



QUOTE OF THE WEEK

**YOUR LIFE AS A CHRISTIAN SHOULD MAKE
NON BELIEVERS QUESTION THEIR BELIEF IN GOD.**

–Dietrich Bonhoeffer

SERMON OF THE WEEK



Non-Christian Religions

Galatians 1:6-9 NLT

Dr. Joshua Beckley, Senior Pastor

WHAT ARE NON-CHRISTIAN RELIGIONS?

Non-Christian religions are those who speak about Jesus, but their Jesus is another Jesus!

2 Corinthians 11:4 NKJV

1,100 religious leaders in last 50 years:

- Claimed to be Christ and the Savior of the world.
- Most of these false christs (Africa, India, Orient, spread into the West).
- False christs - centerpiece of non-Christian religions.
- False christs represent another Jesus!!!

1) Buddhism

Buddhism in twenty-first century - wide variety of forms:

- Tibet - demon worship.
- Japan - new militant, nationalistic cult of Soka Gokkai.

Two main forms of Buddhism:

- *Hinayana*
 - Means “the doctrine of the lesser way.”
 - refers to belief that only a fortunate few can find Nirvana (heaven).
 - Few who absolutely follow the way of Buddha.

- *Mahayana*
 - Means the teaching of the “greater way.”
 - Teaches that Buddha believed that salvation is for all people.
 - Buddha taught that man can only save himself.
 - *Mahayana* developed the idea of a savior god.

DIFFERENCE BETWEEN CHRISTIANITY AND BUDDHISM

Jesus Christ

Christian Belief	Buddhist Belief
He is uniquely the Son of God. He was a good teacher who died for man’s sin. Matt. 14:33; 16:16; John 1:34; 9:35-37; 1 Cor. 15:3; Rom. 5:6-8	He was a good teacher. Less important than Buddha.

Salvation

Christian Belief	Buddhist Belief
Salvation is through Christ’s efforts only. Acts 4:12; Titus 3:5; Eph. 2:8-10	Man is saved by self-effort only.

2) Mormonism

Believes a new prophet writes new scripture — Book of Mormon.

- Joseph Smith, the new prophet, received his new revelation from a Demon named “Moroni.”
- Smith thought he was an Angel.
- His new revelation established the Book of Mormon.

Book of Mormon and two other books

- Source of most of the anti-Christian doctrine in Mormonism:
 - *The Pearl of Great Price*
 - *Doctrines & Covenants*

DIFFERENCE BETWEEN CHRISTIANITY AND MORMONISM

Theology

Christian Theology	Mormon Theology
† God exists as three persons. (John 1:1-4)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Polytheistic, teaching that the universe is inhabited by different gods who procreate spirit children which are clothed with bodies of different planets. Adam-god, the god of this planet. ▪ The Adam-god theology forces Mormonism to deny the Trinity of God as revealed in the Bible. ▪ Thus, one of the most extreme of Non-Christian Religions. ▪ Presents itself as being Christian, in terms of following in Christ. ▪ Denies the very Christ of the Bible.
† Each person is fully God. (Ephesians 1:3-6, 7-12, 13-14)	
† There is one God. (Deuteronomy 6:4)	

Savior

Christian Savior	Mormon Savior
† Jesus Christ is the second person of the Holy Trinity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Savior of Mormonism is an entirely different person from the Savior of the Bible. Their savior is NOT the second person of the Holy Trinity. ▪ Christ as a pre-existent spirit. ▪ The spirit brother of the devil (as mentioned the Pearl of Great Price and the Book of Moses) ▪ Celebrated his own marriage to both “the Mary’s” and Martha, whereby he could see his seed before he was crucified.

Salvation by Grace

Christian Salvation by Grace	Mormon Salvation by Grace
<p>✝ We are saved by grace alone, but it in no way enables us to “have power to progress to become like Him.”</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Common in Mormon literature - “all men are saved by grace alone without any act on their part.” ▪ “Appears” to be perfectly orthodox. ▪ Necessary to study all Mormon statements relative to this doctrine in order to know precisely what they mean by what they “appear” to say. ▪ Mormon interpretation of Salvation by Grace means: ▪ “Grace is simply the mercy, the love and <u>the condescension</u> God has for his children as a result of which he has ordained the plan of salvation so that they may have <u>power to progress and become like Him...</u> ▪ All men are saved by grace alone without any act on their part, meaning that they are <u>resurrected and become immortal</u> because of the atoning sacrifice of Christ... ▪ In addition to this redemption from death, all men, by the grace of God, have the power to <u>gain</u> eternal life. ▪ This is called Salvation by grace <u>coupled with</u> obedience to the laws and ordinances of the gospel.” ▪ Typical example of what might be termed theological double talk. ▪ The Biblical position is very clear about this issue of As we understand from a Mormons perspective that such progression refers to becoming a god, not to the Christians doctrine of sanctification or of life of the believer being brought into conformity to the Holy Spirit as Romans 8 &12 instructs.

