

Knowing and

Defending the Faith

Knowing and Defending the Great Salvation Found Only in Christianity

Views of Salvation Found in Other Religious Systems

Islam: The scales (of good and evil deeds) must tip in favor of good and if not, there's a tiny possibility Allah will have mercy on you.

Hinduism: Occurs when you exit the reincarnation cycle and are absorbed by Brahman (the divine consciousness or supreme god).

Buddhism: Nirvana is obtained when you finish the reincarnation process, escape suffering, and eliminate all desires.

Mormonism: LDS baptism, temple marriage, and works promote those to Godhood. Most others make it to the lower levels of "heaven" while only murderers and those who left Mormonism go to hell.

Jehovah's Witnesses: Salvation is a gift from God <u>when</u> you belong to God's organization (JW). Heaven is already full with the 144,000, but the new earth is open to the other JW (the "Other Sheep").

Salvation, in biblical Christianity, is all about Who you know, what He did, and abiding in Him.

#1 Salvation is Found in a Person: Jesus/ Yeshua Is everything in your life understood through the person of Jesus? Acts 4:12 (NIV) Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved."

John 14:6 (NASB1995) Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.

Romans 10:9-10 (HCSB) ⁹ If you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ One believes with the heart, resulting in righteousness, and one confesses with the mouth, resulting in salvation.

2 Corinthians 5:17 (NKJV) Therefore, if anyone *is* in Christ, *he is* a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

#2 Salvation is by Grace Received Through Faith Do you truly understand belief as more than knowledge? Ephesians 2:8-10 (NASB1995) 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; 9 not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. 10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.

John 3:16 (HCSB) For God loved the world in this way: He gave His One and Only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life.

John 6:28-29 (NIV) ²⁸ Then they asked him, "What must we do to do the works God requires?" ²⁹ Jesus answered, "The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent."

#3 Being Saved is Displayed Through Actions Matthew 7:21-23 — Do you really know Jesus?

1 John 2:3-6 (HCSB) ³ This is how we are sure that we have come to know Him: by keeping His commands. ⁴ The one who says, "I have come to know Him," yet doesn't keep His commands, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. ⁵ But whoever keeps His word, truly in him the love of God is perfected. This is how we know we are in Him: ⁶ The one who says he remains in Him should walk just as He walked.

James 2:14-17 (NASB₁₉₉₅) ¹⁴ What use is it, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but he has no works? Can that faith save him? ¹⁵ If a brother or sister is without clothing and in need of daily food, ¹⁶ and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and be filled," and yet you do not give them what is necessary for *their* body, what use is that? ¹⁷ Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead, *being* by itself.

#4 Salvation, in God's Kingdom, is Sustained by Abiding/ Remaining in the One Where Salvation is Found Are you abiding in Christ and continuing in the faith? John 15:5-6 (NKJV) 5 I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. 6 If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned.

Colossians 1:22-23 (ESV) ²² He has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him, ²³ if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a minister.