

**Blind Faith?**  
**“Jesus: God’s Invitation To Heaven?”**  
**July 17, 2011**

**Theme Verse:** *In your heart set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an **answer** (apologetic) to everyone who asks you to give the **reason** for the **hope** that you have. But do this with **gentleness** and **respect**, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.* 1 Peter 3:15-16 (NIV)

**A. Question: How can Jesus be the only way to heaven?**

What about all the other religions?

God did not need to send Jesus to be exclusive.

**B. MESSAGE: Jesus IS the Invitation to heaven.**

**C. Jesus IS the “Invitation”: John 10:7-11; 14:1-6**

1. **“I am the door (gate)” – (10:7-10)** Inclusive
  - a. Exclusive: *Thief comes to steal, kill & destroy.*
2. **“I am the Good Shepherd” – (10:11)** Lays down his life to protect and lead us to life out of love.
3. **“I am the way, truth, and life” (14:6)**
  - a. I want you WITH me in heaven. I’m preparing a place for you, and will come back to get you!
  - b. *“No one comes to the Father but by me.”*

**D. Heaven is the destination: Life forever with God!**

4. **Jesus’ defines eternal life – “knowing God”** Jn. 17:3
  - a. For those who WANT life perfectly “knowing” God more than a life without him.
5. **Jesus has been there – says it’s the place to be!**
  - a. Our cartoon version keeps us wanting this life
  - b. “Minimal Requirements”? What’s the bare minimum I HAVE to do, but can still live like this life is better!
    - i. Marriage: *what do I HAVE to do to stay married, but still live the single life?*

6. **Jesus wants everyone there – 2 Peter 3:9**

**E. God keeps inviting us to heaven!**

1. **Sends the Holy Spirit** to convict us of sin, convince us of our need for Savior, and reveal God to us through Jesus. John 16:8
2. **Sends US (Church)** – John 17:20-25

**F. More “doors”**

1. **The “door” to your heart – is it open to Jesus?**
2. **The “door” of your life – is it open to others?**

*“Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me.”* Revelation 3:20

**Application Questions:** *Do I view Jesus as an “exclusive” door or an “open” door to God and heaven? Am I ready to describe this hope within me to those who ask? Who am I loving, serving and praying for that they will ask about my hope?*

**Additional Resources:**

*10 Most Common Objections to Christianity* by Alex McFarland  
*Letters From A Skeptic* by Dr. Gregory A. Boyd  
*When Skeptics Ask* by Norman L. Geisler  
*Mere Christianity* by C.S. Lewis