)
  - Christianity (Jesus)
- 2) Pick A Handful Of The Most Critical Evaluative Issues And Do A Comparative Study, i.e.:
  - Teachings
  - Moral Life
  - Miracles
  - Prophetic Power
  - Present Status

### **Religions & Their Leaders**

- 1) Confucianism (Confucius)  
From China  
551 B.C. – 479 B.C.  
Largest following at one time = 300 million  
Only 6 million now

2) Buddhism (Buddha)  
Siddhartha Guantama  
From India  
563 B.C. – 483 B.C.  
360 million followers

3) Islam (Mohammad)  
570 A.D.  
1.2 billion followers

4) Christianity (Jesus)  
2 billion followers

**\*Note:** Hinduism is not included because:  
no central leader associated  
no single God represented  
some consider it a social system more than a religion

### **Areas Of Contrast**

1) Teaching

- Confucius
  - “Analects”
  - Wisdom editor only
- Buddha
  - Four Noble Truths (took from Hinduism)
  - First writing 400 years later (oral tradition)
    - “Scholars are increasingly reluctant to make unqualified claims about the historical facts of the Buddha’s life & teachings” –  
Wikipedia
- Mohammad
  - Koran
- Jesus
  - Old Testament & New Testament of the Bible

## 2) Moral Life

- Confucius
  - OK but not perfect
- Buddha
  - OK but not perfect
- Mohammad
  - Many moral struggles
  - Violated his own teaching (exceeding # of wives)
  - Changed his own teaching mid stream
- Jesus
  - Perfect

## 3) Miracles

- Confucius – none
- Buddha – none
- Mohammad – none
- Jesus – many
  - Not “if”, but “how”

## 4) Prophetic Power

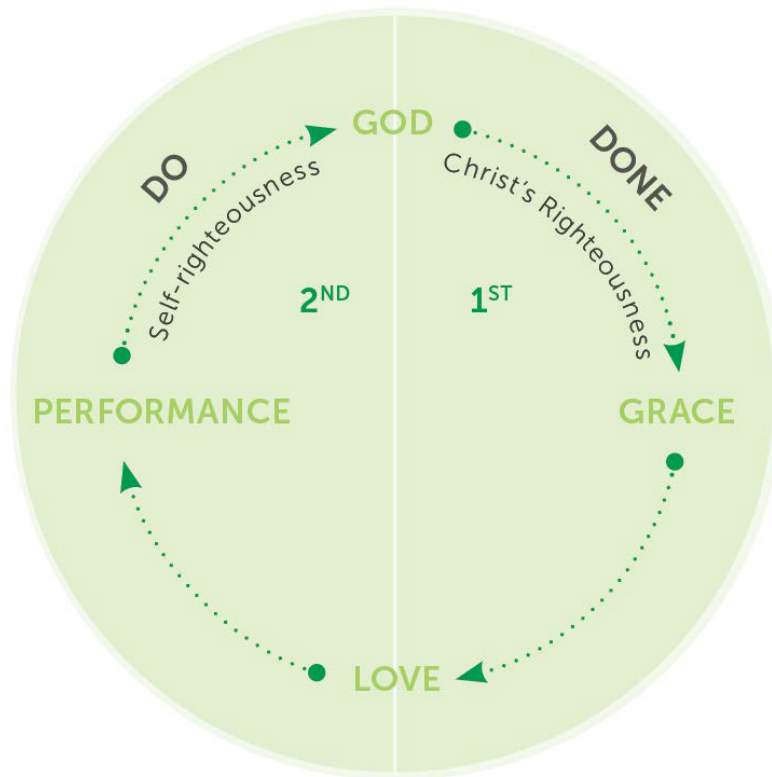
- Confucius – none
- Buddha – none
- Mohammad – few
- Jesus – constantly

## 5) Present Status

- Only Jesus claimed to be alive/overcoming death

# What Would Jesus Say Is Required To Have Eternal Life?

## 1. Do / Done Diagram



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## 2. Two Beliefs

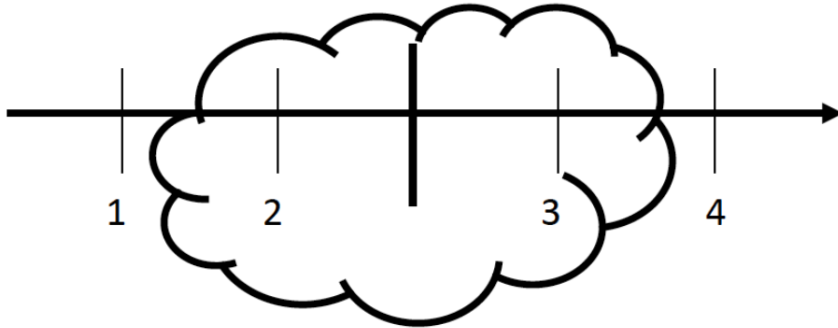
- 1) Sin (The Problem)
- 2) Jesus (The Solution)

## 3. Two Expressions Of Trust

- 1) Faith
- 2) Repentance

# How Do You Know If You Are A True Christian?

## 1. Cloud Of Doubt



## 2. Three Tests (1 John)

- 1) Intellectual Test - Do You Believe God's Truth?
- 2) Social Test - Do You Love God's Family?
- 3) Moral Test - Do You Follow God's Ways?