

Pope, Vatican Disagree! Can Atheists Go To Heaven?

This past week, Pope Francis created quite a stir, when he said that atheists can go to Heaven. And just yesterday, a Vatican spokesman said the Pope was mistaken: atheists go to Hell. So now, we have a tremendous conflict and contradiction: who is correct? On this program, your Co Prophet is going to side with Pope Francis. In the past I have often disagreed with our current pope. For example, when Pope Francis washed the feet of women during holy week, I said that was a grave error. Jesus never washed the feet of women. To me, this showed that Pope Francis has a misunderstanding of the effects of original sin.

I do think Pope Francis would agree with me, that if atheists can go to Heaven, so can Protestants, and Buddhists, and Muslims, and in fact everyone can be redeemed by the shed blood of Jesus Christ. In fact, I said a few years ago, on one of my programs, that atheists can even be raptured. And I also believe, Pope Francis would agree with me, that there is a corollary to all of this: Catholics can go to Hell. For example, here in New York State, we have a governor, Andrew Cuomo, who professes to be a practicing Catholic, and yet he has proposed legislation that will make New York State the abortion capital of America. I would not want to be in his shoes on Judgment Day.

So, how do atheists get to Heaven? Pope Francis says, it is on the basis of good works, and that is totally scriptural. The most complete and perfect description of judgment is given by Jesus Christ Himself in Matthew 25: 31-46, and it is very clear from Jesus' own words, that we will be judged solely on the basis of our good works. If you don't believe me, read Matthew 25, 31-46.

But we still have a discrepancy. Certainly, there are no atheists in Heaven. It is impossible to look Jesus in the face, and proclaim there is no God. So how do we get from point A to point B? How can someone die an atheist and be a believer in Heaven? What occurs between death and heaven or hell that could change a person's mind? And, of course, the answer is that Judgment occurs then.

But, is it possible for someone to learn at Judgment? Can a person change? Can one learn about God after death? And the answer again is, yes you can. Once again referring to Matthew 25, verses 31-46: both the sheep and the goats are surprised at their judgement. The

sheep ask Jesus, ***'When did we see you naked and clothe you? When were you hungry, and we fed you? When did we visit you, when you were sick or in prison? and Jesus will say to them, Whenever you did it to one of the least of my brothers'***. In other words, those who are judged, learn; and the same can happen to atheists. Jesus will also say to them, the good ones, those who have performed good works in this life: ***'Come ye blessed of My Father, and enter into the kingdom prepared for you since the foundation'***.

In other words, Pope Francis is correct, and that Vatican spokesman is in error. But, some of my subscribers have asked me, *'Then what is the point of being a Catholic?'* And the answer is found in the sacramental life of the Church. Only the Catholic Church, to my knowledge teaches that the Holy Eucharist is the true body and blood of Jesus Christ, and Jesus said: ***'Unless you eat my flesh and drink my blood, you have no life in you'***. Consequently, the one sure road to Heaven is, participating in the sacramental life of the Catholic Church.