

Beulah Heights University

The Exclusiveness of Soteriology: How do I Know if Jesus is the Only Way for My Salvation?

A Paper

Presented in Partial Fulfillment
of the Requirements for the Course

Th 503 Systematic Theology I

by

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Introduction

Statement of the Problem

Everywhere you look, the church is under attack from both those that are within the church; as well as, from those that have no intent of ever converting to the one true faith. One of the ongoing debates has been around soteriology. Differing perspectives on the soteriological debates have gone on from within the ranks of the Church for centuries. However, the argument from outside the walls of the universal church have gained ground over the century with a real attack on the exclusivity of salvation. Particularly, the pluralism debate associated with the modern trends found in comparative religion raises a protest of how can Christianity claim to be the one truth when there are so many rival alternatives; especially, "when 'truth' itself has become a devalued notion?"¹ With this in mind, in order to obtain a clearer understanding of the topic, the writer of this research paper will conduct research on the exclusiveness of soteriology and how does one know if Jesus is the only solution for mankind's salvation?

Statement of the Purpose

The purpose of the study is to determine if the Christian claims of being the one true faith is the real truth in this current anti-Christian culture. Specifically, the writer will review the exclusivity of Christianity being the only one religion as true and that what is opposed to it in other religions (pluralism) is false.² Also, the writer will discuss the biblical basis for the exclusivity of Christ's salvific work, presuppositions against soteriological claims, and what

¹ Norman L. Geisler, *Systematic Theology: In One Volume* (Bloomington, Minnesota: Bethany House Publishers, 2011), 968.

² Ibid.

guidelines should be adopted when attempting to explain soteriological claims of Jesus is the only way to none believers.

Methodology and Sources

The writer of this paper will conduct a systematic theological evangelical study of soteriology and its exclusivity. Geisler's *Theological Methodology*³ will loosely serve as a framework to formulate the case for an exclusivity of soteriology theology. Current views on the topic will be discussed along with exegetical analysis of relevant texts such as literary context with a key word study, the careful use of scholarly commentaries, and other works to support the research along with the theological synthesis of the exegetical data. Likewise, the contemporary significance in terms of the doctrinal significance and the practical application of the exclusivity of soteriology will be addressed.

³ Norman L. Geisler, *Systematic Theology: In One Volume* (Bloomington, Minnesota: Bethany House Publishers, 2011), 159-164.