3) ROMAN CATHOLIC

a) **Believe they are Only True** (Catholic means Universal)

b) **Believe that Catholicism is the way to Heaven.**

Through the practice of the Seven Sacraments:

1. **Baptism**

2. **Confirmation**

When a child is baptized at 12 years old, he is confirmed.

This ritual signifies that he is strengthened in the faith.

Catholics believe this ritual gives him the Holy Spirit more completely.

3. **Holy Eucharist (Communion)**

Catholics believe communion wine and bread are *actual* body and blood of Jesus.

Therefore, to take communion, for a Catholic is to receive Christ into your life. For a Catholic, every communion is Crucifying Christ anew.

4. **Reconciliation**

Sins forgiven by the priest after baptism.

5. **Anointing for the sick**

As known as Extreme Unction.

Anointing for those who are unconscious or near death.

6. **Holy Order**

The Sacrament of Holy Orders places a spiritual mark on the soul of the person who receives it.

Makes it possible for a priest to carry out sacred duties, such as baptism and communion in the church.

This mark can never be blotted out.

Means that even though a priest may lead a sinful life, since he has received the Sacrament of Holy Orders, he can still function as a priest.

7. **Holy Matrimony**

Can marry only a Catholic or become a Catholic before you marry a Catholic. Catholics are not to marry a Protestants.

Catholics are opposed to divorce.

However, some marriages are not valid if they are made without proper consent by people judged not capable of making such a decision.

KEY DIFFERENCE BETWEEN CHRISTIANITY AND CATHOLICISM

Salvation

Christian Salvation	Roman Catholic Salvation by Grace
<p>✝ God give eternal life when the Believer has faith in Jesus Christ as Savior. (Rom.3:24; 5:1; 10:9-10; Eph. 2:8-9)</p>	<p>▪ Salvation is secured by faith PLUS good works — as channeled through the Roman Catholic church.</p>

4) CHRISTIAN SCIENCE

Mary Baker Eddy - founder and main architect of Christian Science.

- Physical and mental suffering dominated her life.
- Perhaps why in 1862, intrigued with faith healer Phineas Quimby of Portland, Maine.
- Went to consult with Quimby.
- After which she reported she was healed.
- Became an ardent disciple.
- Tried to use Quimby's methods on others.
- Convinced Quimby had discovered the healing method of Jesus.
- Lost interest in following Quimby.
- Launched out on her own healing career.
- Denied owing any of her techniques to Quimby.

By 1870, Mary had developed a 12-lesson teaching system.

- Sold for \$300 a course.
- Her graduates set themselves up as healers.
- Charged fees as high as any licensed Medical doctor received.

By 1875 Mary finished writing "Science and Health" book.

- No publisher would take.
- Three of her associates helped get it into print.

By 1877, Mary married Asa Gilbert Eddy, a former student.

- He was the first to graduate with the title, "Christian Science Practitioner."
- The Church itself was incorporated on August 23, 1879 in Boston.
- Baker Eddy (*Science and Health*), the Bible was her only "authority" and her only "textbook."
- She contradicts this claim by stating that a Christian Scientist should use her book for a textbook because God was its author.
- Says it is "the voice of Truth to this age and contains the full statement of Christian Science."

She states:

- Bible is in error in at least 300,000 places in the New Testament.
- Christian Science is "unerring and divine."

DIFFERENCE BETWEEN CHRISTIANITY AND CHRISTIAN SCIENCE

Jesus Christ

Christian Belief	Christian Science Belief
✝ Christ is one with God.	▪ Jesus was NOT God.
✝ Jesus said, "I and the Father are One" (John 10:30).	▪ Science and Health states: "Jesus Christ is not God..." (p.361).
✝ Christians find much evidence of Christ's deity in the Scriptures:	▪ Scientists make Christ an outstanding man and teacher... but DENY His deity.
✝ John 1:1; Phil. 2:5-8; 1 John 2:22-23.	

