

C H R I S T I A N I T Y and A T H E I S M

6. The Offense of Salvation Only in Jesus

Introduction

One of the essential teachings of the Bible is that salvation is found only in Jesus. But this very teaching that gives Christians comfort and assurance is very offensive to many people. Francois Marie Arouet (pen name Voltaire) was one of France's most brilliant philosophers. He attacked the errors of the church with clever wit. But unlike the reformers Voltaire never intended to reform the church but to remove it. Voltaire, like many today, was offended by exclusive claims of truth. In his *Treatise on Tolerance* (1763) he wrote:



"This little globe, which is but a point, rolls through space, as do many other globes; we are lost in the immensity of the universe. Man, only five feet high, is assuredly only a small thing in creation. One of these imperceptible beings says to another one of his neighbors, in Arabia or South Africa: 'Listen to me, because God of all these worlds has enlightened me: there are nine hundred million little ants like us on the earth, but my ant-hole is

the only one dear to God; all the other are cast off by Him for eternity; mine alone will be happy, and all the others will be eternally damned."

Development of the Argument

Early Christians –

From Commitment to Persecution –

Rejecting Any Claim to Truth –

Logical Response
The Truth is Out There –

Truth is “Exclusive” -

Biblical Response
Jesus Claims to Be the Only Way of Salvation

John 3:36

John 10:9

John 14.6

Acts 4:12

1 Cor 3:11

1 John 5:11

Put the Claim to the Test –

Sin –

Salvation –

Matt. 11:2-6

Matt. 11:25-30

Do you believe that Jesus has saved you?