



Introduction to

APOLOGETICS

Session VIII: Is Jesus The Only Way?

NOTES

Likewise, it makes us passive and unkind since we should not help others or risk interfering with their karma. Second, it is fatalistic and gives us nothing to look forward to but absorption into the impersonal Brahma. Compare that with everlasting life with a loving God (Rev. 22:1-5). Finally, Hinduism is inconsistent with Hinduism itself. If ultimate reality is one (Brahma), how can reincarnation of individual souls be real? It too must be an illusion according to the Hindu thinking.

Instead, Christianity says we have one life to live in this world, and after that we die (Heb 9:27). If we have believed in Jesus, we go to be with Him (2 Cor. 5:7-9), if not then we are eternally separated from God (2 Thess. 1:9). At the end, Jesus Christ will bodily resurrect everyone. For those who have trusted Him, they will have everlasting life for those that have not they will have everlasting contempt and judgement in hell. Jesus is not a guru. Jesus' claim to be the Son of God is not in the context of eastern religions. Jesus was a Jew who taught there is one personal God (Deut. 6:4) who created the world (Gen. 1:1). Man is in the image of God as separate individuals (Gen. 1:27). Gurus say this is an illusion. Jesus taught about God in words (Mark 10:18), but gurus say God is unexplainable in words. Jesus taught that God punishes sin and there is a heaven and hell (Matt. 10:28), but gurus teach that all merges as one (Brahma).

In short Hinduism contradicts Christianity and frankly if Jesus was a guru, he was a really bad one.

Buddhism

Buddhists do indeed recognize that something is wrong with humans; however, enlightenment through the eightfold path that is taught in there works is not the answer or solution to the human problem identified. Human self-improvement apart from God's grace is the problem. Buddhism says that one must get rid of all desires, but what about the desire to get rid of all desire? Is that a good desire or bad desire; if good, then not all desires are bad as they believe, but if it is indeed bad then we should not follow Buddhism according to its own teachings! Buddhism has no correct view of God and humans; therefore, it is incompatible with Christianity. God made us personal beings and to seek our self-extinctedness is to violate the image of God in humans (Gen 1:26-27). The only salvation for humans is to accept the forgiveness of our sins that God has provided through His Son, Jesus Christ, who died on the cross and rose from the dead (Eph. 2:8-9; Acts 4:12).



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Reason 7: There Are No Other Alternatives for Salvation

Picture Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane, sweating blood in anguish over the ordeal ahead of Him. He pleads with the Father, begging for any other way of salvation that would spare Him from the cross. But there are no alternatives, no other systems of religious ceremony or righteous works. The Messiah had to die, writing with His blood-in the Lamb's Book of Life-the names of those He has rescued.

Gal. 2:21 "I do not nullify the grace of God; for if righteousness comes through the law, then the Messiah died needlessly."

Jn. 18:37b, Rom. 8:8-9, Matt. 26:39, Mk. 14:36, Lk. 22:41-42, Rev. 21:27

Reason 8: All Nations Are to Be Given this Gospel

Jesus gave one last command before He ascended into Heaven: the Great Commission. It would be an odd directive, though, if pluralism were true. Why cover the globe with a message no one needs since each person's sincerity already serves him well? The command to go to all nations makes sense only if all are lost without Christ. Lk. 24:47 "Repentance for forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in His name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem."

Matt. 28:18-19 "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations ... "

Lk. 12:8-9, Jn. 5:24, Lk. 11:23, Lk. 20:17-18, Jn. 3:18, Jn. 3:36, Jn. 15:5b-G, Acts 3:22-23, 1 Thess. 1:9-'10, Heb. 2:2-4, 1 Pet. 2:4-8, Rev. 17:14, Rev. 19:13-16

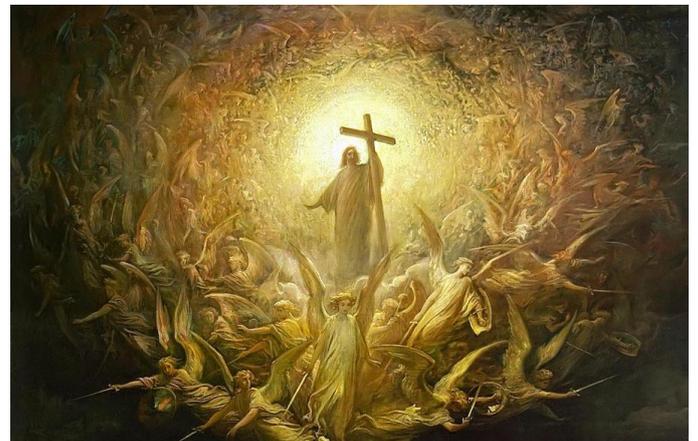
Reason 9: Jesus Will Be Man's Judge on the Final Day

God has appointed a day of judgment when all accounts will finally be settled. On that day, one man will hold the gavel. It won't be Buddha, Mohammed, Krishna, or any other religious leader. They will all be in the dock with the rest of humanity. All men will be judged by the only perfect man, Jesus.

Jn. 5:22-23a "For not even the Father judges anyone, but He has given all judgment to the Son, in order that all may honor the Son, even as they honor the Father."

2 Tim. 4:1 "Jesus the Messiah ... is to judge the living and the dead:'

Mk. 8:38, Lk. 9:26, 1 Pet. 3:21b-22, Jn. 5:26-27, Jn. 17:2, Acts 17:30-31, Rom. 2:16



World Religion Chart

	Christianity	Judaism
Bible	Old and New Testament is the Word of God	Old Testament (only) is the Word of God
God	God is Triune	God is One
Creation	By God From Nothing	By God From Nothing
Jesus Christ	Messiah, Son of God	Not the Messiah, human teacher
Salvation	Faith in Jesus Christ alone	Faith and doing good works
Afterlife	Heaven & Hell	Heaven & Hell

	Christianity	Hinduism
Bible	The only Word of God	Another holy book
God	God is Triune	God is everything
Creation	By God From Nothing	Out of God
Jesus Christ	Messiah, Son of God	Guru or god
Salvation	Faith in Jesus Christ alone	Release from Samsara
Afterlife	Resurrection, Heaven & Hell	Reincarnation, Nothingness

	Christianity	Buddhism
Bible	The only Word of God	Another holy book
God	God is Triune	God is everything or non-existent
Creation	By God From Nothing	Out of God
Jesus Christ	Messiah, Son of God	Guru or god
Salvation	Faith in Jesus Christ alone	Release from Samsara
Afterlife	Resurrection, Heaven & Hell	Reincarnation, Self-extinctedness

	Christianity	Islam
Bible	The only Word of God	Corrupted
God	God is Triune	God is One, not Triune
Creation	By God From Nothing	By God From Nothing
Jesus Christ	Messiah, Son of God	Prophet, only human
Salvation	Faith in Jesus Christ alone	Faith & by good works
Afterlife	Resurrection, Heaven & Hell	Resurrection, Heaven & Hell