



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

This is a great question from one of our Sunday School kids!

When I was in grade school the world was a different place! (One of the confirmation students asked me if I was around when President Lincoln was shot. It has been a loooong time since I was in grade school, but not that long.) Pretty much everyone I knew was a Christian - or at least belonged to a Christian church. That’s not the case today. Not even close! Kids are exposed to pretty much every kind of spiritual belief you could imagine.

With so many “gods” a person can believe in, the idea “It doesn’t matter what you believe as long as you are sincere in your belief,” is very popular. Similar to the idea “All roads (beliefs) lead to the same destination (heaven).”

Those ideas stem from our desire to have everyone go to heaven. That’s a great desire! Those ideas also grow out of our natural aversion to telling someone that they aren’t right. We want to be “liked,” and telling someone that what they believe is “just plain wrong” is not a great way to get people to like you.

Our assignment is to do what I encouraged the kids to do in the Children’s Message on Easter Sunday: “Tell your peeps!” Tell your people (friends, family, co-workers, neighbors, classmates, etc...) that Jesus is The Answer to all of our spiritual seeking.

You see, it’s not enough to just seek 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 seeking 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 seeking, but they still got it wrong!

The truly caring thing to do in that situation would NOT be to say, “If ‘three’ is what you believe, then that’s wonderful.” Rather, the caring thing would be to point out that the answer is ‘four’ and then show the person why that is the right answer.

The same is true of our search for spiritual truth. The truly caring, loving thing is to point people to the right answer - NOT leave them holding on to a wrong 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.

That’s enough of an answer for this month. Part 2 next month.

Thanks for asking,
Pastor David

Send your questions to pastor@livingwordlutheran.net