

worry about being forced to go to heaven. People who want to go to God's heaven on their terms, without taking off the muddy shoes of their sins, and being unwilling to go through the totally transforming process of being rid of their sinful nature cannot enter God's heaven. However they are free to go off and do their own thing - in a different place. However, all love, goodness, and happiness ultimately come from God, the "wild preserve" God has set apart for those who would not submit to God is called Hell.

THE ILLOGIC OF UNIVERSALISM

Some statements are self-contradictory, like "Everyone is telling the truth, but Joe says I am not telling the truth." What about this statement, "All religions are true, but Christianity says other religions are false."

The Bible says of Jesus in Acts 4:12, "Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved." Now either this statement is true or it is not. If it is correct, then other religions cannot be the way to God. If Jesus was wrong, then people have been deceived by Jesus for 2,000 years.

1 John 5:12 says, "He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life." The early Christians did not think Jesus was just a good way, but roughly 40,000 died as martyrs rather than worship a Roman Emperor as a god.

SUMMARY

Major religions contradict each other on who God is, man's condition, how to be clear/enlightened/one/escape, and other things. Any who honestly study different religions cannot say they are all the same.

HOW DOES GOD FORGIVE YOUR SIN?

Hebrews 9:22 says, "In fact, the law requires

that nearly everything be cleansed with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness." Just prior to that, Heb 9:14-15 says, "How much more, then will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God! For this reason Christ is the mediator of the new covenant, that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance--now that he has died as a ransom to set them free from the sins committed under the first covenant."

This is a core teaching of Christianity. You will search in vain the Buddhist, Islamic, or Hindu scriptures for this, because this truth is not within them. Many in other religions say Jesus was a true teacher from God. Jesus said, "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through me." in John 14:6. So accept Jesus' way to be forgiven for your sins. Please pray this prayer. "God I know you are a mighty and just judge, yet you are full of love. I come before you helpless and hopeless without you. I want to be your child. Please clean me, forgive me, teach me, even discipline me when needed, and transform me. I give my life over to you right now. Take it, as dirty and imperfect as it is, and as you promised in your Word, the Bible, give me a new life in Christ, who by His blood shed on the cross paid the price for my sins. In the name of the One and only Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, I pray. Amen."

For more information see:

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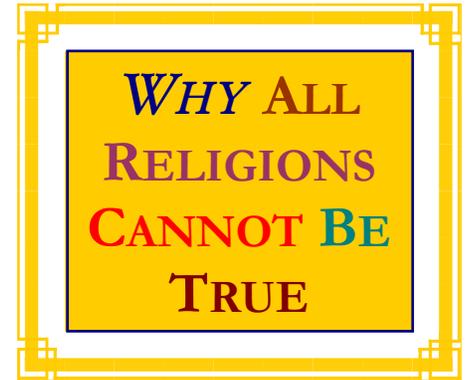
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It is really nice to believe that all religions are true. At the University of Texas back in 1982, a friendly person was "helping" others. You could give him all your money, and he would give you a white robe and instruction, and you could walk around like Jesus. Such a deal! The most amazing thing was not that he tried to pull off this scam, but that supposedly intelligent university students believed him. Are you very gullible? On the other extreme, do you mask an inability to tell what is genuine by a pervasive cynicism?

How to Test for the Truth How can you tell what is likely to be true and what is likely hogwash? Here is a way.

1. Does the religion claim to follow the highest, most-powerful God?

WHY ALL RELIGIONS CANNOT BE TRUE

2. What is the historical evidence, if any, for the truth or falsehood of that religion? Were any prophecies made? Did they come true? Were any miracles done? etc.

3. Is the religion logically consistent? Do the teachings and all its scripture fit together? Are there teachings its adherents are embarrassed, unwilling, or universally plead ignorance in talking about?

4. Is the religion morally consistent? Whatever its moral statements, is it consistent, or did its prophet say one thing and do another? If its prophet today did the things he did before, would you look up to him or want to put him in jail? If you had a son or daughter that really loved the God you worshipped, would you be happy or warn them not to take this too seriously.

5. Every religion has its fellow-travelers, hypocrites, and scoundrels. Nevertheless, what is the character, and how selfish are the people who are sincerely believing and trying to follow their religion?

THE ABC'S OF UNIVERSALISM

It seems common today that people who have not studied world religions believe they all can be true. Now if you want to follow God, then you question the assumption that all religions can be true. Mark any of the following statements you disagree with.

Animist - Nearly every tree and rock has a spirit to fear and appease with offerings.

Buddhism - Life is suffering.

Cargo Cult -(New Guinea) March in formation like the gods (really WWII soldiers) did, so they will return with gifts of cargo.

Daoism (later) - There are many spirits to be worshipped.

Epicurean philosophy - Life is great. Eat, drink, and be merry, for tomorrow we die.

Family of Love (Children of God) be a sexual prostitute for Jesus.

Greek - Worship Zeus, who raped Europa and others. There is Hades but no heaven.

Hashashins (small Muslim sect) - Get stoned on hashish before assassinating people.

Islam - The Trinity is false, & Jesus Christ is not the Son of God.

Jainism - It is spiritual to starve to death.

Khonds (of India) - It is good to slowly torture people to death.

Lubavitchers - (of America) The promised Messiah may have come, & his name some say is Rabbi Menachem Schneerson of New York.

Mayan (and Aztec too) Ripping people's hearts out while alive is pleasing to the gods.

New Thought Movement - A receptive mind can cure every illness. Sickness is not reality.

Oneida Community - (of America) All adults are "married" to all others in the community.

Papua New Guinea - As a sign of reverence, eat the brains of your dead relatives.

Quraysh (pre-Mohammed) - worship a moon god idol "Allah".

Roman (later) - You must worship the Roman Emperor or die.

Shakerism (of America) - All sexual relations are forbidden.

Thuggees - (of India) In January one worships God by strangling unsuspecting men.

Unitarian Universalists - You may join with any religious belief whatsoever. (except that there is only one way through Jesus.)

Vikings - Only way to go to heaven (Valhalla) is to die violently.

Witchcraft (early) - There are many things you must do to avoid the evil eye.

Yamamoto (Indians) - One of the highest virtues is treachery.

Zoroastrianism - There is only one true God, and worship of others should be forcibly sup-

pressed. If you marked out any statement, then some religions must have falsehood in them.

WHAT ABOUT MAJOR RELIGIONS?

OK, OK, so all religions are not the same. But all major world religions are the same.

Are the major world religions, Christianity, Judaism, Buddhism, Islam, Hinduism, etc. all from God? If you stopped and asked ten people for directions to get somewhere, and they gave as different answers as these religions give about going to heaven, you would have to conclude at least nine of them were lying or did not know what they were saying.

OK, OK, so major world religions differ on minor matters such as immorality and murder of others. But they all agree on the major points.

Such as?

If you try to be a good person and nice to everybody, then everything will turn out for the best.

That is not the major point of all world religions. It is not of Islam (read what Mohammed himself said). That is not the message of Krishna's speech to Arjuna. That is not the major point of Theravada Buddhism. That is a caricature of the Bible.

OK, OK, but some religions and "liberal Christianity" teach this: that if you try to be nice to everybody, then everything will turn out for the best.

Let me answer that with an illustration. You can set your own rules for who is invited into your home. For example, only nice people, nobody who beats up your kids, no cholera carriers, no rattlesnakes, etc. are invited to come in. You might be forced to take off your muddy shoes before coming into my home. In a similar way God can set His own rules for who is invited into His home, heaven. People who do not want to live with God forever do not need to