

There's Only One Way To Heaven

➤ = next PowerPoint slide

➤ Intro:

- **Do we have to believe in Jesus to be saved and go to heaven?**

- not long ago most people in America would have said yes, but today is a different story

- **several factors have changed our nation** from one centered on God and Christ, to a nation tolerant of about anything in the name of religion, even disbelief in God

- **today, we are a nation that believes people can get to heaven all sorts of ways**, with a number of different saviors

- **lesson:** there's once one way to heaven

➤ Problem: people are believing false teachers and false doctrine

- **video: Oprah**, don't have to believe in Jesus, several ways to get to heaven, doesn't matter what you call it, call it the light (New Age, Gnostic) or god

- **Oprah's church: The New Earth, on the web** – she is a teacher of religion

- **influential celebrities** have become **teachers of false doctrine**

➤ - **video: Billy Graham**, everyone who knows Christ are in the body of Christ and saved, will be in heaven, because they've been called by God through they may not know the name of Jesus, including Muslims, Buddhists, and Atheists

- **unity in diversity movement on steroids** – can be unified no matter what you believe, all saved

- **Solution: word of God** – ground ourselves in the Scriptures, possibly teach others
 - **2 Tim. 3:13-17** evil men and imposters get worse and worse - Scriptures the solution
- - **2 Tim. 4:2-4** we must preach the word (grounded in Scriptures, lead others to Christ), people not enduring sound doctrine, accumulating false teachers, tickle ear, own desires – rf - **Rom. 1:16; Eph. 6:10-18**
- - **Col 2:2-3, 6-7** true wisdom and knowledge are in Christ, grounded in Scriptures
 - **Col. 2:9-15** when we obey Christ, baptized, become complete through Christ who is the *pleroma* of God
 - raised up with Christ, made alive together with Him – come top complete perfection in the *pleorma* of God
- - **Col. 2:4** false teachers try to delude us with persuasive arguments – must be grounded in Scriptures
 - **Col. 2:8** false teachers try to take us captive through philosophy and empty deception, not according to Christ – must be grounded in Scriptures
 - **Col. 2:16-17** false teachers try to judged (pressure) us for not keeping their traditions
 - **Col. 2:18-19** false teacher try to defraud us of our prize (salvation), pretending that they have visions and worship angels
 - **Col. 2:20-23** false teachers try to slave us with man-made religious ordinances – appearance of wisdom in self-made religion
- solution to false doctrine: word of God, power of God unto salvation

- **Jesus is the only way to the Father (heaven)**
 - **Jn. 14:1-6** Jesus the way, the truth, the life
 - “the”: definite article (“the” one and only)
 - all other ways lead to destruction (Oprah and Billy Graham, false teachers, false doctrine, leading people to hell)
 - choose: believe Oprah and Billy Graham, or believe Jesus
- - **Eph. 4:4-6** one. . . . - cf. each item, Oprah and Billy Graham teach that are many
 - choose: believe Oprah and the books she reads, or believe Billy Graham, or believe word of God
- - **Acts 24:14a, 22a** “the Way” is the church, being a member of Jesus’ church is the only way to heaven
 - **Eph. 5:23** Jesus Savior of the body – rf - **Eph. 1:22-23** church – rf - **Acts 22:14** the Way
 - **Jn. 14:6; Acts 22:14** Jesus is “the Way”, and His church is “the Way”
 - anyone not a member of the Lord’s church is going the wrong way, leads to destruction
- - **2 Pet. 2:15, 19-22** people who go any other way (Balaam) than that of Jesus and His church are slaves of corruption (sin)
 - - **2 Pet. 2:17-19** note what Peter says about false teachers like Oprah and Billy Graham
 - - **Rev. 2:14-16** note what Jesus says about people who follow false teachers like Balaam (Oprah, Billy Graham) – cf. Nicholaitans, Gnostic sect, Oprah teaches Gcostic-New Age religion
- false teachers say there are many ways to heaven, but there is only one

- **Society demands religious tolerance, but Christians shouldn't tolerate false doctrine (false religion)**
 - **"tolerance" defined** (dictionary.com, Random House, Inc.)
 - **1.** a fair, objective, and **permissive attitude** toward those whose opinions, practices, race, **religion**, nationality, etc., differ from one's own; freedom from bigotry.
 - we can't be permissive toward false religion
 - **2.** a fair, objective, and **permissive attitude** toward **opinions and practices that differ from one's own.**
 - we can't be permissive toward false doctrine
 - **3.** interest in and concern for ideas, opinions, practices, etc., foreign to one's own; **a liberal, undogmatic viewpoint.**
 - we can't be liberal and undogmatic when it comes to religion and the truth of God's word
 - **illus.: tolerance today**
 - people want us to **validate and approve of** (permissive attitude) of whatever they do religiously
 - **never correct people, tell them they are wrong, or strongly disagree** with anything they do religiously
 - **Satan's deception. . . .**
- - **Christians can't be tolerant of false doctrine, false teachers, false religions**
 - **Eph. 5:11-13** we must expose darkness, sin – false religion, false teachers, false religions
- - **Jude 1:3** we must contend earnestly for the faith ("definite article, body of faith)
- - **2 Tim. 4:2** reprove, rebuke, exhort – preach the word, when popular and when not
 - **illus.: Timothy, story of his death**, at a parade in Ephesus and rebuked people for lewd conduct, they beat him with clubs and he died a few days later
- - **Christians are religious partisans – intolerant**
 - **Tit. 2:14** zealous of good deeds – preaching the truth, there's only one way to heaven
 - **zealous person is an uncompromising partisan** – not tolerant of false doctrine, false religion
- - **Rev. 3:16, 19** if we are religiously tolerant, we are lukewarm at best, must be **zealous and repent**, or lost in sin
- **if you're accused of intolerance when you speak the truth. . . .**
 - **if people are truly tolerant, they must tolerate our zealous fervor**
 - we believe we must be **zealous** (uncompromising partisans) based on our religion, so they must tolerate our intolerance
 - **tolerance demands that people of the world tolerate our religious intolerance**
 - **if they don't they are intolerant**
- **as Christians, we can't tolerate sin, false religion, false doctrine**
 - **people like Oprah and Billy Graham use tolerance** as a way to push their doctrine – **false doctrine of tolerance**
 - we can't let **false teachers silence us**, and keep the truth from getting out
 - we must be **zealous** (uncompromising partisans - not tolerant of error)
 - **speak the truth / practice the truth / expose darkness**

Summary / Inv.

- review: **PP**

- **inv.:** are you zealous (uncompromising partisan) - are you a Christian