

Outline: Why There Can Only Be One Way of Salvation

Reason #1: The Authority Issue

“Neither is there salvation in any other, for there is none other name under heaven, given among men, whereby we must be saved.”

A. An Illustration

1. Suppose a man murdered a random person in Toronto
2. Suppose I went up to him as an unrelated citizen and said “I forgive you; you can go free.”
3. Why would that not have any effect?
4. I don't have the authority to do that.
5. On the other hand, the government could, because they have the authority.

B. Salvation is directly related to God's authority to forgive.

1. “None other name” answered in reply to the question “By what authority/name have you done this?”
2. The only way for there to be another legitimate way of salvation, one must have equal authority to God.

C. God by nature is the highest authority.

There by nature can only be one omnipotent, omnipresent, omniscient, and all-holy being. If there were two, they would obviously be distinct in some way, and because holiness and infinity can only be defined by one standard, one god's distinction would attain to this standard slightly better, making him the only true all-powerful, all-present, all-knowing, all-holy being. Thus we are back to one God, and thus only one salvation is possible.

D. The reason all other systems and religious leaders fall short is because they only have self-appointed authority in these things, which has no place in the question of salvation.

Reason #2: The Issue of Mutual Exclusivity

A. Only two real ways of salvation

1. Works-based
2. Grace-based
3. Because they are mutually exclusive, there can only be one true way.

B. Only two views of Christ

1. That He is the only way: “I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man comes to the Father but by me.”
2. That He is not the only way.
3. Either Christ is lying, thus making His way of salvation obsolete and leaving the one alternative, or Christ is telling the truth, thus making the other ways of salvation obsolete, leaving one alternative.

C. Only two camps regarding truth

1. Relativism: all truths, except the claim of absolutes, are equal. Because it both defines and limits its view, it is a specific system of belief, broad as it may be.
2. Absolute truth: only one truth is true, all others false. Because this both defines and limits its view, it is a specific system of belief, narrow as it may be.
3. One camp must be chosen over the other.

Reason #3: The Implications of Calvary

A. The Cost of Sin

1. Eternal judgement, thus infinite as a whole.
2. True forgiveness must have this judgement satisfied.
3. Only a man able to die, yet being infinite, could satisfy this necessity.
4. Christ, truly God and truly man, could be the *only* one to truly satisfy this.

B. The Existence of Calvary.

1. Christ pleaded “If it be possible [or, if there be any other way], let this cup pass from me.”
2. Because “the cup” of wrath didn't pass, there was no other way.
3. God confirmed this by the resurrection, showing His satisfaction in the work of the cross.

Conclusion:

Left With *Responsibility*.

To have the truth is to have a great responsibility and accountability, both to uphold it and proclaim it.

Left with *Confidence*.

(1) that absolutes exist at all (2) that therefore we can know which one is true, holding fast to it, while disregarding all others as false.