Atonement and Resurrection

Christian Belief	Christian Science Belief
<ul style="list-style-type: none">✠ Christ's shed blood atoned for man's sins (1 Peter 2:24).✠ Christ died and rose from the dead in bodily form (John 20:16-17, 20, 27.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Christ's shed blood on the cross did NOT cleanse man from sin.▪ His disciples were fooled into thinking He was dead.▪ He was really alive in the Tomb. (pp.330 and 349, Science and Health).

5) JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES

Jehovah's Witnesses are a challenge to Christians for several reasons:

- a) Most of their growth has taken place just recently.
- b) They will probably continue growing because they preach a message to a world on the brink of nuclear war.
- c) Their teachings are flatly opposed to the gospel.
- d) They are flatly opposed to the Christian Church (which they say is of the devil).
- e) They deny the deity of Jesus Christ, the person and work of the Holy Spirit, and many other vital doctrines.
- f) They claim their teachings are the only real truth about the Bible.

Charles Taze Russell:

- Official founder of this group.
- Born in 1852 in Allegheny, Pa.
- Terrible fear of going to Hell.

Age 17:

- Long discussion with person who denied the existence of Hell.
- Was convinced this person was right.

Age 18:

- Wandered into a church that was preaching about the Second Coming of Christ.
- Began to study the Bible to solve the problem of knowing when Christ would return.
- Published his findings in a pamphlet, *"The Object and Manner of the Lord's Return."*
- For centuries great minds have sought to solve this problem of the Second Coming.
- Russell thought he accomplished what minds in past were not able to do.

His pamphlet consisted of:

- Lengthy, complicated and incorrect interpretation of unrelated scriptures.
- Combined with an intricate method of computing time.

End Result: His first prediction of Christ return.

- Declared Christ would return in the 1874.
- Later changed the date to 1914.

1874

- Elected Pastor of Bible class he had taught for four years.
- This marked the beginnings of the CULT now known as the Jehovah’s Witnesses.

1879

- Began to publish The Watchtower Magazine.
- Officially known as *Zion’s Watchtower and Herald of Christ’s Presence*.

By 1881

- Zion’s Watchtower and Tract Society was established.
- It was chartered in 1884.
- The Jehovah’s Witnesses movement was then official.

DIFFERENCE BETWEEN CHRISTIANITY AND JEHOVAH’S WITNESS

Jesus Christ

Christian Belief	Jehovah’s Witness Belief
† Christ is divine. † Christ is a part of the Trinity. † Christ is God himself. (John 1:1; Col. 1:15-19; 2:9; 1 John 5: 7-8).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Christ was NOT God. ▪ Christ was God’s first created creature. ▪ Jehovah’s Witnesses DENY Christ’s deity.

Atonement

Christian Belief	Jehovah’s Witness Belief
† Christ’s death was the complete payment for man’s sins. (Rom. 3:24,25; Col. 1:20; 1 Pet. 2:24; 2 Cor. 5:20).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Christ’s death provides the opportunity for man to WORK for his salvation: perfect human life for eternity on an Eden-like earth.

6) ISLAM

- Islam means “submission.”
- Members call themselves “Muslims,” which means “those who submit.”
- They read from a book called the “Quran”, which teaches:
- 6 Doctrines of Islam
- 5 Pillars of the faith according to Islam.

The 6 Doctrines of Islam:

1. God - Only One true whose name is Allah.
2. Angels - the chief is Gabriel, who is said to have appeared to Muhammed.
There is also:
 - A fallen Angel “Shaitan (from Heb. Satan).
 - His followers the “djinn” (demons).
3. Scripture — Muslims believe in four God inspired books:
 - The Torah of Moses (Pentateuch)
 - The Zabur (Psalms)
 - The Injil (Gospel) of Jesus
 - The Quran
4. Muhammed
Quran lists 28 prophets of Allah including:
Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses, David, Jonah, and Jesus.
The last and greatest of these is Muhammed.
5. The End Times
On the “last days,” the dead will be resurrected. Allah will be the judge and each person will be sent to heaven or hell. Heaven is a place of sensual pleasure.
Hell is for those who oppose Allah and his prophet Muhammed.
6. Predestination
God has determined what He pleases.
No one can change what He has decreed.

