



ARISE! MINISTRIES

Mount Up On Wings - Isaiah 40:31

Tom Stiles, Editor

October 2, 2024

Do All Religions Lead To God?

“Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.” -John 14:6

During a recent three-day trip to Singapore, Pope Francis declared, “all religions are a path to God.”

The statement was made at an interreligious meeting with students from a Catholic junior college.

Departing from his prepared remarks, the Pope stated that different religions are like “different languages” to reach God.

“If you start to fight, ‘my religion is more important than yours, mine is true and yours isn’t,’ where will that lead us?” he asked, [according to](#) Crux Now. “There’s only one God, and each of us has a language to arrive at God. Some are Sheik, Muslim, Hindu, Christian, and they are different paths [to God].”

He also claimed that “Since God is for all, then we are all children of God.”

He is wrong on both counts:

1) All Religions Are Not a Path to God!

The Bible is very clear that there is only one path to God and that is through Jesus Christ.

For example, we read in **1 Timothy 2:5-6**, “For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.”

There is only one God, one mediator between God, and one path – through the ransom paid by Jesus Christ by His death on the cross.

The Word of God declares in **Acts 4:12**, “Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name [Jesus Christ] under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.”

In **John 14:6**, “Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.”



Nothing could be clearer – no man cometh unto the Father (God) but by Jesus Christ!

2) We Are Not All Children of God

The Lord told a group of religious leaders that they were not the children of God, but children of the devil in **John 8:44**.

So are we in our natural state.

In fact we are “children of wrath” (Ephesians 2:33; 5:6) and “children of disobedience” (Colossians 3:6), “children of darkness” (1 Thessalonians 5:5).

That is why we must be born again by the Spirit of God:

John 3:3, “Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

Now instead of being “children of darkness,” we are “children of light” and “the sons of God.”

John 1:12, “But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:”

The good news is EVERYONE can become a “child of God.”

John 3:16, “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”

In what I consider the saddest portion of the Bible Jesus said in **Matthew 7:21-23**, “Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.”

Pope Francis is leading people down this path – a path that does not lead to God but to destruction.

Revelation 20:15, “And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.”

EAGLE’S EYE ON THE NATION

“The LORD is slow to anger, and great in power, and will not at all acquit the wicked: the LORD hath his way in the whirlwind and in the storm, and the clouds are the dust of his feet.” - Nahum 1:3

HURRICANE HELENE

Helene roared through Florida and Georgia under darkness on Friday as one of the most powerful storms to hit the U.S., killing numerous people, swamping neighborhoods and leaving more than 3 million homes and businesses [without power](#).

The Category 4 storm hit Florida's Big Bend region at 11:10 p.m. ET (0310 Friday GMT), leaving a chaotic landscape of overturned boats in harbors, felled trees, stranded cars and flooded streets.

Pray for the people that were in the path of the storm.

NO GOVERNMENT SHUT DOWN

The House of Representatives on Wednesday passed a three-month stopgap bill to avert a government shutdown in a 341-82 vote.

The bill included \$231 million for the Secret Service “to carry out protective operations, including the 2024 Presidential Campaign and National Special Security Events.”

The measure did not include the **SAVE ACT** which would have required proof of citizenship to register for voting.

The Senate is expected to pass it, and the President will sign it by the September 30 deadline, averting a government shut-down.

These stopgap bills to avoid a government shutdown are totally unnecessary if Congress would get its act together and pass a genuine budget.

BIG BROTHER MAY BE LISTENING

The U.S. Commerce Department has proposed a ban on [Chinese and Russian tech in connected and autonomous vehicles](#), calling it an issue of “national security.” Uncle Sam is worried about the exposure of citizens’ personal info (thanks to cars’ microphones, cameras, GPS, etc.) and the extreme possibility of adversarial control of autonomous vehicles.

This is just the tip of the iceberg – your cell phones, internet use, Alexa, etc. are all listening. What happened to “the right of privacy?”

Don’t miss the 2024 VP Debate between Vance & Walz, Tuesday, October 1st, at 8:30 PM Eastern

EAGLE’S EYE ON NEW YORK

“Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools.”

- Romans 1:22

NYC MAYOR CHARGED

“Federal prosecutors charged New York City Mayor Eric Adams with a yearslong conspiracy to receive illegal foreign campaign contributions, wire fraud and bribery, according to a 57-page indictment that detailed lavish trips and other perks the mayor allegedly accepted from Turkish officials.



According to the charges unsealed Thursday morning, Adams accepted free travel on Turkish Airlines and luxury hotel rooms worth more than \$100,000, illegal contributions to his 2021 mayoral campaign and other perks from a number of people connected to the Turkish government. In exchange, prosecutors allege, Adams used his position as incoming mayor to influence the opening of the Turkish consulate in Manhattan.”

--Politico (9/26/24)

Because Adams participated in the city’s matching campaign funds program, prosecutors allege that his campaign obtained more than \$10 million in matching funds as a result of illegal contributions.

At a press conference, Adams remained defiant, insisted that he did nothing wrong, and asked people to hear his defense before making any judgments. He further said, “I will continue to do that job that...I was elected to do.”

ELECTRIC SCHOOL BUSES

According to Governor Kathy Hochul’s Green Agenda, all new school buses will have to be zero emissions by 2027, and then by 2035 all school buses on the road will have to be zero emissions.

How much will that cost the taxpayers of New York? A [report](#) from The Empire Center for Public Policy found electric school buses will cost 2 1/2-4 times more than the lowest cost gasoline or diesel bus options. They found that a new bus costs around \$135,000, but an electric bus costs \$334, 000. The Center estimates the cost to be around \$8 billion – and that does not include chargers and additional sources of electricity.

MINISTRY REPORT

I had a busy and productive week. I preached at Gospel Community Church (9/22), taught a class at North Star Bible institute (9/25), and did an election update at Folsomdale Baptist Church (9/26).

TOM STILES SPEAKING SCHEDULE

October 4	LBBC Silver Saints
October 6	Grace Baptist Church, Whitehall, NY
October 13	First Baptist Church, Port Crane, NY
October 19	Bible Baptist Church, Norwich, NY