**BIBLE QUESTIONS: SESSION 32**

**Questions: *Why is salvation a narrow exclusive way? Are Christians narrow minded in their belief of this?***

1. **Why is salvation a narrow exclusive way?**
   1. Jesus says so.
      1. Straight is the gate and narrow the way that leads to eternal life, and few find it. Matthew 4:14
      2. Many are called few are chosen. (Matt 22:14)
   2. Because sin, death, and the devil have mankind captive.
   3. Because God is a jealous God, and won’t tolerate his people to worship idols, or share his glory with other gods. (e.g., Isaiah 42:8)
   4. Scandal of particularity
      1. It is offensive to the world, that is to pagans, to teach that god chooses some and excludes others from salvation.
      2. Ancient pagan cultures, such as the Roman Empire of Jesus’ day, did not require the worship of any particular god, but required honoring “the gods” as a pantheon. This is analogous to today’s modern religious claim that “there are many paths that lead to God”, or even that all religions, in essence, worship the same god, only using different names and myths.
      3. A god is whatever you go to in times of desperation, whatever you treat as the source of ultimate good,
2. **Are Christians narrow minded in their belief of this?**
   1. Narrow minded is a phrase used to describe someone who is too arrogant or lazy to consider that they might be wrong. It is a negative term.
      1. Some Christians are perhaps Narrow Minded, but Christianity does not require Narrow mindedness. Most Christians, out of love for their neighbor, search the scriptures diligently to try and find some other way to be saved. But Jesus is clear that it is only through belief in him.
      2. Also, the true Christian already confesses he is by nature “wrong” before God, and requires his grace to be “right.” Ironically, it is the non-christian that generally thinks he is right in himself—that is, without reference to God or the need for divine justification.
   2. Some Christians invent new theologies and ways to be saved in order to justify those who don’t have faith in Jesus. However, they are trying to be more merciful and inclusive than Jesus, which isn’t possible. It serves only to make unrepentant sinners think they are justified before God when they really aren’t. The result is that people don’t seek salvation if they believe they already have it.