



“Do the people who believe in something other than Jesus end up going wherever they believe?” PART 2

A Brief summary of PART 1 answer from last month:

The short answer is “No.” The fact that people come to believe in other things than Jesus does show that they are searching for spiritual answers. But, we have to remember that it’s not enough to just search for the truth if your search ends at the wrong place! For example, when the teacher asks “What does 2 + 2 equal?” all the students will be searching for the right answer. (And there is only one right answer!) If someone’s search for the right answer leads them to say, “Three!” instead of “Four” we would say that it’s good that they were searching, but they still got it wrong! Then we would help them to see how “4” is the only right answer.

On Easter we celebrated the event that proves Jesus is the “right answer” to the question, “Which is the right God to put your faith in?” Jesus claimed to be God and the only way to eternity. He’s not alone in that claim. Countless people have done the same. What makes Jesus different is this: He is the only one who walked out of His grave thereby validating the truth of His claims.

Part 2 of what makes Jesus the only right answer to all spiritual seeking:

The other major difference between Jesus and all other spiritual beliefs is that Jesus is the only one who dealt honestly with our ‘sin’ problem. It makes sense that a sinless God could not just ‘look the other way’ when we sin. It has to be dealt with

All other belief systems are based to some degree on the idea that sin can be dealt with by covering it up with good deeds. One problem with that idea is that you can never be sure if you’ve done enough good deeds to outweigh your bad deeds (sins). The other problem is that it’s just a wrong idea to think that good deeds can cancel out bad deeds. I like to use the analogy of oranges (or any fruit) to show how piling up ‘good’ on top of ‘bad’ doesn’t get rid of the problem.

For example, let’s say you have ‘bad’ oranges in your fridge. Does it work to stack ‘good’ oranges on top of them?! Of course not, the bad oranges soon turn the good ones into bad ones as well. The only thing that works is to remove the bad oranges. It’s the exact same way with sin. Piling up ‘good deeds’ on top of our sin, doesn’t deal with the problem. Only having them removed solves the problem. Jesus is the only right answer to all of our spiritual searching, because He alone did what was necessary to remove our sin. He, the sinless Son of God, took the punishment for them - in our place - when He died and suffered hell. And proved that God the Father accepted His sacrifice as full payment for sins when He walked out of His grave!

When you have a God who loves you enough to die for you, just so you could be forgiven and live eternally in His perfect Kingdom, why would you want to search anywhere else?

Thanks for asking,  
Pastor David

Send your questions to [pastor@livingwordlutheran.net](mailto:pastor@livingwordlutheran.net)