

Is the idea of faithful believers going to heaven shortly after death a pagan Platonic belief of human beings having soul and thus, go to heaven?

Plato was a dualist. He believed that men have a body and a soul and upon death; he believed, the soul would return to the 'realm of the forms'. A soul could then become human again.¹ The bible teaches that the soul possesses immortality (Mt 10:28); but upon death: absent from the body, present (or not) with the Lord (2 Co 5:8) which is based upon a right relationship with Jesus Christ.

Philosopher Nickolas Pappas wrote:

...[I]f you are asking "Was Plato religious?" then even though that word "religious" does not correspond exactly to anything in ancient Greek culture, nevertheless one can answer "Yes," inasmuch as "being religious" had more to do with participating in traditional rituals and practices than in believing this or that claim about the gods...

...The Socratic and Platonic disbelief presupposes genuine belief that the gods exist, and only a refusal to agree that they could behave in such ungodly manner.²

The apostle Paul preached to the Greeks on Mars' hill saying, "Ye men of Athens, I perceive that in all things ye are too superstitious. (Ac 17:22)." The Greeks had many gods and Paul would introduce them to the God of creation who was moral (Phil. 3:7–10) as expressed in his law (Rom. 2:14–16). His followers were encouraged to live moral lives, as well (Rom. 12:1–21).

The idea of life after death did not originate in Greek paganism. When Abraham offered his son, Isaac, to be sacrificed (Ge 22:1–19), it could be argued that he believed in life after death. After all, God would have to raise Isaac from the dead to keep his promises (Gen. 17:15–19, 20–22; Gal. 4:22–31).

Distinguishing between Greek philosophy and the scriptures, Gino Geraci said, "The difference between Socrates, Plato [and] Aristotle is the difference between inquiry and revelation." The apostle John wrote: "No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him (Jn 1:18)." Philosophy is the height of man's wisdom; but God's wisdom begins and ends (Re 1:8) in the person of Jesus Christ (Pr 9:10). He has been revealed in the scriptures by men who were moved by the Holy Spirit (2 Pet. 1:21).

Jesus said, "Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away." Mt 24:35. The words of others have indeed passed away; but his word lives on (Jn 1:1-3).

¹ Fyfe. Plato was right to argue that there is life after death: 10 Jul 17: <https://www.redbubble.com/people/fyfe/writing/1364508-plato-was-right-to-argue-that-there-is-life-after-death-discuss>

² Nickolas Pappas, Nickolas. 20 Dec 12. Did Socrates and Plato believe in any of the Myths of their time?: <http://askphilosophers.org/question/4976>