

# THE EXCLUSIVENESS OF JESUS

By

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*“I am the way, the truth, and the life” (John 14:6)*

In recent years some of the major denominations have been in debate over whether or not it is necessary for Jews to accept Christ in order to be saved. The debate has now extended to question the claim that Jesus is the Lord and ONLY Savior, indicating that many in these churches think that “saviors” are to be found in other religions.

Since World War I there has been a rising tide of pressure for a “New World Order,” or world government, and as one prerequisite for this united world, separate and exclusive religious concepts must be eliminated.

In John Dewey’s book, *A common Faith*, written in 1934, he describes the need for a synchronization of religions toward a common faith. In the September 1950 issue of the Masonic magazine called *The New Age*, C. William Smith calls for “the unification of all races, religions and creeds...a new religion of ‘The Great light’...and the American race will be the sixth Aryan Civilization.”

In the same year Alice Bailey’s book, *Glamour: A World Problem*, was published. It indicated that a “new world religion is now on its way to externalizing,”...and there will be “the inauguration of the New Age,” at which time, according to the book, the Masonic Ritual will be the only ritual of value. Her book also presented Jesus and Buddha as “two great Sons of God.” (See “The Deceptive New Age” by Dr. D. L. Cuddy, Ph.D., *The Christian News*, April 30, 1990, page 22.)

As the movement to unite all races and religions intensifies, more anti-discrimination laws are enacted, and more pressure is applied against Christians, as the Christian faith is the one religion that is totally exclusive.

When Jesus said, “I am the way,” He did not mean “a” way among many others, but **the** one and only way. He went on in the same breath to explain: “No one comes to the Father, but by me.” The Creator has revealed Himself in only one **Man** and has provided in this same Man the means of atonement for sin, without which no one can be acceptable to God.

It was this claim to exclusiveness that incited the greatest opposition to Jesus. He had said, “HE that enters not by the door into the fold of the sheep, but climbs up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber,” and then he stated, “I am the door of the sheep” (John 10:1, 7). For such claims the Jews said, “He has a demon, and is mad...” (John 10:20).

It is not hard to see why Humanists and New Age promoters would target Christians as their chief enemy and the one group to ridicule and try to silence. While other religions may meld into Dewey’s “common faith”, there is no way the disciple of Christ can be true to Christ and at the same time give credence to any other faith. If there is any truth to the other religions, then Jesus made false claims which would brand Him as a liar and an imposter. If Jesus was indeed Who He said He was, then there can be no other valid access to God. No matter how sincere and noble the believer or how beautiful

and meaningful the ritual, it may satisfy one's emotional and intellectual needs, but if it is any other way than that of Christ, it is not the way to God the Creator.

When Jesus said, "I am the truth," He labeled as false all other religious claims and revealed for all time the source of true enlightenment. We live in a civilized society, not because of scientific discovery or industrial technology, but because of the application of Christian truth. Check out the nations where one may find hospitals and charitable organizations for the care of the poor and the orphans, and you will see they are nations where the truth of Christ has been widely proclaimed and applied.

*Humanist Manifesto I* was produced in 1933, with John Dewey as one of its chief writers. Before this time the teachings of Christ often formed the moral standard for both politicians and educators. Compare the present moral tone of the country to what it was in the 30's. In government the laws of God have been abandoned. In education there is no absolute truth, and young people see themselves as little more than trained animals, with no ultimate accounting to make to a Creator and no future beyond the present. Poetry and music have become unintelligible, and in art there is no standard by which to distinguish the beautiful from the hideous. Novels, plays and movies major in the absurd.

Where Jesus is despised, truth is despised, and the more Christian doctrine (Christ's teachings) is suppressed by education, the press and the government, the greater the decline in morality, peace, order, and stability.

Christ's claim to be Truth excludes as true any philosophy or idea that is contrary to His teaching. For this reason Paul writes that the Christian's goal is that of "casting down reasoning and every high thing that is exalted against the knowledge of God, and bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ" (II Cor. 10:5).

None of Christ's claims are more bold and offensive to the religions of the world than the one: "I am the resurrection and the life." He said it over and over again in so many different ways that one could hardly fail to understand that there is no way to have eternal life except through Christ. In the "golden text" of John 3:16, Jesus promised that "whosoever believes on him should not perish but have eternal life." The only alternatives: believe in Christ or perish.

Most religions teach that man has a natural eternal quality of life, but Jesus said the opposite, that life in the eternal state is dependent upon Him. "For as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so the Son also gives life to whom he will" (John 5:21). "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: and I give unto them eternal life..." (John 10:27, 28). Nowhere in scripture is there any record of a promise of immortal life to anyone other than those with faith in Jesus.

Jesus repeatedly claimed that He had the power to raise man from the dead, either to judgment or to eternal life. It was after He had driven this truth home four times in one sermon (John 6) that the Jews sought to kill him (John 7:1). That life for every person should depend upon a resurrection by this Jesus was totally unacceptable to all other world religions, secular humanists, and even to many among the various churches.

Finally, when Jesus gave proof of His claims by raising Lazarus from the dead, the chief priests and the Pharisees could bear it no longer. "So from that day forth they took counsel that they might put him to death" (John 11:53). Later they tried to squelch that fact that Jesus had risen from the dead by bribing the soldiers who guarded the tomb (Matt. 28:15). When the apostles began preaching the resurrection of Jesus, they ran into the same bitter opposition from the same people. When Paul was brought as a prisoner

before King Agrippa, the charge, according to Governor Festus, centered around Jesus, “Who was dead, whom Paul affirmed to be alive” (Acts 25:19). As Paul made his defense, he declared, “And now I stand here to be judged for the hope of the promise made of God unto our Fathers...And concerning this hope I am accused by the Jews, O King! Why is it judged incredible with you, if God does raise the dead?” Acts 26:6–8).

Why indeed? For the basic reason that it is the very opposite of what is generally believed by all the world’s religions. Paganism says that man has an inherent quality of immortality and therefore cannot actually die but continues to live in a different state. Jesus claimed that life after death depends upon a resurrection from the dead, and to make His claim more incredible, he insisted that the resurrection power was entirely in His hands. How much more exclusive can you get?

In the clamor for growth, many churches either deny or avoid the distinctive message that Christ is the only way to Almighty God, that all truth must be in harmony with Him and that the only hope of life is for Him to raise us up and give us immortality. This exclusive message is still unpopular, and in its place is offered self-improvement programs: how to improve your self-image, think positively, and attain power for success, wealth. It is no wonder that the late Francis Schaeffer wrote that “Ours is a post-Christian world>”

No “common faith” of all the world’s religions could ever bring a person to God or grant him eternal life. God has chosen to save man through His Son, Jesus. All we do is in vain if we are not in Christ. All we become is nothing without Him. All is lost outside of Christ. But, in Christ all is ours, for we are “heirs of God and joint-heirs with Christ” (Rom. 8:17).

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