

# Two Old Christians

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Two old **Christians** got into a discussion on salvation, specifically the differences between what **Jesus** said was the way to heaven, verses what the apostles figured out after the fact.

One said “**Jesus** said we go to heaven by believing in **God**, yet **John** said we go to heaven by believing in **Jesus**. So, who is right, **Jesus** or **John**?”

**John 5:24**

*<sup>24</sup> [Jesus speaking] "Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes [in God] him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life."*

The other one answered “Both are right. Both save you. As **Peter**<sup>1</sup> said, it is through **Jesus** that we believe in **God**.”

“Correct” replied the former. Then came “But what about ‘Only faith alone in **Jesus** saves you?’”

The former answered “**Jesus** was so plagued by this problem himself, he yelled at people about it.”

**John 12:44**

*<sup>44</sup> Then Jesus [yelled] cried out, "Whoever believes in me does not believe in me only, but in the one [God] who sent me."*

**Jesus** said believing in **God** saves you, not faith in him only.

Retorting “Wait, but **Jesus** said ‘No one comes to the father except through me.’”

Answer back: “This is solely based on a misread of John 14, you have to look at the context of the verses here.<sup>2</sup> **Jesus** is telling his disciples he is going back to heaven (New Jerusalem) where he will prepare their condo for them, then come greet them just inside the gate of heaven, take them to their condo, give them their reward, then escort them along streets of gold to the temple of **God**. There **Jesus** will introduce them directly to **God**. This road “way” to **God** is what **Jesus** does with every newly dead human spirit, not just the disciples. Hence, **Jesus** is the only way to **God**, while **God** is the only way to heaven.”

The former asked “Who else ‘Believes in **God**’ and is going to heaven?”

Answered “Well, **Jews** of any kind. **Muslims** of any kind. **Christians** of any kind, along with those of neither but who also believe in **God**. We all ‘Believe in **God**’ so we all go to heaven together. Where we will be held personally accountable for how we treated each other while alive on earth. In fact, our reward in heaven depends on it.”

**John 10:16**

<sup>16</sup> *[Jesus speaking] I have other sheep [non-Christians] that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd.*

Adding “So, **Jesus** will succeed in his mission of saving every human on earth, truly one flock, and one shepherd?”

“Correct.” ended the discussion.

**Did these two old Christians get it right? Why?**

#### FOOTNOTES

[1] 1 Peter 1:21

<sup>21</sup> Through him [Jesus] you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, so your faith and hope are in God.

[2] John 14:1-6 – The “Way” as in the roadway to God's temple.

<sup>1</sup> [Jesus speaking] “Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. <sup>2</sup> My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? <sup>3</sup> And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. <sup>4</sup> You know the way to the place where I am going.” <sup>5</sup> Thomas said to him, “Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?” <sup>6</sup> Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”