

Why Christianity's Way of Salvation is Unique

I. An overview of different religion's beliefs about salvation.

Religion	Man's Problem	Solution to the Problem
Judaism	Man has disobeyed God and broken his Law.	Repentance, prayer & keep the Law
Christianity	Man has a sin nature and has disobeyed God and broken his Law and is under God's judgment.	Trust in God's provision of Jesus as our Savior and Lord and you will be forgiven and regenerated.
Mormonism	Man has disobeyed God and broken his Law.	Faith + baptism + obey God
Islam	Man has disobeyed God and broken his Law.	Faith + live right
Hinduism	Man has committed wrong and is separated from Brahman.	Man must work off his karma through repeated reincarnations until he is good enough to be united with

¹³ "Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it. ¹⁴ "For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are few who find it. Matthew 7:13-14 (NASB)

II. A contrast between salvation in other religions and Christianity.

- In other religions "salvation" is earned and/or maintained by the individual. In Christianity salvation is neither earned nor maintained by the individual.
- Other religions teach a form of salvation by works whereas Christianity teaches salvation by grace.

14. Now I say unto you that ye must repent, and be born again; for the Spirit saith if ye are not born again ye cannot inherit the kingdom of heaven; therefore come and be baptized unto repentance, that ye may be washed from your sins, that ye may have faith on the Lamb of God, who taketh away the sins of the world, who is mighty to save and to cleanse from all unrighteousness. 15. Yea, I say unto you come and fear not, and lay aside every sin, which easily doth beset you, which doth bind you down to destruction, yea, come and go forth, and show unto your God that ye are willing to repent of your sins and enter into a covenant with him to keep his commandments, and witness it unto him this day by going into the waters of baptism. 16. And whosoever doeth this, and keepeth the commandments of God from thenceforth, the same will remember that I say unto him, he shall have eternal life, according to the testimony of the Holy Spirit, which testifieth in me.

– Alma 7:14-16 (underlining added)

⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, *it is the gift of God;*
⁹ not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. Ephesians 2:8-9 (NASB)

⁶ But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works, otherwise grace is no longer grace. Romans 11:6

“Grace is simply the mercy, the love and the condescension God has for his children, as a result of which he has ordained the plan of salvation so that they may have power to progress and become like him...All men are saved by grace alone without any act on their part, meaning that they are resurrected and become immortal because of the atoning sacrifice of Christ...In addition to this redemption from death, all men, by the grace of God, have the power to gain eternal life. This is called salvation by grace coupled with obedience to the laws and ordinances of the gospel. Hence Nephi was led to write: ‘We labor diligently to write, to persuade our children, and also our brethren, to believe in Christ, and to be reconciled to God; for we know that it is by grace that we are saved after all we can do.’ ---What Mormons Think of Christ, pp. 27-33

- In other religions the gap between God’s demands and man can be bridged by man. In Christianity this gap cannot be bridged by man.

⁴⁸ “Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect. Matthew 5:48 (NASB)

¹⁰ as it is written, “**THERE IS NONE RIGHTEOUS, NOT EVEN ONE;** ¹¹ **THERE IS NONE WHO UNDERSTANDS, THERE IS NONE WHO SEEKS FOR GOD;** ¹² **ALL HAVE TURNED ASIDE, TOGETHER THEY HAVE BECOME USELESS; THERE IS NONE WHO DOES GOOD, THERE IS NOT EVEN ONE.**” Romans 3:10-12 (NASB)

²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, Romans 3:23 (NASB)

- In other religions man’s pride does not have to be killed in order to be saved. In Christianity man’s pride must be killed because he must recognize his inability to save himself.
- Christianity is the only faith system that teaches that God actually solved man’s problem for him by personally intervening to save him.