



LINKS DAILY DEVOTIONAL BIBLE STUDY | OCTOBER 23RD, 2026

Links Players

QUESTIONS REDIRECTED IS JESUS THE ONLY WAY?

And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved. (Acts 4:12, ESV)

Ask ten golf instructors how to swing a golf club, and you will often receive conflicting answers.

Ben Hogan emphasized his philosophy in Five Lessons. Jack Nicklaus developed a different approach. Butch Harmon and Hank Haney teach the swing in vastly different ways.

Consider Jim Furyk's unconventional swing alongside Adam Scott's classic motion. They function remarkably different, yet both became major champions.

Who could forget David Feherty's description of Furyk's swing? "It looks like an octopus falling out of a tree." While there is humor in Feherty's observation, it does not invalidate the truth that there is more than one way to swing a golf club.

Imagine someone arriving at the practice range during a major championship and announcing that he has discovered the "only" way to swing. We would probably dismiss him as naïve, if not deranged.

But what about claims of exclusivity in world religions? Jesus claimed to be the only way to God. Islam and Judaism also make exclusive claims, while Hinduism and Buddhism contradict the truth claims of monotheistic religions.

Our culture increasingly assumes religious pluralism is true. We are often told that Christianity, Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism, and other religions are different paths leading to the same destination.

That sounds tolerant, but there is a significant problem: these religions make fundamentally different claims about God, humanity, salvation, and what happens after death.

Christianity teaches that Jesus is God incarnate, that he died for our sins, and that he rose bodily from the grave. Islam denies his deity and atoning death. Buddhism's understanding of God, humanity, and salvation differs fundamentally from Christianity's.

These are not simply different paths to the same destination. They are

contradictory claims about ultimate reality. Contradictory claims cannot all be true. They may all be wrong, or one may be right, but they cannot all be true.

The important question is not whether religious beliefs are exclusive. The important question is whether their claims are true and how those claims can be authenticated.

Jesus did not say, "I am a way," or even, "I can show you the way." He said, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life." That is as exclusive as it gets.

Christianity's claim to truth rests upon Jesus' unique person and work. Jesus did not merely claim to know God. He claimed to be God. He forgave sins, accepted worship, and authenticated his teaching through public miracles.

Scripture teaches that our deepest problem is not ignorance, inadequate spiritual discipline, or insufficient moral effort. It is sin: our rebellion against the God who created us.

Religion says, "Do this and live." Jesus Christ says, "Believe in me and what I have done." He lived the perfect life we failed to live. He died the death our sins deserved, and he offers forgiveness and reconciliation with God as gifts of grace.

But how can we know these extraordinary claims are true? Jesus announced that he would be raised bodily from the dead. Afterward, the apostles testified that they had encountered the risen Christ. Paul, once an enemy of Christianity, declared that Jesus had appeared to numerous eyewitnesses.

Christianity stakes its credibility on an event it claims happened in history: Jesus Christ rose from the dead and appeared to many witnesses over forty days. If Jesus truly rose, his claim to be the only way to God deserves our strictest scrutiny.

Golf instructors may offer different methods for improving our mechanics. Jesus, however, did not come merely to improve us. He came to rescue people who could never save themselves.

The gospel is exclusive in its Savior but inclusive in its invitation. Jesus welcomes people from every nation, ethnicity, and social position. His offer of forgiveness is for everyone who repents and believes.

The most important question is not whether Christianity is exclusive. The most important question is whether Jesus is who he claimed to be.

Prayer: Lord! You have commanded us to love you with our minds. Help us to think through these many issues and offer compelling evidence in our encounters with others.

