

## MILESTONE #7: Counterfeits

The Bible tells us there is a spiritual battle going on for the soul of every single person, and Satan is the enemy. The powers of darkness devise false doctrines to draw people away from Jesus Christ, keeping them spiritually dead (2 Cor. 11:3-4, 13-15; Eph. 2:1-2; 1 Tim. 4:1). The Bible warns that not all supernatural signs and wonders, or spiritual experiences, come from God (Deut. 18:9-12; Matt. 24:24; Acts 13:6-12; 16:16-20; Rev. 16:14). The Bible is our measuring rod of truth (John 17:17; 2 Tim. 3:16; Heb. 4:12) and our offensive weapon in spiritual warfare (Eph. 6:14, 17). Jesus declared, **"The [enemy] does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that [you] may have life, and ... have it more abundantly"** (John 10:10).

## MILESTONE #8: Our Freedom

There is a marvelous paradox concerning our relationship with the God of the Bible. When we surrender our lives to Him, we become liberated. No longer in rebellion against God, we have peace with Him. And no longer in bondage to sin, we are free to choose whether or not to sin. Then we are free to do what we were designed to do: develop our friendship with the Lord and seek His purpose and fulfilling plan for our lives. (See Rom. 5:10; Gal. 5:1; Eph. 2:10; Rev. 3:20.) Tragically, many people reject Jesus Christ, not wanting to give up living their own way. Yet God's unique plan for each of us leads to personal joy and eternal rewards (1 Cor. 3:8-14; Col. 3:23-24; Heb. 11:6).

### CHRISTIAN FREEDOM

*"In a fearfully changing world, [the Christian] is solidly grounded in an unchanging Christ, and therefore is free to develop his capacities to the fullest, under God."*<sup>6</sup>

## MILESTONE #9: Other Roads

In one sense, all roads do lead to God. A day of eternal judgment is coming when we will all give an account to God (Rom. 14:10-12). For believers, it will be a judgment of rewards. But for those who rejected God's beloved Son, it will be a judgment of punishment (Rev. 11:17-18; 22:12). Every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord (Phil. 2:9-11). But only those who trust in Jesus for their salvation will be welcomed into God's presence for eternity. All other roads lead to a place of eternal torment. Jesus pleads with us: **"Enter [heaven] by the narrow gate [road]; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it"** (Matt. 7:13).

### QUOTE BY C. S. LEWIS

*"God will invade [our world again with] ... something so overwhelming that it will strike either irresistible love or irresistible horror into every creature. It will be too late then to choose your side.... God is holding back to give us that chance."*<sup>7</sup>

## Enter the Highway to Heaven

Jesus Christ is the Highway to Heaven. Great joy and gratitude come from knowing *there is* a road for us to get to heaven and that Jesus paved the way for us at a tremendous price. This road is wide enough to accommodate anyone and everyone who ever lived (John 3:16)! Because of His victory on the cross over sin and death, Jesus declared: **"I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me"** (John 14:6). Only one person laid down His life for us all—the divine Son of God. Jesus is knocking at the door of your heart. Will you answer and receive Him today?

### A PRAYER TO RECEIVE JESUS CHRIST

*"Dear God, thank You for Your love and grace, and for sending Your Son to die on the cross for my sins. Thank You that He rose again so we can live with You eternally. I realize that I am not on the path to heaven and that I am a sinner in need of a Savior. Please, Lord Jesus, forgive me of all my sins and come into my life. You are the Way, the Truth, and the Life, and I want to follow You and Your plan for my life. In Jesus' name I pray, amen."*

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REFERENCES: <sup>1</sup> Pearcey, Nancy. *Total Truth*, Crossway Books, © 2004, 17-26. See also: McDowell, Josh and Bob Hostetler. *The New Tolerance*, Tyndale House Pub. © 1998 (Chap. 1-6). <sup>2</sup> Beckwith, Francis. *Bahá'í*, Bethany House Pub., © 1985, 57. <sup>3</sup> Simon Greenleaf. *An Examination of the Testimony of the Four Evangelists*, Baker Books, © 1874, 29-30 (reprinted by Kregel in 1995). <sup>4</sup> McDowell, Josh. *The New Evidence that Demands a Verdict*, Thomas Nelson Pub. © 1999, 164-202. <sup>5</sup> Stoner, Peter W. and Robert Newman. *Science Speaks*, Moody Press, © 1963, 106. <sup>6</sup> Montgomery, John Warwick. *Where Is History Going?* Zondervan, © 1972, 74. <sup>7</sup> Lewis, C. S. *Mere Christianity*, HarperSanFrancisco, © 2001, 65.

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# DO ALL ROADS LEAD TO GOD?



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# Nine Major Milestones Pointing Us to the “Highway to Heaven”

## INTRODUCTION

There is a common belief that all roads—or many paths—lead to God. While it is noble to respect other people’s religious faith, there is a higher issue at stake: the issue of truth. If moral truth is objective (not subjective or relative),<sup>1</sup> then personal faith could have radical eternal results. People could be sincere in their religious beliefs yet be sincerely wrong.

