

## Famous Christians on the Doctrine of Inclusivism:

### *Thoughts on What it Takes to Get to Heaven*

If some should accuse us as if we held that people born before the time of Christ were not accountable to God for their actions, we shall anticipate and answer such a difficulty. We have been taught that Christ is the first-begotten of God, and we have declared him to be the Logos of which all mankind partakes. Those, therefore, who lived according to reason (logos) were really Christians, even though they were thought to be atheists, such as, among the Greeks, Socrates, Heraclitus and others like them. — **Justin Martyr**, First Apology 46, tr. Thomas B. Falls

...elect infants dying in infancy are regenerated, and saved by Christ, through the Spirit, who worketh when, and where and how he pleaseth; so also are all other elect persons who are incapable of being outwardly called by the ministry of the Word. — **Westminster Confession of Faith**, chapter X, section III (December 3, 1646)

Perhaps there may be some well-meaning persons who carry this farther still; who aver, that whatever change is wrought in men, whether in their hearts or lives, yet if they have not clear views of those capital doctrines, the fall of man, justification by faith, and of the atonement made by the death of Christ, and of his righteousness transferred to them, they can have no benefit from his death. I dare in no wise affirm this. Indeed I do not believe it. I believe the merciful God regards the lives and tempers of men more than their ideas. I believe he respects the goodness of the heart rather than the clearness of the head; and that if the heart of a man be filled (by the grace of God, and the power of his Spirit) with the humble, gentle, patient love of God and man, God will not cast him into everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels because his ideas are not clear, or because his conceptions are confused. Without holiness, I own, "no man shall see the Lord;" but I dare not add, "or clear ideas." — **John Wesley**, "On Living Without God," *The Works of John Wesley*, 1872 edition

"Of course it should be pointed out that, though all salvation is through Jesus, we need not conclude that he cannot save those who have not explicitly accepted him in this life." — **C. S. Lewis** "Christian Apologetics," *God in the Dock*, (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1970), 102.

"We can safely say (i) if any good pagan reached the point of throwing himself on His Maker's mercy for pardon, it was grace that brought him there; (ii) God will surely save anyone he brings thus far; (iii) anyone thus saved would learn in the next world that he was saved through Christ." — **J. I. Packer**, *God's Words*, p. 210 (Packer was the general editor of the English Standard Version of the Bible, the Board of Governor's Professor of Theology at Regent College, and an executive editor of *Christianity Today* magazine)

"I have never been able to conjure up (as some great Evangelical missionaries have) the appalling vision of the millions who are not only perishing but will inevitably perish. On the other hand...I am not and cannot be a universalist. Between these extremes I cherish and hope that the majority of the human race will be saved. And I have a solid biblical basis for this belief." — **John R. W. Stott** (with David Edwards) *Evangelical Essentials: A Liberal-Evangelical Dialogue* (Downers Grove, IL; Intervarsity Press, 1988), 327.

"I think that everybody that loves Christ or knows Christ, whether they're conscious of it or not, they're members of the body of Christ.... Whether they come from the Muslim world, or the Buddhist world, or the Christian world, or the non-believing world, they are members of the body of Christ because they've been called by God. They may not even know the name of Jesus, but they know in their hearts they need something that they don't have and they turn to the only light they have and I think they're saved and they're going to be with us in heaven." — **Billy Graham**, interview by Robert Schuller on "Hour of Power" radio show, May 31, 1997.

GOD LOVES  
AN HONEST QUESTION!

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