

Introduction

- Vital question - must know the answer.
- The default position of most people is that all religions are the same and therefore of equal value.
- Opinion of many world leaders and some church leaders is that all religions lead to God.
- Not saying that we are to be disrespectful and that can't we live alongside people of different religions.
- Most loving thing of all is to tell the people the truth.
- The truth is - ALL RELIGIONS DO NOT LEAD TO GOD - only the Lord Jesus Christ can make us right with God and take us to heaven.

1. All Religions Can't Lead to God

- Human beings were created to know God deeply and intimately **Job 32:8 p 533**
- Sin ruined that relationship.
- We have a God shaped void in our lives
- Man has made host of religions to fill that gap. **Romans 1:22 p 1129**
- To say that Jesus Christ is the only way to God is to be seen as intolerant.
- It is logically impossible for all religions to lead us to God.

- Yes there are some overlapping superficial similarities between world religions but they are all distinctly different.
- It is therefore logically impossible for them all to lead to God.
- Two opposite things can't both be right.
- Those who claim that Christianity is intolerant are themselves being intolerant of Christianity.
- Truth by definition is exclusive.

2. The Bible and Other Religions

- Look up **Isaiah 44:9ff p 730**
- Note how other religions are described.
- V9
- V10
- V11&12
- V13
- V19
- V20
- There is only one true God - the God who has revealed himself in the Bible.
- Look up **Proverbs 14:12 p648** - write out and learn:

3. Jesus Christ is the Only Way to God

- The Bible doesn't say that Jesus Christ is

the best way or a better way - but the ONLY WAY.

- Biblical Christianity is God reaching to man and not man reaching for God - see **John 1:1,14, 18 p 1063**.
- The Bible says that as human beings we are by nature spiritually dead and guilty before God.
- What is the Lord Jesus claiming in these verses:
 - **Matthew 28:18-20 p 1001**
 - **John 14:6 p 1082**
 - **John 8:24 p 1074**
- Why does Peter say there is salvation in no one else? **Acts 4:12 p 1096**
- All other religions are man doing, Christianity is what God has done.
- Christ alone can deal with our bad records and bad hearts and therefore bring us to God.
- We need a saviour and Christ is the only qualified one.
- Since there is no other way to be saved - it is the task and privilege of every Christian to bring this message to others.

4. Helping Others who think Differently

- We must not ignore the truth
- Paul has given us an example of how to speak with people who have strange views about religion.
- **Acts 17:16ff p 1113**
- What was Paul's reaction?
- What did he do v17&18 and what are we to do?
- What was the response of the people?
- Describe Paul's approach v22&23
- Why doesn't he just tell them that they need to be saved? V24ff
- What does he tell them about God?
- What does he tell them to do? V31
- What response was there to his witness v32-34?
- Remember no matter what religious pathway that a person is on the Lord Jesus Christ is willing to save all who call on Him.

Conclusion

- Christianity is the only religion that has a Saviour and allows man to be honest - I am a failure who has sinned against God

The World's Major Religions

Islam

Youngest of major world religions. Began with Mohammed who saw himself as God's prophet. Islam sees Mohammed as the last and greatest prophet. The main religious works are: the repetition of the statement - *There is no God but Allah and Mohammed is the prophet of Allah*; prayer, fasting, almsgiving and pilgrimage. The Koran denies the Trinity the basis of the gospel. It fosters proud self righteousness.

Hinduism

Has a variety of holy books - most important being the Upinshads. Brahma is the only true reality. By meditation the Hindu seeks union with Brahma. Reincarnation is a leading teaching that states that the soul at death can be reborn into vegetable, animal or insect life. Rebirth is determined by karma - deeds done. Hinduism recognises three ways of salvation - works, knowledge and devotion.

Buddhism

States that the source of human misery is desire and if you could rid yourself of desire you would have peace. Meditation assures entrance to Nirvana at death. People are attracted to the offer of release from endless misery.

Judaism

Has only limited links with the OT. The traditions of others more important - Mishnah, Talmud. Jews of today divide into various groups. The orthodox Jews hope for salvation in strict law keeping. Many Jews today not religious at all. It is legalism & moralism and self salvation by human works.

Life's Big Questions Answered



Study 4

Do all Religions lead to God?