

Can An Atheist Be Save Not Believing In God?

(What does one have to do to be saved?)

Sunday AM 12/06/20

Introduction:

The answer to the above questions are determined by God. To find out what God says one must go to the Bible, the word of God. ***“that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast the word of life, so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain or labored in vain.” (Philippians 2:15-16)*** Man cannot change what God requires and who God will save. We can not add to or take away from God’s word. ***“For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book; and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.” (Revelation 22:18-19)***

I) Man Vs. the Bible

A) Pope Francis assures atheists: You don’t have to believe in God to go to heaven

1. Pope Francis has written a long, open letter to the founder of La Repubblica newspaper, Eugenio Scalfari, stating that non-believers would be forgiven by God if they followed their consciences.
2. “You ask me if the God of the Christians forgives those who don’t believe and who don’t seek the faith. I start by saying – and this is the fundamental thing – that God’s mercy has no limits if you go to him with a sincere and contrite heart. The issue for those who do not believe in God is to obey their conscience.”

3. "Sin, even for those who have no faith, exists when people disobey their conscience."

B) In Shift for Church, Pope Francis Voices Support for Same-Sex Civil Unions

1. Pope Francis expressed support for same-sex civil unions in remarks revealed in a documentary film that premiered on Wednesday, a significant break from his predecessors that staked out new ground for the church in its recognition of gay people. October 2020
2. Many gay Catholics and their allies outside the church welcomed the pope's remarks, though Francis' opposition to gay marriage within the church remained absolute.
3. Vatican says Pope's comments on same-sex civil unions were taken out of context, November 2, 2020
 - a. In that context, the Vatican's letter claims, the Pope "had spoken about the rights of these people to have certain legal protection," but not about same-sex marriage.
 - b. "It is clear that Pope Francis was referring to certain provisions made by states, and certainly not to the doctrine of the Church, which he has reaffirmed numerous times over the years," the letter explains.
 - c. In the film the Pope also says: "Homosexuals have a right to be a part of the family. They're children of God and have a right to a family," which was interpreted by some to mean that the Pope was in favor of same-sex couples forming families.

C) To be fair many Protestant Denominations believe the same

things.

1. Perhaps not to the degree as saying “atheist can go to heaven” but many believe there are many different avenues to get there. Jews, Muslims, Hindus, etc. can all go to heaven.
2. Many are accepting homosexual “unions” and “marriages.”

II) Points to Consider

A) This is what happens when man starts changing and rejecting God’s word.

1. Does it really matter if it is one man speaking for a whole group or a convention voting on a particular doctrine?
2. Marriage in the Bible **Genesis 2.26; Matthew 19.4-6**, has been redefined as between those in a “loving relationship.”

B) This is what happens when one tries to define and describe unbiblical things with Biblical terms.

Nehemiah 13:24 *And half of their children spoke the language of Ashdod, and could not speak the language of Judah, but spoke according to the language of one or the other people.*

1. Words have meanings and definitions- civil unions
2. All kinds of terms have been created so as to not use the word sin or sinful relationship.

C) Can one go to heaven without believing in God?

Hebrews 11:6 *But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.*

1. To not believe in the God means to not believe in our Creator.

Genesis 1:26 Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

2. To not believe in a God means to not believe in man's spiritual nature.

Genesis 1:27 So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

3. To not believe in God means to not believe Jesus is the Son of God. How can you believe one has the qualities of deity if you reject the idea of deity?

John 20:31 but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

4. How can one be saved without believing in and obeying the Son of God?

John 8:24 "Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for if you do not believe that I am He, you will die in your sins."

5. The Jews understood the exclusive nature of Jesus' statements and for about 2,000 years the so-called Christian world did to.

D) Can one who does not believe in God, go to a place they

don't believe in?

1. The atheist does not believe in the spiritual nature of man.
2. I have said about Calvinist that a person can go to heaven who does not want to go there if God determines to send them there.
3. Now we learn an atheist can go to a place they don't believe in.

Matthew 7:21 "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.

E) Can one go to heaven purely by having a "good conscience"?

1. The Bible says one is saved by the Gospel of Christ.

Romans 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.

2. Can a person live in good conscience go to heaven without obeying Jesus Christ? Many believe so but not the Bible.

Hebrews 5:9 And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him,

3. Can one be saved by doing good works and simply living a good life? Many believe so? Such is true then every Gospel sermon preached in the Book of Acts should have said so.

Acts 2:37 Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles,

"Men and brethren, what shall we do?" 38 Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

4. Paul is often studied due to his conversion to Christ in Acts but was he already saved before he was converted?

Acts 9:1 Then Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest 2 and asked letters from him to the synagogues of Damascus, so that if he found any who were of the Way, whether men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. 3 As he journeyed he came near Damascus, and suddenly a light shone around him from heaven. 4 Then he fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?"

Acts 23:1 Then Paul, looking earnestly at the council, said, "Men and brethren, I have lived in all good conscience before God until this day."

5. A good conscience is not a substitute for the word of God or obeying God.
- a. Many of those practicing idolatries may have had a good conscience.
 - b. Jews persecuting the church may have had a good conscience.
 - c. A good conscience is not the blood of Christ.
6. A good conscience must be trained by the word of God.

1 Timothy 1:5 Now the purpose of the commandment is

love from a pure heart, from a good conscience, and from sincere faith,

7. A good conscience is a good starting point but it must be taught what is right and wrong.

Conclusion:

What the Pope was espousing and what many believe is closer to universalism than what the Bible teaches. We don't want to be disappointed on the day of judgement.