The 5 Pillars of Faith:

1. Statement of belief Allah.
2. Prayers — 5 times a day.
3. Alms — Muslim law today requires giving One fortieth of his Income.
4. Ramadan — the 9th month of the Muslim lunar year. It is the highest holy season. Muslim are required to fast for the entire month, but only during daylight hours. When the sun sets feasting begins.
5. Pilgrimage to Mecca
This is called the “Hajj” and must be performed at least once in a Muslim’s lifetime.
However, if the pilgrimage is too difficult or dangerous for the believer, he sends someone else in his place.

7) HINDUISM

Hindus believe:

- Every man is God!
- Yet, there is an elaborate system through which salvation may come to their members.
- Only if you are in the **upper three** classes of their class system:
 - The Brahman (priest)
 - The Kshatriya (warrior)
 - The Vaisya (peasants)
 - The Sudra (slave).

Each Hindu boy is first initiated:

- Then must go through the four stages of life.
- After which they are given four goals in life.
- (Girls are not even worth mentioning according to this system!)

The Four Stages of Life

1. A Student
2. The Head of a House with a wife and children.
3. A Meditating hermit seeking love, enlightenment.
4. A homeless wanderer who has renounced all things of the world.

The Four Goals in Life

1. To become righteous.
2. To have material goods.
3. To enjoy life through pleasure and appreciation of beauty.
4. To have spiritual victory over life.

DIFFERENCE BETWEEN CHRISTIANITY AND HINDUISM

Jesus Christ

Christian Belief	Islam Belief
✝ Christ is the only begotten Son of God, the Father.	▪ Christ is just ONE OF MANY incarnations or sons.
✝ Christ is God as well as man.	▪ Christ was NOT the son of God.
✝ Christ is sinless.	▪ Christ was NO MORE DIVINE than any other man.
✝ Christ died for our redemption. (John 1:13-14; 8:46; 10:30; Heb. 4:15; Mark 10:45; 1 Pet. 2:24).	▪ Christ did NOT die for man's sins.

Salvation

Christian Belief	Islam Belief
✝ Man is justified through the sacrificial death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. (Rom. 3:24; 1 Cor. 15:3)	▪ Man is justified through devotion, meditation, good works, and self-control.

8) ORTHODOX JUDAISM

Not Christian (as it relates to being like Christ).

- Orthodox Judaism does not believe Jesus is the true Messiah.
- There are marked differences between what we believe about God and what Orthodox Judaism believe.

DIFFERENCE BETWEEN CHRISTIANITY AND ORTHODOX JUDAISM

Salvation

Christian Belief	Jewish Belief
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Man is justified before God and obtain salvation through the atoning death of Christ on the cross. ✚ Salvation is a gift of God through faith. (Rom. 3:4; 1 Cor. 15:3; Eph. 2:8-9) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Anyone (Jew or not) may gain salvation through commitment to God and moral living. ▪ Judaism looks to an afterlife. ▪ However, it does not stress preparing man for the next world as much as guiding his ethical and moral behavior in this present life.

Jesus Christ

Christian Belief	Jewish Belief
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Christ is the only begotten Son of God, the Messiah, as predicted in Isaiah 53. ✚ Christ is God as well as man. ✚ Christ is sinless. ✚ Christ died to redeem all men from sin. (Mark 10:45; John 1:13-14; 8:46; 10:30; Heb. 4:15; 1 Pet. 2:24) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Some Jews may accept Jesus as a good teacher of ethics. ▪ Jews do NOT accept Jesus as Messiah because: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ (1) Jesus did not bring lasting peace. ▪ (2) Jesus was declared to be divine, and the Jewish idea of Messiah is a sent from God to deliver Israel from Oppression, NOT save individuals from personal sin.

CONCLUSION

The World today has many religions to offer those who are searching for answers.

You could choose to believe whatever makes you comfortable — from reincarnation here on earth — to populating your own plant in the afterlife.

But no matter where you look, here are truths of Christianity that no other religion can claim:

- ✚ God sent His Son Jesus to die for the sins of all mankind.
- ✚ Three days later, Jesus rose from the dead.
- ✚ Jesus provided the way for sinful humanity to find God.
- ✚ Jesus is alive today, listening to the desires of your heart & answering when you call out to Him.