

The Flight to Philadelphia

Dr. Tony Campolo is a speaker, sociologist, author and associate pastor of the Mount Carmel Baptist Church in West Philadelphia, Pa. For 10 years, he was a professor of sociology at the University of Pennsylvania.

In an article for *World Vision*, Campolo tells of taking an airplane ride from California to Philadelphia one stormy night. It was late, and when the man in the next seat learned that Campolo was a Christian, he wanted to talk.

“I believe that going to heaven is like going to Philadelphia” the man said. “You can get there by airplane, by train, by bus, by automobile. There are many ways to get to Philadelphia.”

Campolo picks up the story here:

As we started descending into Philadelphia, the place was fogged in. The wind was blowing, the rain was beating on the airplane, and everyone looked nervous and tight. As we were circling in the fog, I turned to the theological expert on my right. “I’m certainly glad the pilot doesn’t agree with your theology,” I said.

“What do you mean?” he asked.

“The people in the control booth are giving instructions to the pilot: ‘Coming north by northwest, three degrees, you’re on beam, you’re on beam, don’t deviate from the beam.’ I’m glad the pilot’s not saying, ‘There are many ways into the airport. There are many approaches we can take.’ I’m glad he is saying, ‘There is only one way we can land this plane, and I’m going to stay with it.’”



The Bible tells us that the God who made us desires to have eternal fellowship with us. When we disobeyed Him and missed the mark He set for us, choosing to go our own way instead of His, He gave His only begotten Son to die for our sins.

The Scriptures make it plain: There is only one way to God, and that is through faith in Jesus Christ.

Jesus said to him (the disciple, Thomas), “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me” (John 14:6).

– Beecher Hunter