



The descriptions below provide biblical explanations and responses to the statements on the key findings page of TheStateOfTheology.com

STATEMENT NO. 4

God is the author of Scripture.

Second Timothy 3:16 tells us that all Scripture is God-breathed, that is, spoken by Him. Although God made use of prophets and Apostles to write His Word, employing their specific gifts, none of Scripture was ultimately “produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God” (2 Peter 1:21). Thus, every word of Scripture finds its origin in God.

STATEMENT NO. 6

God accepts the worship of all religions, including Christianity, Judaism, and Islam.

Christianity is an exclusive religion in that it posits one God before whom there are no other gods (Ex. 20:3; 1 Tim. 2:5). If the Christian God is worshiped, all other gods—and religions—must be denied as false. Moreover, Scripture insists that the wrath of God abides on anyone who does not believe in God’s Son (John 3:36). Thus, God does not accept the worship of all religions but only Christian worship, for only biblical Christianity worships God as He has revealed Himself.

STATEMENT NO. 14

Modern science discredits the claims of Christianity.

Because God is the Creator and source of all truth (Gen. 1; John 17:17), no truth that is discovered in science can contradict what He has revealed. When a scientific discovery appears to contradict a claim of Christianity, then either we have drawn the wrong scientific conclusion, the claim of Christianity that is made does not accurately reflect the Bible, or both. It is also possible that the claim



The State of Theology

that is supposedly discredited was never actually made by Christianity in the first place. When a claim that science discredits Christianity is made, it is also important to consider carefully whether the actual evidence is driving the claim or whether the philosophical assumptions of the scientist is driving it. Furthermore, much of what passes as modern science is done under the assumption that God can never be an explanation for any of the evidence, which is itself an unscientific assumption because it rules out a possible conclusion beforehand.

STATEMENT NO. 17

Even the smallest sin deserves eternal damnation.

God is perfectly holy, and perfect holiness cannot abide sin (Isa. 6:1-3). God cannot even look upon sin, that is, allow it to exist in His blessed presence (Hab. 1:13). On account of His holiness, God's wrath is manifested against all sin and all sinners, even those sinners who are guilty only of what might be considered small sins such as gossip and minor acts of disobedience to one's parents (Rom. 1:18-3:20). Because all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God, even if those sins are "small," one must be justified through faith in Christ alone in order to escape God's wrath (Rom. 3:21-26). That even small sins merit God's wrath is also shown in that the law requires atonement even for sins committed unintentionally (Lev. 4). Both small sins and big sins deserve eternal wrath, but that does not mean big sins and small sins are equally heinous. Those who commit a small sin will suffer for eternity if they never trust in Christ, but their punishment will be less than those who sin gravely (Luke 12:35-48; see also Matt. 10:1-15).

STATEMENT NO. 18

By the good deeds that I do, I partly contribute to earning my place in heaven.

Scripture teaches in many places that we are not saved and cannot earn eternal life through our good works (Titus 3:4-7). By grace we are saved, through faith and not through works (Eph. 2:8-10). Good deeds have a place in the Christian life as the fruit or evidence of faith, but they in no way contribute to our earning a place in heaven. That place was earned by Christ through His perfect obedience to God and is a gift of grace to us, received only by faith (Rom. 4:1-25; 5:12-21; 11:6).



STATEMENT NO. 21

The Bible alone is the written word of God.

The Bible refers only to itself as the written word of God (2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Peter 3:16). Furthermore, the Bible says that by keeping God's law, Israel would be a witness to those nations who did not have such a good law revealed to them (Deut. 4:1-8), supporting the idea that God revealed His ways specifically to Israel alone. Jesus condemned the Pharisees for adding other traditions to the Bible and following them as if they were divine revelation (Matt. 15:1-9).

STATEMENT NO. 23

A person obtains peace with God by first taking the initiative to seek God, and then God responds with grace.

Grace precedes our seeking of God. In fact, apart from grace, no one will seek God, for Romans 3:9-20 tells us that both Jews and Gentiles—all people (except Christ)—are under sin, with the consequence being that “no one seeks for God.” In order to see the kingdom of God, let alone enter it by believing in Christ, we must first be born again (John 3:1-8). Regeneration precedes faith; God must first bring us to new spiritual life, or we will not believe. We are born dead in sin, and God must give us spiritual life, for spiritually dead people cannot do what is spiritually pleasing to God, and seeking God is certainly pleasing to Him (Rom. 8:7-8; Eph. 2:1-10).

STATEMENT NO. 24

An individual must contribute his or her own effort for personal salvation.

Ephesians 2:8-10 explains that we are saved by grace through faith and not of our own doing or by our own works. To believe that we must contribute our effort for our personal salvation is to fall prey to the error Paul condemns in Galatians of thinking that we need to add circumcision or anything else to faith in Christ for salvation (Gal. 3).



STATEMENT NO. 39

Sex outside of traditional marriage is a sin.

Sex is a good gift from God, and it was given at the beginning as something that is only lawful within a marriage between one man and one woman (Gen. 1-2; 1 Cor. 7:1-5). Paul later explains that the solution for those who burn with desire for a sexual relationship is marriage (1 Cor. 7:8-9), and the only lawful expression of sexual activity we find in Scripture occurs within the context of traditional marriage. The Apostles condemn sexual immorality, which is an umbrella term that refers to all sexual activity outside of the one-flesh, male-female marital relationship (1 Cor. 10:8; Eph. 5:5; Heb. 13:4; Rev. 21:8).

STATEMENT NO. 40

Abortion is a sin.

Scripture condemns murder, the unlawful killing of another human being (Ex. 20:13). The Bible emphasizes that life begins at conception (Ps. 139:13), and science shows that at conception, a separate, living being is formed. So, to kill an unborn child who has committed no crime is a form of murder and sinful.

STATEMENT NO. 47

Only those who trust in Jesus Christ alone as their Savior receive God's free gift of eternal salvation.

Jesus Himself said that no one comes to the Father except through Him (John 14:6). Conscious faith in Him is essential. This is seen in such episodes as the Apostles telling the Philippian jailer that he had to believe in Jesus in order to be saved (Acts 16:25-34). Paul also indicates that we cannot call upon Jesus and be saved unless someone preaches the gospel to us (Rom. 10:13-17). We are saved only by faith (Eph. 2:8-10), which comes only through the word of Christ (Rom. 10:17).