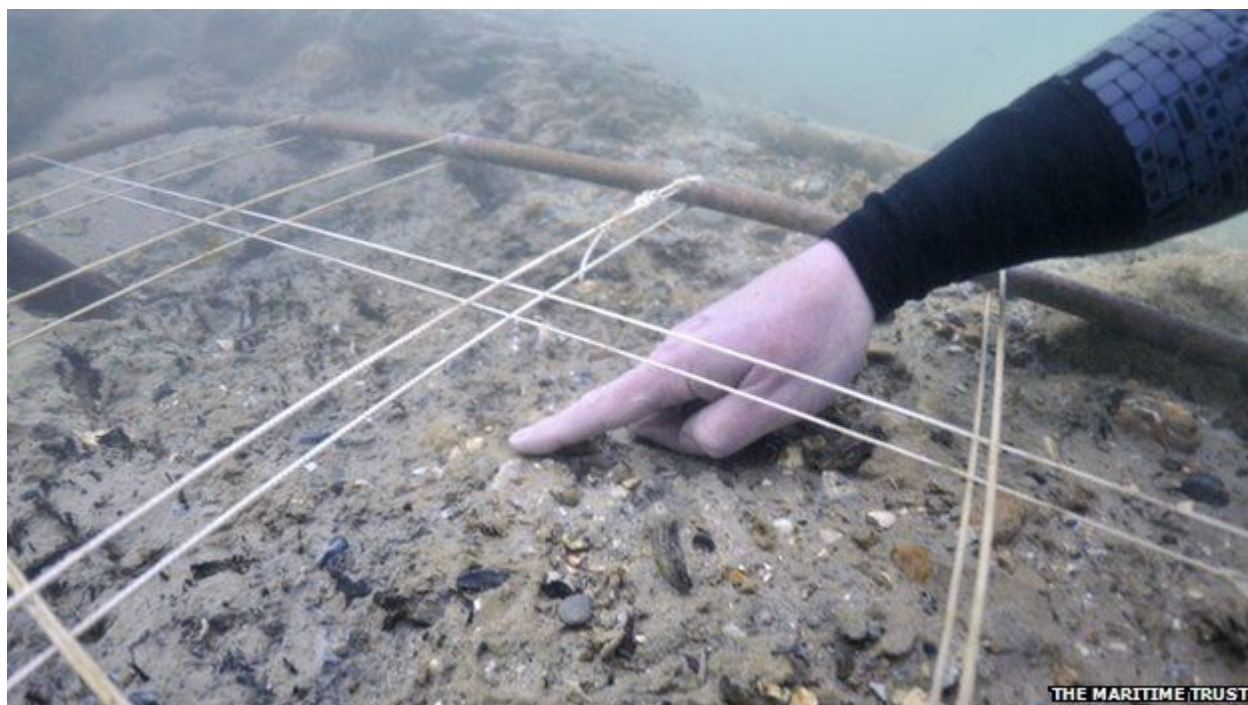


It is popularly believed that there are many ways or



paths to God. Many truly believe that one can find God through either any of such diverse paths as Christianity, or Buddhism, or Hinduism, or Islam, or Shintoism, or Confucianism, or Paganism, or Mysticism, or Sun Worship, or through their own enlightenment and path, or Native American religion, or Spiritism, or “the energy of the universe,” or New Age, or by being a good person, or through no religion at all, or through nature, or any combination of these and/or other beliefs, etc. Those who disagree with this populist idea are viewed as narrow-minded, or ignorant.

Is this populist view so? No, it is not! Jesus said:

“I am the way and the truth and the life, no one comes to the Father, except through me”—John 14:6

“I am the gate. Whoever enters through me will be saved”—John 10:9 NAB

According to Jesus Christ, the only way to God is through him, which means Biblical

Christianity.

“There is one God. There is also one mediator between God and the human race, Christ Jesus”—1 Timothy 2:5 NAB

Jesus is the only mediator between God and humans. Thus, all other ways and means to God are eliminated!

This is not to say that all beliefs that claim to be Christian are correct, either. Besides being **“the way,”** Jesus also said that he is **“the truth.”** This fact eliminates falsehood. As a matter of fact, Jesus further clarifies the issue by saying:

“The true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth”—John 4:23,24 NRSV

Jesus here refers to **“the true worshippers”**. This implies that there are also false worshippers. Jesus plainly states that true worship requires the truth, not falsehood. Jesus also says, **“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the the will of my Father in heaven” (Matthew 7:21-23 NAB)**, which also indicates that a person’s actions, lifestyle and motivations make a difference. The fact is that all roads don’t lead to the same place.

Critics complain that the above Biblical viewpoints are “narrow-minded.” You can’t “put God in a box,” they proclaim. However, Biblical Christianity is “narrow”. There is no allowance for worshipping other Gods, or for other mediators, or other paths to God. Jesus said:

“Enter through the narrow gate, for the gate is wide and the road is easy that leads to destruction, and there are many who take it. For the gate is narrow and the road is hard that leads to life, and there are few who find it”—Matthew 7:13,14

NRSV

Jesus was very clear that there are not multiple paths to God. The way to God is “narrow,” not “wide.” Although narrow, it is wide enough so that **“all who want it may have the water of life, and have it free” (Revelation 22:17 NAB)**. While **“the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 6:23 NLT)**, one must meet God’s requirements to qualify. What are those requirements? Jesus said, **“If you love me, you will keep my commandments” (John 14:15 NAB)**. Despite many teachings to the contrary, strenuous effort is required, as Jesus said: **“Try your hardest to enter by the narrow door, because, I tell you, many will try to enter and will not succeed”—Luke 13:24 NJB**. There is no truth to the belief that a person is, ‘Once saved, always saved.’ On the other hand, it is not our prerogative to judge others, because **“the Father . . . has entrusted all judgment to the Son” (John 5:22 NIV)**.