

TOUGH QUESTIONS

and Straight Answers by Pastor Joe K. Taylor

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All Scriptures are printed verbatim with translations noted. • Pastor Joe's email is Joe@southreno.com.

Here's the **TOUGH QUESTION:**

Is Every Other Religion Wrong?

other than biblical Christianity

Here's the **STRAIGHT ANSWER:**

1. The Short Answer:

Yes!

“Jesus Christ is the only way to Heaven.”

NOTE: This sentence is the mother of all politically and socially incorrect statements but it is absolutely, theologically correct.

2. Introduction to the issue:

- A. The only thing the world cannot tolerate is intolerance.
- B. “Tolerance is the virtue of a person with no conviction.”
 - The World would say: “You are being intolerant.”
 - The World would say, “You are promoting hatred.”
 - The World would ask, “How can so many people be wrong?”
 - The World would say, “All religions teach the same thing.”
- C. At the heart of this argument is this truth: It all boils down to documentation. **(Who's scriptures are right/holy?)**
- D. How we decide is as important as what we decide.
- E. The easy way out is tolerance—but it has eternal consequences. We have to get this right. “Eternity it too long to be wrong.”

3. Documentation is everything! The real argument is this: “Who's bibles are right?”

Why can you trust the Holy Bible?

A. Because of the fulfillment of biblical prophecy.

Did you know that hundreds of Old Testament predictions found their fulfillment in Jesus Christ, alone?

B. Because of biblical archeological evidence.

Archeology confirms that the Bible is true. No other religious text passes the test of biblical archeology.

C. Because of paleographical evidence. Koran (68% is OT scriptures with changes)

Paleography, the study of ancient writing systems and the deciphering and dating of historical manuscripts, confirms the reliability of Scripture.

D. Because of its denunciation of sin.

other religions convey man as “becoming better”; not so in Scripture.

2 Peter 1:16–21, NASB95 - ¹⁶ For we did not follow cleverly devised tales when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of His majesty. ¹⁷ For when He received honor and glory from God the Father, such an utterance as this was made to Him by the Majestic Glory, “This is My beloved Son with whom I am well-pleased”—¹⁸ and we ourselves heard this utterance made from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain. ¹⁹ So we have the prophetic word made more sure, to which you do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts. ²⁰ But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, ²¹ for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

Because, (based on 2 Peter 1:16-21) it is a reliable collection of historical documents written down by eyewitnesses during the lifetime of other eyewitnesses that report to us supernatural events that took place in fulfillment of specific prophecies; they claimed that their writings were divine rather than human in origin!

— Dr. Voddie Baucham (CT Studd, British Missionary, “The Fundamentals”)

Because...it is a reliable collection of historical documents...

- No myths, no fairytales, no cunningly devised stories

...written down by eyewitnesses...

2 Peter 1:16, NASB95 - ¹⁶ *For we did not follow cleverly devised tales when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of His majesty.*

- **Having corroborating eyewitnesses is key here.**

We believe the Bible because it is an all-sufficient, reliable, internally consistent, sacred writing corroborated in three languages—Greek, Hebrew and Aramaic—written on three continents—Asia, Africa and Europe—and written by over 40 authors (most of which didn't even know each other) who wrote over a 1,500 year period resulting in over 60 ancient manuscript families that all tell a singularly woven story with Christ as its grand subject, man's redemption, its design and the glory of God, its end.

...during the lifetime of other eyewitnesses...

- **There would be 3 levels of conspiracy for this NOT to be true.**

"The only thing I can figure is this: Paul's claim must have been doctored up and changed so many times...by overzealous monks seeking to make a lie a truth so they could maintain a concocted narrative of Jesus' divinity...after all, all theologians know we do not have the autographa's (sic) and therefore, can't really know what they said."

- Charles Templeton (nemesis to Rev. Billy Graham)

A. Manuscript Conspiracy - We have well over 6k copies of NT/OT matching manuscripts (MSS) and most are only decades old.

B. Languages Conspiracy - The Bible was written in Greek, Hebrew and Aramaic but copied in Syriac, Coptic and Latin, within 50 years of Christ.

C. Commentary Conspiracy - You would also have to deal with the different comments recorded by the writers and copiers of Scripture. *"If all we had was the commentary of the NT fathers, we could reproduce more than 90% of the entire scriptures."* - Dr. Bruce Metzger

...that report to us supernatural events...

Peter 1:16-21, NASB95 - ¹⁶ *...we were eyewitnesses of His majesty. ... ¹⁸ and we ourselves heard this utterance made from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain.*

- **Not super-human, not psychosomatic, but supernatural events!**

...that took place in fulfillment of specific prophecies...

2 Peter 1:19, NIV84 - ¹⁹ *And we have the word of the prophets made more certain, and you will do well to pay attention to it...*

- There are 365 prophecies concerning Jesus that were predicted in the OT and fulfilled in the NT. (e.g., Ps. 22)

- There are over 900 general biblical prophecies that have been fulfilled.
- There are *a few prophecies* that have yet to be fulfilled. [The rapture, the revelation of the antichrist, the 7-year tribulation, the battle of Armageddon, the second coming, two final judgements (saved vs. lost), the millennial reign and the eternal state (heaven or hell).]

...they claimed that that their writings were divine rather than human in origin!

2 Peter 1:20-21, NASB95 - ²⁰ *But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, ²¹ for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.*

4. The Holy Scriptures are clear that there is, indeed, only one way to salvation.

Exodus 20:1-3, NASB95 - ¹ *Then God spoke all these words, saying, ² "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. ³ "You shall have no other gods before Me.*

Hosea 13:4, NASB95 - ⁴ *Yet I have been the LORD your God Since the land of Egypt; And you were not to know any god except Me, For there is no savior besides Me.*

1 Timothy 2:5, NASB95 - ⁵ *For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus...*

John 14:6, NASB95 - ⁶ *Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.*

5. Closing Matters

- Most religions don't teach that you even can go to heaven.
- Religions (and denominations) are grouped into two main categories:
Merit based vs. Grace (unmerited) based ways to salvation.
Important: *Merit based systems are not in keeping with Scripture!*
- Most of the religions of the world tell you how to get to *a god* but Christianity tells us how God came to save you.
- The most loving thing **our** God did was provide a way (the only way) to salvation. That one way to God is available to all.