According to the Bible, truth is a life-or-death matter, and truth can set us free. If the Bible is the written revelation from God to mankind, as it claims to be and proves to be (see below), then the most loving and important message we could ever discover is:

- **Jesus Christ is the Savior of the world**
- **Jesus offers us forgiveness and the free gift of eternal life**
- **Jesus is the only road to heaven**

## MILESTONE #1: Point of Logic

The teachings about God from different religions cannot all be true because they contradict one another. They are mutually exclusive. God cannot be finite, infinite, knowable, unknowable, singular, triune, personal, and impersonal all at the same time.<sup>2</sup> There is no way to reconcile the various worldviews such as monotheism (only one God), polytheism (multiple gods), and pantheism (God is or *is in* everything). Logically, either all of them are wrong or only one of them is right. All roads cannot lead to God. But one of them certainly can.

**Man’s point of view:**  
*All people should be able to get to heaven, no matter what spiritual road they take.*

**God’s eternal point of view:**  
*Beloved, I sent My Son to die for you, to provide the only road to heaven. (See John 3:16; 14:6.)*

## MILESTONE #2: Strong Evidence

If the Christian worldview—maintaining that Jesus is the only way to heaven—is true, there should be compelling evidence for it, and there is. [a] Secular and religious historians confirm the historicity of Jesus Christ and the Bible. [b] The Bible’s claim to be reliable and divine in origin is authenticated by its content continuity (written over a 1,500-year period), its survival, its archaeological confirmations, its abundant manuscript evidence, and its extensive prophecy being fulfilled with 100% accuracy. [c] The Jesus of history proved His claim to be the Son of God by:

- **His performance of numerous miracles**
- **His fulfillment of extensive biblical prophecy**
- **His supernatural resurrection from the dead**

### STRIKING COMPARISONS

- **Jesus.** No other religious leader claimed to be God and proved it by His resurrection. All others were men, not God in human form who died and returned to life.
- **The Bible.** No other written religious authority claimed to be the revealed Word of God and proved it by prophecy fulfillment. The Bible contains 1,000 specific prophecies, which are being fulfilled with 100% accuracy.
- **Christianity.** Whereas “religion” requires human works (or performance) for redemption, the good news of Christianity is this: Out of divine love and amazing grace, God became man and redeemed the world by His own sacrifice.

## MILESTONE #3: The Resurrection

On the third day after His crucifixion on a Roman cross 2,000 years ago, Jesus returned to life. He declared, “**I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live**” (John 11:25). That is, if we trust in Him as our Savior, we will live forever with Him. Jesus Christ’s resurrection—the supreme miracle—is one of the most well-attested facts in history according to the laws of evidence.<sup>3</sup> It is confirmed by first-century eyewitness accounts, the empty tomb, Jesus’ post-resurrection appearances, and the transformation of the disciples. Jesus even predicted His death and resurrection, stating that His return to life would validate His claim to be God in human form (Matt. 12:38-40; John 2:18-22; 8:28).

## MILESTONE #4: Biblical Prophecy

Fulfilled prophecy demonstrates the divine inspiration of the Bible, and it authenticates the deity of Jesus. For example, the Old Testament contains 300 predictions of the coming Messiah, the Christ. Hundreds of years later, all were literally fulfilled in the life of Jesus of Nazareth. And 61 of them were major messianic prophecies—predicting such things as the time and place of Messiah’s birth, His miracles, and the details of His death.<sup>4</sup> (The statistical probability of just 8 of those prophecies being fulfilled in one person is one in 10 to the 17th power!)<sup>5</sup> Through predictive prophecy, God has revealed history in advance to mankind (Matt. 26:56; Luke 24:27, 44; John 5:39–40, 46; 2 Peter 1:19–21).

“Religion” is man reaching up to God, trying to become acceptable to Him (or to become God).

“Christianity” is merciful God reaching down to man, sending His Son to unite us with Him.

## MILESTONE #5: A Relationship

Christianity is relational. Rather than being a “religion,” it is a personal relationship with God through His Son, Jesus. “**Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one’s life for his friends,**” said Jesus (John 15:13). He willingly paid the tremendous price for our sins so we could have fellowship with God forever (Heb. 12:2; 1 Cor. 6:20). And He freely invites everyone to drink of the living water He gives, which springs up into everlasting life (John 4:10, 14; 6:35). Our spiritual thirst will be satisfied if we believe in Jesus Christ. Our Good Shepherd declared, “**I am the door [to heaven]. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture**” (John 10:9).

## MILESTONE #6: The Only Road

The Bible teaches there is only one way to heaven. “**Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name [but Jesus] under heaven given among men by which we must be saved**” (Acts 4:12). Why does every person need a Savior? All of us have sinned and fall short of the glory (perfection) of God (Rom. 3:23). And the result of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus (Rom. 6:23). Because of Jesus’ sacrifice on the cross to cleanse us of our sins once and for all, we can be reconciled to holy God (2 Cor. 5:18-21; Heb. 10:18-20). God the Father did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all (Rom. 8:32). “**Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!**” (John 1:29).

