

How Many Ways to Heaven?

Few Bible passages fill us with comfort like John 14:1-3. Jesus said, “Let not your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in Me. In My Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to Myself, that where I am you may be also.” The Lord wants you and me to be with Him forever. Heaven has plenty of room for everyone who wants to be there with Him.

Yet few Bible passages are more restrictive than John 14:6. Standing there with Jesus, Thomas could not make sense of where Jesus was going or how to get there (John 14:4-5). “Jesus said to Him, ‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.’” Anyone can go to heaven to be with the Father forever, but only through Jesus.

- **“No one comes to the Father except through Me.”** That means that not everyone will go to heaven. Read Matthew 7:13-14 for confirmation.
- **“No one comes to the Father except through Me.”** That means that atheists will not go to heaven. Read Hebrews 11:6 and John 8:24 for corroboration.
- **“No one comes to the Father except through Me.”** That means that not all morally respectable people will go to heaven. Consider the life of Cornelius, and read Acts 11:14 to see this truth underscored.
- **“No one comes to the Father except through Me.”** That means that not all intentionally religious people will go to heaven. No one was more religious about their religion than the Pharisees. But Jesus said in Matthew 23:13 and 15 that they would not enter the kingdom and that they were sons of hell.
- **“No one comes to the Father except through Me.”** That means that not everyone who claims Christianity will go to heaven. Jesus made this clear in Matthew 7:21-23.

Who does come to the Father through Jesus? Who will go to heaven because of Jesus? The New Testament repeatedly gives assurance to people who are “in Christ.” “For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 6:23). Who is “in Christ Jesus our Lord”? “...As many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ” (Galatians 3:27). If faith in Christ has led us to be baptized into Christ and we want to keep going toward heaven, we will faithfully and enthusiastically serve Him all our lives. “I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 3:14).

Taking Jesus at His word increasingly means disagreeing with the American public and with Americans who call themselves Christians. A few years back the Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life found that “a majority of all American Christians (52%) think that at least some non-Christian faiths can lead to eternal life. Indeed among Christians who believe many religions can lead to eternal life, 80% name at least one non-Christian faith that can do so.” Biblically speaking, there is only one “Christian faith” (Ephesians 4:5), and Jesus certainly leaves no room for any “non-Christian faith.” The survey even discovered that among those professing Christians who believe that there is more than one way to heaven, 42% think that atheists can go there!

Trust in God! Trust in Jesus! Trust in the Word of God! If you want to go heaven, there is no other way, no matter what others are saying.

Danny Boggs

Statistical quotations from www.pewforum.org “Many Americans Say Other Faiths Can Lead to Eternal Life”

Elders

John Deffenbaugh
Wayne Douthitt
Glen Honeycutt
Rick Hyder
Bill Reiboldt

Deacons

Pete Babb
Carl Cobb
Barry Flint
Casey Flint
Josh King
Mike Kidwell
Tim Murray
Bryan Reiboldt
Jim Scott
Peter Wald

Local Evangelist

Danny Boggs

Worship Assemblies

10 a.m. Sunday
6 p.m. Sunday

Bible Classes

9 a.m. Sunday
7 p.m. Wednesday

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In Our Thoughts & Prayers



Pam Babb, Joyce Clarkson, Ed and Vera Cornell, Lee Crabtree, Glen Crumbliss, Eli Dodson, Joe Freund, Wilma Hill, David Hofer, Gary and Cheryl Neilans, Angel Rivera, Scott Swope, Edith Toney, Bobbie Tuggle, Ruth Ann Wilson.

- Edith Toney had surgery again Monday in Kansas City
- Carolyn Bukowich is in Freeman West Hospital.
- Gary Neilans is in Mercy

Sympathy: We are saddened to hear that Twyla Bennett Forslund, niece of Edwin and Vera Cornell, passed away on Monday.

Every "One" Counts: Remember when you give an extra dollar each Sunday, it goes to help someone in need, often a local family. This week we helped a family who had gotten behind on their bills. If you know someone who needs immediate help, please contact Jennifer Daniels or Natalie McInturff.



Devo and Donuts: Join us every Tuesday morning at 7:00 for donuts and a brief devotional. All area students are invited, and bring your friends!

Men's BBQ Night: Meet at the Hillcrest parking lot tonight at 6:00 for a trip to Big R's.



Miami Church of Christ is having a **gospel meeting** this week with various speakers.

Those who usually attend **Medicalodge** devotionals are invited to an appreciation event at 4:30 tomorrow in their parlor. Let Cheryl know if you wish to attend at 451-2544. Our monthly devotional there has been canceled for Sunday due to the holiday. Our next time will be May 19.



This Sunday's Sermons:

AM: Bill Reiboldt

P.M: Tim Murray

Many of us had the opportunity to hear the **Lads to Leaders** demonstrate their skills last Sunday evening. They all did a great job and we wish them well as they present at the conference. Thank you to each of them and the leaders for the hard work they have done. We want to keep them in our prayers as the families travel to Memphis this week.

Our **Third Wednesday Family Dinner** is tomorrow night. The hostess groups of Molly Cobb/Brenda Kimbrough and Andrea Wald/Heather Cobb will prepare a lasagna dinner. Come join us for the meal and fellowship before church

As you **read** from the book of John, remember to submit questions for our next Q & A lesson April 28.

Parents of **young children:** There are some Bible coloring sheets, paper, crayons, and books available for your children for church time. They are located on the west side of the foyer.

VBS planning: We will meet April 28 after evening services to plan ways to maximize our attendance. Come and share your ideas.

Bob Murray's **Wednesday night class**, room 21, will begin a new study of the "*Beauties of Brotherhood*" on May 1.

The wedding of **Heather Cobb** and **Tony Flint** is May 4

Everyone is invited to a **potluck and wedding shower** for Melissa Johnson and Nate Miller after morning services on May 5. The couple is registered at Amazon, Walmart, Target and Bed, Bath, & Beyond.

The wedding of **Luke Yates** and **Grace Harrison** is **May 11**.



Vacation Bible School is July 21-24. We all want to plan for ways to be involved and begin praying for a successful week.

Our week at **Green Valley Bible Camp** is June 9-15. You can register online at greenvalleybiblecamp.com

Dear Christian friends,

What a wonderful congregation. We want to thank you for your prayers, phone calls, and visits. Also thank the ladies for preparing delicious food for us. We are so very blessed! God bless every one of you! You are loved by us. We thank you again!

*In Christian love,
Edwin and Vera Cornell*

PRAYER LEADERS

Sunday, April 21

- AM Opening: Alec Fehring
- AM Closing: Charles Phillips
- PM Opening: Todd Tyler
- PM Closing: Ethan Murray

Wednesday, April 24

- Opening: Tony Flint
- Closing: John Deffenbaugh

RECORDS	04-14-19	04-15-18
Bible Study	140	128
AM Worship	202	180
PM Worship	118	133
Wednesday	120	118
Contribution	\$9,737.61	\$8,796.00
Budget	\$7,717.37	\$7,630.58