

Faith in Christ: Is It Necessary? • Part 4

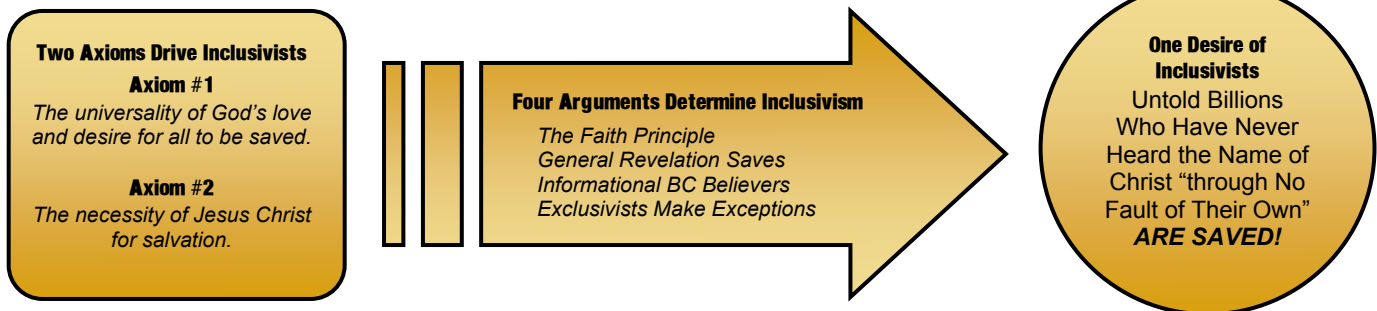
Lesson 10

"Inclusivism has become an enormously influential position among evangelicals at the end of the twentieth century....It certainly makes a powerful appeal to our emotions....The acceptance of this biblically unsupportable opinion carries an enormously high theological cost. One hopes that large numbers of evangelicals already committed to inclusivism will see these dangers and recognize the weaknesses of the position they have accepted..."

~Ronald Nash, *Is Jesus the Only Savior?*

🔊 **Asking the Hard Question:** Is conscious **FAITH** in Jesus necessary for salvation?

Inclusivism says: **NO!** Those who have never heard of Jesus, but sincerely respond in faith to God based on the light they have will be saved on the basis of the work of Jesus.



Four Arguments Determine Inclusivism

#1 The "FAITH Principle" Sets a Standard Low Enough for Those Who Have Never Heard of Jesus to Be Saved...or Does It?

Inclusivists argue...

- A **GENERAL** faith in a generic God is **sufficient** to save. *Hebrews 11:6*
 - 1) God looks at the **DIRECTION** of the heart, not the doctrine in the head.
 - 2) Saving faith is measured by **SINCERITY**, not content.

Exclusivists answer from the Bible...

- A **SPECIFIC** faith in the particular person, the Lord Jesus Christ, is **required** to be saved. *Hebrews 12:2*
- Saving faith as taught in the Bible has three basic elements:
 - 1) Knowing the **TRUTH**
 - 2) Affirming it is **TRUE**
 - 3) Choosing to **TRUST**
- Saving faith comes by **HEARING** and hearing by the word of God being preached to the lost. *Romans 10:17*

- Saving faith is never **SEPARATED** from special revelation concerning the Son of God, the Lord Jesus Christ.
- 1) **Hebrews 11:6** is not sufficient for salvation in the OT and certainly not since God's final revelation of Himself in the coming of His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. *Hebrews 11:1-3*
- 2) None of the "Heroes of the Faith" in **Hebrews 11** placed their faith in God apart from the special revelation of Himself and the promise of the coming Seed—the *Man of promise!*

NEXT TIME...

General Revelation, "Holy Pagans", and Infant Salvation!

IN THE MEANTIME...Where Do I Think or Act Like an Inclusivist?

Have I lowered the standard of saving faith to a general faith in a generic God?