

BITH575 COMPARATIVE RELIGIONS

INTRODUCTION

Studying Comparative Religions can often leave the student bewildered. The diverse and sincere beliefs held by each follower could cause the Christian student to question the existence of truth in matters of religion. Many of the world's faiths seem to be a mixture of truth and lie, with one person or principle responsible for the universe, and to whom they pay honor and reverence.

We are to be concerned with what our fellow man believes. Their convictions command their interest, study, and respect. As we study other religions, we, the Christian student, will many times find ourselves being rebuked, instructed, and inspired. This becomes vivid when we look at the fidelity in prayer and fasting found in the followers of Islam, or the quiet, dignified self-discipline of the Buddhist.

How can we, as Christian students, be confident in our faith? If we study Christian history, we find it full of sin, intolerance, frailty and division. The Christian religion, through the centuries, has been filled with a myriad of human errors. So what gives us our confident conviction in what we see as the truth? It is belief, faith, and trust in Jesus Christ, as the Messiah. The history of Israel stands behind Him, God's workings with and revelations through Abraham, Moses, and a host of prophets.

The Old Testament, through promise, prediction, and prefiguration, looks toward the One Who was, and did, come. There is no question as to whether Jesus came. His teachings and the impact He made were both in His life and in His death. There is also no doubt that after His death, His disciples on the day of Pentecost, became witnesses whom no trouble or persecution could silence. They turned the world upside down with His truth. This is the same truth that we must hold fast.

Why Study Other Religious Beliefs?

There is often a challenge by people of other religious beliefs with arguments of all types that appear valid. Christianity is not compatible with other religions/cults. The argument that Jesus was only a great teacher or the uniqueness of Jesus Christ as the only way to know the living God should be stressed because of this incompatibility. Christianity is not compatible with cults, non-Christian religions, secular religions or the occult.

The Bible says, "...be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear..." (1Pe.3:15). We believers in Christ have a huge responsibility to answer those that speak out against the true faith.

Religion Defined

Religion can be defined as the attempt to live harmoniously with the power or powers a person believes are controlling his living area or world.

Learn more by purchasing the entire course that covers the following topics:

Lesson 1 - Introduction
Lesson 2 - Part 1: Secular Religions
Lesson 3 - Non-Christian Religions
Lesson 4 - Non-Christian Religions
Lesson 5 - Non-Christian Religions
Lesson 6 - Non-Christian Religions
Lesson 7 - Cults
Lesson 8 - Cults
Lesson 9 - The Occult
Lesson 10 - The Occult