The only way to get to heaven: By Erica Jermanus

Many people in the world today believe that there is more than one way to get to heaven. Many believe that there are many roads to heaven. Many believe that all religions lead to heaven. But the truth in the matter is that there is only one way to get to heaven and that is through Jesus Christ alone. John 14:6 says, "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." Acts 4:12 says, "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."

There is nothing we can do to get to heaven on our own. There is no amount of good works or religion that can save us. No amount of money given to the poor, or getting baptized in water over and over again, or church attendance can save us. Many people trust in these things or in man to get to heaven. The Bible says in Ephesians 2:8-10, "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them."

So, we are not saved by our works, but we are saved to do good works. Good works are evidence that our faith in Christ is genuine, real, and alive. A dead faith cannot save. But a faith that is working in action can save. God can give us that faith, but it is up to us to put action behind our faith and to do the things that please God. We can please God by seeking Him in relationship with Him and that is how we can bear fruit for eternity. We can spend time reading our Bibles, worshiping, and praying, and attending church, and serving others. We don't do these things to get to heaven, but we do these things out of a loving relationship with our Maker and Creator, Jesus Christ. James 2:26 says, "For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also."

Can all religions lead to heaven? No, religion cannot save us. Many believe in false religions such as Buddhism, Judaism, or muslimism. Many believe that Allah can save, but they are false gods that will lead to hell and cannot save a person. There is only one true religion and that is Christianity or a relationship with Jesus Christ. In fact, Jesus Christ does not want us to put our trust in religion or in man, but in Him. He wants

us to draw near to Him and get to know Him by seeking Him in the word of God and prayer. When we talk to God, He will reveal Himself to us and He will show us what is true and what is not true. He will show us that we can only get to heaven through our relationship with Jesus Christ alone and not by our good works, or by church attendance.

Many are in the church, but it is mostly dead religion in the churches, because the Holy Spirit is not in some churches. Many Christians attend church, but do not know Christ, or have a relationship with Him. Many are just going through the motions by attending church weekly. But they have never heard the voice of the Holy Spirit before. They have never actually obeyed Him and His commandments. Jesus Christ said in John 14:15, "If ye love me, keep my commandments." Jesus Christ commands are not burdensome or grievous. If we love Him, we will want to serve Him, and not out of duty or obligation.

Many people serve God because they want to try to earn His grace, love, and favor. There is nothing we can do to earn God's grace, love, or salvation, because it is a gift given to us by God. God loves us so much that He sent His Son Jesus Christ to die on the cross for our sins. We all are deserving of judgment for our sins because our sins separates us from God. Jesus Christ paid the ultimate price and penalty to save us from a hell that we deserve, so that we can have eternal life. Since, we cannot do anything to earn our salvation, we can trust in Jesus Christ for our salvation and repent and turn away from our sins and evil wicked ways.

Repentance does not save us and is not a work, but it is part of salvation. There is no salvation without repentance. No one can get into the kingdom of heaven without repenting and turning away from sins. No one can get into the kingdom of heaven without holiness. Hebrews 12:14 says, "Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord." The kingdom of heaven is a place of holiness and righteousness and that is why few enter. A Christian may need to walk in holiness to see God and to see the kingdom of heaven.